

“BUDDY”® POPPY & VFW NATIONAL HOME Chairman

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My name is Christine Dougherty and I will be serving as your “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman for the coming year. My membership began in 1988. I joined under the eligibility of my grandfather Harold S. McGough. Harold served in World War II with the US Army Air Core, a flight line mechanic serving in the Burma Indo China theater. I am a life member out of VFW Auxiliary Henry Bryner Post 4992 in Silverdale Washington. I remember attending various events at the post, and up there from an early age. Currently my husband Craig Dougherty serves as the Commander for the Department of Washington as a member of Kent Post 6785. I’m currently employed at Boeing within their accounting department on the military division.

“Buddy”® Poppy

The “Buddy”® Poppy Program was started about a hundred years ago and it continues to help our disabled veterans, service members and their families around the world. This Program provides continuously from the flower’s fabrication through distribution. It provides support to those who make our Poppies and also to those who benefit from our Poppy drives.

How do we use the “Buddy”® Poppy? We benefit from donations received while distributing Poppies within our communities. We create Poppy displays to bring awareness about veterans and service members to the community. We use them to decorate packages given to our hospitalized veterans. We use them as table decorations for our events. We decorate our wreaths for Memorial and Veterans Day with Poppies. The more we use, and the more we buy, the more veterans, service members and their families benefit.

One of my big hobbies is knitting, so for every 500 poppies ordered, your Auxiliary will be put into a drawing for a shawl that I have knit up. The drawing will take place at the mid-Winter convention. I will be bringing the shawl with me to both School of Instructions (Gig Harbor and Spokane Valley) and I’ll be bringing it to various District meetings. I’ll also make updates periodically on the Department Facebook page to let everyone know who all has been entered.

VFW National Home

The VFW National Home was founded in 1925. It is located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. It began as a haven where families left behind by war could remain together. Today it has evolved to meet the changing needs of America’s military and veteran families. Coming soon we will share some pictures that were taken last year during the Department Jr. Vice spring visit to the VFW National Home where they actually got to go into Washington house, and no one was in residence at the time.

The thought behind having the drawing at mid-Winter is that if your Auxiliary wanted to then use the as a means to help generate funds for National Home in preparation for the annual Department Jr. Vice spring visit to the VFW National Home.

I look forward to sharing information with you all this year and trying to serve our Veterans within Washington.

