

Christine Dougherty, Chairman
Buddy Poppy/National Home
April Bulletin #5

Happy Spring, to all my brothers and sisters. I'm not sure about you all, but it has been nice to get those extra hours of daylight and it's been great to have a few days warm enough to air out the house and start getting moving again. I wanted to remind you that April is known as the National Month of the Military Child. Our National Home Military Child and 2023-2024 Buddy Poppy Child Layla, I'm sure she has had an amazing and whirlwind year. Remember not just Layla but all of the other children that are out there in Eaton Rapids as well as all of the other children of deployed veterans.



It is unfortunate that children often notice that when mom or dad comes home from deployment and they are different. If you know of a veteran out there that is struggling or if your kids or grandkids notice that a friend is starting to withdraw, share the National Home Helpline. You might just be saving an entire family. The National Home is currently 100% occupied, but they are still able to be of assistance, and can be put on a waiting list. Every veteran counts, and so do their families.

If you haven't already started working on a design or came up with ideas for the Buddy Poppy Display contest in June at Department Convention. Form a committee with your post to brainstorm. Join up with members of your community and local youth organization to help you with your display. They can bring fresh ideas to the table and you will be educating them on the importance of the Buddy Poppy. It's a win-win. An example might be to reach out to a local Girl Scout or Blue Birds troop. Just remember, that your display does not have to be a large elaborate item, but something that will evoke emotion, and make you think. The three categories are:

1. **Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign** (Window, booth, parade, poster displays, campaign promotions, etc.)
 - a. Displays must be designed for public exposure and must bear a message soliciting a donation for and wearing of the VFW "Buddy"® Poppy.
 - b. At least one (1) of the Poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.
2. **Memorial or Inspirational Displays** (Wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes)
 - a. Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the "Buddy"® Poppy.
 - b. At least one (1) of the Poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.
3. **Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies** (Post Home displays, table centerpieces, corsages, pictures, plaques, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc.)
 - a. Any display not meeting the qualifications for Categories 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered in Category 3.
 - b. At least one (1) of the Poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

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While talking about the Buddy Poppy, now is a good time to start thinking ahead to Memorial Day and Poppy Drives. Visit your local city council to have your city to declare the week of Memorial Day as Buddy Poppy week. This brings awareness to your community and allows your VFW and Auxiliary to spend the week spotlighting the Poppy and what it stands for as well as how it helps our veterans. Check with your local schools, you might be able to come in and do a veteran's presentation on what the Poppy is, Flag etiquette, and anything else you can think of that our youth needs to learn about.



I wanted to thank everyone who submitted their National Awards to me by March 31st. I know that there was some confusion on the due date, and some folks had issues getting me the forms. Not to worry, I appreciate it all that I have received. We have 8 National Award #1, and 6 National Award #2. If you have any additional activities that would qualify for the National Award #1, but you didn't get it to me in time, or if the event is going to happen around Memorial Day, if you write it up and send it to me, I will include it as part of the drawing for the blue shawl in the Department Convention in June.

In regards to year end reports, I also want to thank everyone who has submitted them to me. I work full time, and getting the reports early helps me to be able to go through all of them and be able to make my date to department. If you haven't sent it to me yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. I have received 14 out of the 63 possible. If in doubt, please reach out to me and I'll check to see if I have your submittal.

One final item, as we prepare to finish up the year, if you want to contribute to the National Joint program, and the Department joint program (they are the same), there is a competition between the post and auxiliary on who will raise the most. President Rose and myself will be attending the National Convention in Liouville Kentucky in July, it would be a great way to so that we support their efforts to make those at the National Home.

It has been an amazing year, and I am so happy to have been your chairman. I was able to go out and meet with most of you at your district meetings, I'm only sad that I missed 2 of them. I am looking forward to seeing you all in June at the Department Convention.

My email address is CDBEARS_2000@yahoo.com (please note that it is an underscore and not a dash)

Or by snail mail PO Box 943, Kent WA, 98035