



## Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary “Buddy”® Poppy/National Home for Children Guide Sheet 2023-24

[www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

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

***National Theme: Banding Together for our Veterans***

***Department Theme: Our Veterans, The Angels Among Us***

**“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. For more than 95 years, the VFW National Home has helped military and veteran families who need a fresh start in a safe and peaceful environment.

### **NATIONAL AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES**

1. Most outstanding use of the “Buddy”® Poppy in another VFW Auxiliary National Program
  - Citation to every Auxiliary that uses the “Buddy”® Poppy in another VFW Auxiliary National Program. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman by March 31, 2024, for judging.
  - The Department “Buddy”® Poppy ^ VFW National Home Chairman must email National Headquarters by April 30, 2024, at [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org) a total combined list of every Auxiliary in their Department that completed and submitted and entry form.
  - Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.
  - Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the most outstanding use of the “Buddy”® Poppy in another VFW Auxiliary National Program.
  - The Department “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home Ambassador by April 30, 2024, for judging.
  - Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention.

2. Most Outstanding activity and/or event that educated their community and/or other Veteran Service Organizations about the VFW National Home
  - Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates their community or another Veteran Service Organization about the VFW National Home. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman by March 31, 2024, for judging.
  - The Department “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman must email National Headquarters by April 30, 2024, at [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org) a total combine list of every Auxiliary in their Department that completed and submitted an entry form.
  - Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters
  - Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the most outstanding activity and/or event that educates their community and/or another Veteran Service Organization about the VFW National Home.
3. Citation to each Auxiliary that contributes a gift of 25 cents or more per member to the Health & Happiness Fund based on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, membership statistics.
  - Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters

### **DEPARTMENT AWARDS**

- Best Overall promotion of Michigan Day at the VFW National Home. \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary.
- Best Overall promotion of the “Buddy”® Poppy and VFW National Home. \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary.
- \$20, \$15, and \$10 to the Auxiliaries for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners in the Mid-Winter “Buddy”® Poppy display contest. Youth Category: Plaque for 1<sup>st</sup> place winner and Citation to all youth who participated.
- Best Overall promotion of Benefits and Resources. \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary.
- Most Outstanding Activity and/or event that educates own community/or other Veterans Service Organization about the VFW National Home. \$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
Did your Auxiliary utilize the "Buddy"® Poppy materials/resources in MALTA Member Resources.					
Held a "Buddy"® Poppy drive					
Held a "Buddy"® Poppy drive with the VFW Post					
Reported quantity of "Buddy"® Poppies that were distributed through all drives and educational purposes for the year.					
Did your Auxiliary participate in the VFW "Buddy"® <i>Poppy Display contest</i> .					
Did your Auxiliary utilize the VFW National Home materials/resources in MALTA Member Resources					
Did your Auxiliary promote the VFW National Home					
Purchase at least one Life Membership to VFW National Home					
Promoted the VFW National Home Help Line					
Purchase at least one VFW National Home Tribute Brick.					

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