



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary

Buddy Poppy – October 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Buddy Poppy Michigan

National Theme: Serving America's Heroes Department Leading with a Patriot's Heart

Since 1932, the poppy has stood as a symbol to those who have died in service to our country. It was named the "Buddy"®Poppy to represent the buddies that never made it home. 1930 was the first year that a child who lived at the VFW National Home was selected to represent the VFW and the National Home at the VFW National Convention.

In the early days, the child pinned a poppy on the U.S. President. In recent years, they have pinned a poppy on the governor. Each April, as the Governor presents the Month of the Military Child proclamation, the Buddy Poppy Child has the honor of pinning Michigan's governor in recognition of their support for military and veteran families across the state.

2026-2027 Poppy Child Noelan had the special opportunity to pin the Governor personally.



Most Posts and Auxiliaries have their own Buddy ®Poppy Prince or Princess. This is an honor title and fun position. They could help you promote an event to educate the community on the VFW Buddy®Poppy. Perhaps they could pin a poppy on the mayor and explain what it means. If they are in a parade, have them pin the Grand Marshal.

Put it in the newspaper and give it to the department Historian. Take your old pictures and combine them with new ones to reflect the many years you have been promoting the poppy and the veterans you have helped, or how you have helped them. Show this display off at your post functions.

Be creative. The community must know about this life-saving flower, and it is up to you to tell its story.

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UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

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National Theme: Serving America's Heroes Department Theme: Leading with a Patriot's Heart

While every day is Veterans Day, we celebrate our heroes on Veterans Day, November 11th. Wear your poppy proudly in remembrance of all those who are not with us. As you are celebrating Veterans Day, make sure you include Buddy® Poppies in your decorations and advertising.

The VFW store has a variety of Buddy®Poppy items. They have pins, shirts, and promotional material. Check them out at www.vfwstore.org to help with your ideas.

Share your ideas on our Facebook page. We can SWAP ideas (our Ambassador calls it Sharing With A Purpose). Tell us what works and doesn't work. How do you use them?

Poppies can be used at community events, schools, and veteran gatherings to raise awareness. Engaging youth in making poppy decorations fosters community spirit and remembrance.

Host a workshop for DIY to create poppy projects. Have children make poppies out of egg cartons, coffee filters, and cupcake liners. Make poppies out of tissue paper. Paint a poppy on a rock and "plant" it somewhere to be found. Use social media to promote the event and educate the public about veterans' issues.



Thank you for the great reports. You are all amazing! Remember to report on the number of poppies you use every quarter.
Keep up the great work for our veterans.

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