

BUDDY POPPY/ NATIONAL HOME

BULLETIN THREE

Christine Dougherty~ Chairman

During Mid-Winter it was formally announced that starting next year the Buddy Poppy and National Home will be two different chairs. To try and get into that mindset, I have broken my bulletin down between the two.

Buddy Poppy

The 2025-2026 focus for "Buddy"® Poppy is to share creative ways of having the VFW and the Auxiliary work together during Poppy drives and fundraisers with the distribution of the Poppies. Talk with your Auxiliary about these ideas for promoting "Buddy"® Poppies, I'm sure some of you are already doing some of these, but here are some suggestions from our National Ambassador:

- The VFW has several videos on YouTube including "The Impact of the 'Buddy'® Poppy," "Behind the VFW 'Buddy'® Poppy" and "The Veterans Behind the Poppy." Share these videos on social media or at a holiday event. You can even try and show it while you are having a Poppy drive.
- Create table centerpieces or wreaths using "Buddy"® Poppies.
- Make a wall of remembrance at a community location like your local Post.
- Host a drive-by "Buddy"® Poppy Day celebration with patriotic-themed giveaways. Visitors can drive up to your Post or a local community center, and you can give them Poppies without them even having to get out of their cars.
- Contribute to virtual "Buddy"® Poppy Gardens on Instagram using the hashtag #buddypoppy. Several of these exist online where you can share personal photos of poppy fields and gardens or other tributes.



P.S. As of December 11th, Washington is ranked 14th in the Departments who have ordered the most Buddy Poppies so far this year at a total of 85,500.

I have also included a copy of the entry form for "Buddy"® Poppy Display contest in June.

VFW National Home

The 2025-2026 focus for National Home is to create new, innovative ideas in each individual state to share information on ways to help us get veterans and their families to the National Home when assistance is needed.

During the Western Conference it was made known that there was a need for back-up generators for the house Department of Washington supports. We began working with the National Home and found the cost to be about \$18,000. I know that the Post side has notified National Home to release the funds from our house account that we have with them. We were able to raise \$1,028 during Mid-Winter during a “pass the hat” activity. These funds were split between the Auxiliary and Post side. We need to be able to replenish our house fund, and we have a good start.

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 on that Friday (January 9th)

I have gotten a lot of questions regarding the “decorating your bank” contest in June. 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 \$10. 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 Sr Vice Commander and Sr 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 – 14 for \$70

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

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

Total of \$735 which was split between Post and Auxiliary

Sincerely, Christine Dougherty

