



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Buddy Poppy/National Home – June/July 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: BuddyPoppy/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***

Good day to everyone. My name is Annabelle Furgason and I have been asked to be your Department of Michigan Buddy Poppy/VFW National Home Chairman for the 2025-2026 year. I look forward to serving in the capacity as I hold the VFW National Home near and dear to my heart.

When distributing “Buddy Poppies” within your community, your donations collected are put in the Relief Fund and strictly used to aid veterans, service members and their families who are in need. John McCrae’s poem “In Flanders Fields,” inspired veterans’ organizations around the world to adopt the Buddy Poppy. This year there are two options of Buddy Poppies to purchase. The traditional one and a new metal Buddy Poppy. Buddy Poppies can be ordered from the Department VFW. Buddy Poppy brochures and promotional items can be purchased from the VFW Store at vfwstore.org or by calling 1-833-VFW-VETS.

The VFW National Home is located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. This year the National Home will be 100 years in helping military and veteran’s families who need a fresh start. Some of the ways you can help support the National Home is through the Kroger Community Rewards Program- visit krogercommunityrewards.com/group to sign up the group id# for National Home is #79329 and/or make a monthly donation.

On June 28th National Home will be hosting the 100th Birthday Celebration. The event will be 11am and 11pm. Members and their families will be able to enjoy the following activities:

Alumni Welcome Tents and tours 11am-4pm

Campus ride-only tours 11am-4pm

Carnival rides 11am-4pm

Car Cruise-in 11am-5pm

Selfies with Superhero and Movie characters 12am-4pm

Vintage baseball game 1-3pm (Capital BBC of Lansing and Eclipse BBC of Northville, Mi.)

Food Trucks 11am-9pm

Home Stage Program: Guitars for Vets, Alumni Stories

Beer Tent 4pm-10pm Live Music- 3 bands: After Midnight, Phins Up and Bonk Brothers 4-10:30pm

Lazer Light Show 10:30-11pm.

Bring your own chairs. NO COOLERS ALLOWED. Designated smoking area will be available.

More information on this can be found on the National Home web site at vfnationalhome.org. Click on the News and Events tab and then scroll down to community celebrations.

Michigan Day

Michigan Day at National Home is July 27th from 9am-2pm. The District assignments sheet will be available at the Department convention.

When you receive your 25-26 Guide Sheet you need to look it over for all the information pertaining to this program as well as what your achievements should be.

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 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 departments to help veterans and their families.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

The first two Department awards are the same as the National awards with the same requirements. The other Department awards focus on the "Buddy" Poppy contest at Mid-Winter/ promotion on the VFW National Home Help Line, and the overall promotion of promoting the VFW National Home.

ACHIEVEMENTS

"Buddy" Poppy

Hold a "Buddy" Poppy drive, participate in Mid-Winter Poppy Contest, and report the number of Poppies used throughout the year.

VFW National Home

This year is going to be all about educating the community and our membership about the VFW National Home. This will include information about the history of the home, the Help Line, and who is eligible to live at or receive help from the National Home. We will be promoting Michigan Day attendance, purchasing tribute bricks, National Home life memberships, donating to the Health and Happiness program and so much more!

Finally, throughout the year, we will be promoting and using promotional tools and member information provided by the National organization on MALTA under member resources for Buddy Poppy/VFW National Home.

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