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**“Buddy”® Poppy / VFW National Home
Department of Missouri
July/August 2021**



It's time to start planning those poppy drives! Plan ahead and set a few dates on your calendar now! Start gathering volunteers and do not forget to involve the youth! A few weeks before your drive is scheduled, make sure you finalize the locations where you will hold the drive. Do not forget to get permission from local businesses or government entities to hold your drive at their location.

I always encourage auxiliaries to work hand in hand with their post for “Buddy”® Poppy drives. However, remember auxiliaries can purchase “Buddy”® Poppies as well and may hold as many “Buddy”® Poppy drives throughout the year as they like. **REMEMBER** never refuse a buddy poppy to anyone even if they cannot make a donation. Any poppy worn is honoring a veteran!

“THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX” PROMOTING

This year I will have an award for the most Outstanding Promotion of the “Buddy”® Poppy/National Home Program as well as the Outstanding Chairman. So I encourage everyone to come up with creative and fun ways to promote the “Buddy”® Poppy and National Home! Here are just a few ideas to get those juices flowing.

- ❖ Use the “Buddy”® Poppy to decorate tables at your post dinners and breakfast.
- ❖ Create centerpieces and wrap your silverware with a napkin tied with a “Buddy”® Poppy.
- ❖ Create a painting or drawing of the “Buddy”® Poppy and have a raffle to give it away.
- ❖ Use the “Buddy”® Poppy in flower arrangements you can give to local businesses to display.

Department Fall Conference “Buddy”® Poppy Display Contest

I am asking for displays that will honor the memory of a veteran and their branch of service. Get creative and use as many poppies as you need but remember **you must have one poppy in its original form**. Display must be accompanied by sealed envelope—on the outside of the envelope the number of poppies used and total # of hours spent assembling the display—on the inside of the envelope a card with your auxiliary # and the name(s) of the assembler(s) of the display printed on it.

VFW National Home Trip

Save the date for the VFW National Home Trip this year **October 22-24, 2021**. This is Missouri's year to host the party for the children, so I hope to see a great turn out this year. More information will be provided in future promotional material.

“Change for Children” Contest

This year I will be giving a special award from me to the district that raises the most money for the National Home for Children. While you can do this any way you would like I encourage all auxiliaries to have a “Change for Children” jar that they collect loose change in the entire year. Please turn in those donations to your District Treasurer at each district meeting. Districts can bring checks to each Department meeting as you collect the money or send directly to Jackie Davis, Department Treasurer earmarked “Change for Children”. The deadline to report donations will be May 1st. More information to come. Get creative and let's raise money for the children!