



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary “Buddy”® Poppy/National Home Bulletin – February/March 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: “Buddy”® Poppy/VFW National Home-Michigan

“All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn’t hurt.” – Charles M. Schulz

It was great seeing many of you at Mid-Winter conference in Kalamazoo. Thank you to those who were able to participate in the Mid-Winter “Buddy”® Poppy display contest. I loved the creativity that was displayed and the ideas of many come together for such a wonderful event.



The National Home not only offers on-campus services but off-campus services as well! What does that mean? The National Home is able to reach anyone, anywhere! Off-campus service is offered to families who qualify for on-campus services but due to circumstances are not able to move on-campus. Off-campus services include goal support, accountability and resources that are provided by one of the four case managers at the Home. Additionally, it includes financial education, parenting classes and employment application support. These services, and more, are done via Zoom, phone conferences and email. Typically, families can receive these service up to a year. Families who move out of the program are eligible to receive additional support from their case manager for up to a year.

The goal from our National Ambassador for the remainder of this program year is to educate each other on this fact and share with our communities! The National Home understands that not everyone can move on-campus so they have prepared themselves to reach beyond the campus itself. When sharing the Helpline or promoting the Home, let it be known that there are opportunities like this available!

The “Buddy”® Poppy/National Home program is not a stand alone program. What does that mean? When doing activities or events that are for other programs, you can incorporate the “Buddy”® Poppy/National Home program as well. Are you attending the local VA to volunteer? Make and take some Valentine cards with poppies! Have your youth help with making the cards. Historian/Media Relations, take pictures of those valentine veteran cards being distributed and send photos through social media or local press release. Membership, at your Valentine party have your membership applications ready along with a table display of “Buddy”® poppies and National Home material. With every activity or event you have, you have the ability to cross promote. Never miss an opportunity to share the benefits of our beloved poppy and National Home! At your next planning meeting, sit down with your other chairman and plan how you can incorporate this program into another!



Creativity is Contagious

Purchase some heart suckers, or any kind of suckers, and wrap them in poppies. Have them in your post home for purchase to celebrate Valentine’s. Proceeds benefit your relief fund and support your Home Front Hero commitment if your Auxiliary participates.

"Luck is a matter of preparation meeting opportunity." - Lucius Annaeus Seneca

The end of the program year is starting to wind down. Please go over your Guide Sheets and your reporting to see where you have not reported yet and plan activities to get what you need done. The end of this reporting quarter is April 20th and it will come faster than you know it. Please be prepared!

This year, "Buddy"[®] Poppy fundraising drive is scheduled for May 1-3, 2025. This is a reminder to order any "Buddy"[®] Poppies that you might need for any of those events that your Auxiliary might have planned for the month of May. If you haven't started any planning, I encourage you to do so. Reach out to your local businesses as ask you can set up at table or even place a can at their location to help assist you and the mission of the poppy program. Don't be shy asking, many businesses are happy to help! Order any supplies that you might need for your tables, like membership applications, National Home materials, Helpline card, etc. to help you get prepared for upcoming drives.

Reminder that March 31st is the Deadline for the "Buddy"[®] Poppy & VFW National Home Award for Auxiliaries No. 1 and 2! Criteria for Awards are as follows:

- **Award No. 1:** *Most outstanding activity and/or event using the VFW "Buddy"[®] Poppy to educate their community about the VFW "Buddy"[®] Poppy.*
- **Award No. 2:** *Most outstanding activity and/or event to recognize and celebrate the VFW National Home's 100th Birthday.*

Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions will be awarded for each of the of the National Awards.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Forms will be emailed out to chairman (if I have their email) and they are also available to print out on the Department website. I know there are a lot of Auxiliaries out there doing great things and I expect to get quite a few Award forms. Please send them to me via mail or email by March 31st! My email and address are located at the bottom of this page.

Creativity is Contagious

If your post has a canteen, partner up! Perhaps get together and design a fun green drink. Pinterest is a great place to look for ideas for non-alcoholic drinks or even dessert drinks. The possibilities are endless on this one! Price so part of the drink price goes towards your Relief Fund! I'll post ideas throughout the month of March on our Facebook page!



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