



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary “Buddy”® Poppy/National Home Bulletin - June/July 2024

www.vfwauxmi.org

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

Congratulations to our all our new “Buddy”® Poppy/VFW National Home chairman for this upcoming year! I am very excited and blessed to be able to do this program again and work with all of you. The real winner through all of this is our beloved National Home and the benefits that come from that small and mighty flower we call the “Buddy”® Poppy.

As you begin your program year, the first thing you need to do is look over the Guide Sheet for this program. It consists of information pertaining to this program as well as a list of achievements. You will want to take a good look over the achievements that are listed as they will be the goals you will need to achieve and report on this program year. From that list, you can get an idea of what you need to do and begin planning your program year this month.

Another resource you should look at as you begin your program year is the VFW Auxiliary National Program Book. This online book is available at vfwauxiliary.org. This year’s National Ambassador, Jodie Hollinger, will highlight the program goals as well as share valuable information about the “Buddy”® Poppy and the VFW National Home. This year, she would like us to conduct an activity and/or event to educate their community about the VFW “Buddy”® Poppy . In addition, she would like us to conduct an activity and/or event to recognize and celebrate the VFW National Home’s 100th Birthday. These programs are critical in making a difference for veterans and their families. Again, resources that you will need to use to help you can be found at vfwauxiliary.org as well as our department website, vfwauxmi.org. Throughout the year, I will also be giving you suggestions to help you accomplish these goals.

“Buddy”® Poppy Program

Need supplies to get started?! Visit the vfwstore.org for all your “Buddy”® Poppy merch. If you don’t already have some, you will need to order poppies from your Department Headquarters. Don’t forget to check out the “Buddy”® Poppy Chairman’s Manual. The manual can be found at <https://vfwauxiliary.org/resources/>. This manual offers a brief history of the “Buddy”® Poppy and how it became an integral part of the VFW Community. It also contains planning ideas, guidelines, ways to overcome adversity, how to order and why recognition is so important. A key point to remember as you begin your “Buddy”® Poppy program is to be enthusiastic. The enthusiasm you demonstrate will inspire others to jump on board to support this great campaign of helping veterans and their families. Remember, never refuse someone a poppy because they are not able to contribute as poppies are distributed, not sold!



It was so great seeing so many out there for the “Buddy”® Poppy Drive in May. From what I have heard and seen; it was a successful event! I know it has been hard these last couple of years getting out into our community, but it appears the climate is starting to change. Thank you for stepping out in your communities and promoting this important program!

VFW National Home

This year the VFW National Home is celebrating their 100th birthday. This year will be focused on promoting and celebrating the big occasion. Along with this celebration, Auxiliaries will be asked to send the VFW National Home a birthday card before January – more to come on this. The VFW National Home has quite a few new opportunities to help support them and commemorate the year. To properly aid in your program year and the dissemination of information, please check out the VFW National Home website at <https://vfnationalhome.org/>. Here you can find great information about the National Home. Be sure to take notes and prepare yourself to educate, spread awareness and promote the National Home in your community.

There are a few ways that you can start supporting the National Home now and with relative ease.

- Become a **Home Front Hero** and commit to a monthly donation, personally or your Auxiliary.
- Kroger Community Rewards - Visit krogercommunityrewards.com/group to sign up. The group ID # for the National Home is #79329.

2025
A Year to Remember



100th Anniversary Events

January 7, 2025

Original Birthday Party Celebration
VFW National Home

February 8, 2025

Black Tie Event
VFW National Home

March 9, 2025

Pollet House Dedication / Ribbon Cutting
VFW National Home

June 28, 2025

100th Birthday Party
VFW National Home

August 9-14, 2025

VFW National Convention
Columbus, Ohio

We hope to see you there!

VFW National Home Michigan Day

If you have never been to Michigan Day, I encourage you to come and check it out! The VFW National Home Michigan Day will be August 11th from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. It is a great day, and fun for family and friends. Please share this special day with everyone you know and bring at least one friend to share it with.

Don't forget to join our Facebook page at "Buddy"® Poppy/VFW National Home-Michigan to stay up-to-date on current happenings!

Christine LeBrun, "Buddy"® Poppy/VFW National Home Chairman

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