

**July 10, 2026**

I am your Washington state department National Home chairman. This program year the National VFW Auxiliary has separated the National Home from the Buddy Poppy program. They will stand alone as programs.

My goal this year is for all of us to learn a little more about the National Home.

**Did you know?** Early in the 1920s a 23-year-old Detroit, Michigan gal was concerned about the thousands of veterans returning home from World War I that were trying to find jobs. Her name was Amy Ross.

Miss Ross was so concerned about returning veteran welfare that she asked the Michigan Department commander Clarence Candler if the VFW could help. He offered VFW resources.

In 1923 the Military Order of the Cootie proposed to the VFW at their convention “the idea of a home for displaced children and families of veterans.”

A farmer and cattleman near Eaton Rapids gifted 472 acres of his land for a home. The National Home officially opened in 1925.

For over 100 years, the National Home has helped military and veteran families as our website states that need a “fresh start” in their lives.

In the February 2025 VFW magazine it was written “The National Home’s community is open to families of actively serving military personnel, veterans and relatives of the VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.”

**Did you know?** In 2022 the National Home rebranded its name, dropping children from its name.

2026 – 2027 Program Promotions:

- The National Home helpline: This is a free service that helps callers throughout the US. The number is 800-313-4200, or – Monday to Friday 8am to 4 pm Eastern time, except holidays.
- VFW National Home website: [vfwnationalhome.org](http://vfwnationalhome.org)
- Encourage members to become Life members of the National Home
- National Home Tribute Bricks

At our SOI in August auxiliaries will be given information on how to purchase Life Memberships and Tribute Bricks.

There is so much more to learn about the National Home. I look forward to working with the Auxiliaries this program year.

Thank you.

Loyally yours,

Rebecca Pellechi, WA State National Home Chairman

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