



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary "Buddy"® Poppy/National Home for Children Guide Sheet 2025-26

www.vfwauxmi.org

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

National Theme: From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free

Department Theme: We Don't Know Them All, But We Owe Them All

PROGRAM GOALS

"Buddy"® Poppy Education/Outreach - "Buddy"® Poppy Display Contest VFW National Home Education

"Buddy"® Poppy Program - The "Buddy"® Poppy is a small and mighty flower that has remained the VFW's official memorial flower since 1922. The Poppy represents the blood shed by American service members and provides us with the reminder of their sacrifices. The Poppy program provides compensation to veterans who assemble them, financial assistance to veterans' rehabilitation and service programs, and partially supports the VFW National Home.



VFW National Home – Founded in 1925 as a place where families left behind by war –mothers and children, brothers and sisters – could remain together, keeping the family circle intact even when their serviceman didn't come home. The VFW National Home serves as a living memorial to America's veterans by helping our nation's military and veteran families during difficult times. On June 28, 2025, the National Home 100th Birthday Celebration will be held. Let's promote and celebrate this momentous occasion.



NATIONAL AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event with their VFW Post to educate their community about the VFW "Buddy"® Poppy.
 - Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event with their VFW Post to educate their community about the VFW "Buddy"® Poppy.
2. Most outstanding activity and/or event that creates awareness and education of eligibility and who qualifies for help from the VFW National Home and promoting it within their Department to help veterans and their families.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most outstanding activity and/or event that creates awareness and education of eligibility and who qualifies for help from the VFW National Home and promoting it within their Department to help veterans and their families.

Entry forms required for each award and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry forms to their Department "Buddy"® Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging. Citations will be mailed directly to winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and monies will be deposited in the winning Auxiliaries account after the 2026 VFW National Convention.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

- Best Overall activity and/or event with their VFW Post to educate their community about the VFW “Buddy”® Poppy. Must send required National entry form to Department Chairman. \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary.
- Best Overall activity and/or event that creates awareness and education of eligibility and who qualifies for help from the VFW National Home and promoting it within their Department to help veterans and their families. Must send required National entry form to Department Chairman \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary.
- \$20, \$15, and \$10 to the Auxiliaries for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in the Mid-Winter “Buddy”® Poppy display contest. Youth Category: \$10 for 1st place winner and Citation to all youth who participated.
- Best Overall promotion of the VFW National Home Help Line. \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary.
- Best promotion of the VFW National Home in each membership category. \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

#1 -10-36	#2 -37-50	#3 51-68	#4 - 69-84	#5 - 85-98
#6 - 99-115	#7 - 116-139	#8 -140-166	#9 -167-237	#10 -238-OVER

Achievements	Completed	Reported
Hold a “Buddy”® Poppy drive with or without their VFW Post		
Participate in the Mid-Winter Conference “Buddy”® Poppy display contest		
Number of “Buddy”® Poppies that were distributed during Program Year		
Promote the VFW National Home thru education in the community		
Promote the VFW National Home Helpline		
Attend Michigan Day at the VFW National Home on July 27, 2025		
Purchase at least one Life Membership to VFW National Home in current Program Year		
Purchase at least one VFW National Home Tribute Brick in current Program Year		
National Health & Happiness donations of \$.10 to \$.25 cents per member. Paid in full by March 31, 2026, based on June 30, 2025 membership		
Attend and register at a School of Instruction – District Meeting, Fall Conference or Mid-Winter Conference		
Attend and register at your own District Meeting		
Report every quarter		

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