

BUDDY POPPY/ NATIONAL HOME

BULLETIN FOUR

Christine Dougherty~ Chairman

Buddy Poppy

I know that there have been changes to the "Buddy"® Poppy program this past year, and those changes haven't been well communicated. I must take part in some of that lack of communication as it wasn't made clear to me that it was a change from last year, but it was in the documentation that I received after National Convention. The biggest change was that poppies must be ordered through the Post side of the house. Please note that in the future, if you run short prior to when you need them for some reason, I will see what I can do to assist you in the future. In going through everything, some items were brought forward to my attention.

Where to get Poppies?

- Contact your VFW Post to order Poppies. Each "Buddy"® Poppy purchased by a Department for distribution contributes to the following:
 - One (1) cent goes to the VFW National Home
 - One (1) cent goes to the VFW National Headquarters Veterans Service Fund
 - One and a half (1.5) cent goes to the Department's Veterans Service Fund
- I will see if I can get something in a poster format and try and bring some to Convention in June. If you are interested please reach out to me, so I can have them made up and be made available. I don't know what the charge might be at this time, but again I should have that as we get closer to June.



P.S. As of April 13th, Washington is ranked 15th in the Departments who have ordered the most Buddy Poppies so far this year at a total of 119,000.

I have also included a copy of the entry form for "Buddy"® Poppy Display contest in June. According to the year end reports I have received so far this year it looks like we will have at least 10. There are still a few days to go, but if your auxiliary wants to participate, please let me know. This allows me to ensure that there will be plenty of tables available. Each table costs about \$150 each, and currently we have set aside 4 (3 for poppy display and one for Bank Display).

VFW National Home

April is Military Child Month. This was established in 1986 by US Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger and is celebrated each April to recognize the unique challenges and contributions of children with parents in the military. These children often face frequent relocations, parental deployments and the emotional impact of service-related risks, yet they demonstrate remarkable adaptability and strength. What is your Auxiliary doing to help celebrate Military Child Month?

Status on the generator for Washington House – The generator has been purchased, and a contractor has been identified, but they are waiting for the weather to cooperate for them to install. It's expected to be installed by the end of April.

We also heard from our National Home District 12 representative at Mid-Winter who told us that Washing House is now Occupied. A family with one child moved in back in January, so the house is still occupied

I have gotten a few sneak peaks at some of the banks that have been decorated so far, and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone's designs. There will be two different types of entries

- 1 will be artistic display
- 2 will be promotion of the National Home. This can be used in combination with the Buddy Poppy display contest, or with the National Award

I have purchased more of the Buddy Poppy child pins and will have them available at Presidents visits (when I can attend). They are for sale at \$5. All proceeds will go back to the National Home.

We are encouraging all Posts and Auxiliaries, when they make their donations to National Home, to send them via Department. The reason for this is that every May the Jr Vice Commander and Jr Vice President visit the National Home, and there is a parade where all the departments line up and hand over a check. For the past several years the Department of Washington has been one of the leaders in handing over the largest checks. You will still get recognized by National Home of your donation.

Funds raised so far (note that these are at a total Department level and include Post purchases), and all proceeds will be taken with our Jr. Vice President & Commander when they visit the National Home in May.

Banks – 10 for \$150

Child Pins – 30 for \$300

Centennial Pins – 48 for \$240

Centennial Poker Chips – 50 for \$250

State Pins – 8 for \$40 – Funds go directly to support Washington House

National Home/Buddy Poppy coins – 7 for \$140

Total of over \$1,200 (additional donations were also made) which was split between Post and Auxiliary

Sincerely, Christine Dougherty

