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## **“Buddy”® Poppy / VFW National Home Department of Missouri November/December 2021**

Thank you for doing your best to promote the “Buddy”® Poppy within your posts and communities. Keep up the outstanding work! If you have not held a “Buddy”® Poppy drive yet I encourage you to get at least one done before the end of the year. Don’t let the cold weather months deter you. Think outside the box on ways you can hold drives indoors in a mall or grocery store. I am still waiting on pictures of how your auxiliary is promoting the “Buddy”® Poppy”. I want to share them so everyone can get ideas from each other.

Educate yourself prior to your drives so that you can answer any questions the community may ask. Visit the VFW Auxiliary National website ([www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org)) to:

- Review the “Buddy”® Poppy” Chairman’s Manual
- Watch the eight-minute “Veterans Behind the “Buddy”® Poppy” video..
- Read the three-page “Veterans Behind the “Buddy”® Poppy” article.
- Visit the VFW website for historical information on the “Buddy”® Poppy”. ([www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org))

Did you know your auxiliary can purchase its own “Buddy”® Poppies? The form can be found on the department website under the Buddy Poppy program. ([www.movfwaux.org](http://www.movfwaux.org))

### **Department Fall Conference “Buddy”® Poppy Display Winners!!**

I am so pleased with all the creative displays you all came up with for our Fall contest. I am amazed at the creativity put into honoring our veterans and their branches of service. First place (\$15) went to Lori Suiter, District 5, Auxiliary 3976, Sugar Creek Memorial and 2<sup>nd</sup> place (\$10) went to Betty Akers & Lisa Volkert, District 5, Auxiliary 5789, Jack Ray Auxiliary. Congratulations!



1<sup>st</sup>



2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Department Winter Conference “Buddy”® Poppy Centerpieces Display Contest**

We will once again be asking for centerpieces for our Voice of Democracy/Patriots Pen Banquet at our Winter meeting. I am asking that all centerpieces have a patriotic theme and be no more than 6” x 6”. We are getting a late start on this request so I hope I can count on you all to provide enough centerpieces to cover at least 40 tables. If you can, please provide 2 identical centerpieces which will be judged together. The normal display contest rules will be used in judging the centerpieces.

### **VFW National Home**

I recently learned the VFW National Home is currently at half capacity and has immediate openings for any veteran and/or their family with children in need of assistance. If you know someone who qualifies and needs assistance, please direct them to the National Home Helpline 1-800-313-4200.

### **“Change for Children” Contest**

You still have plenty of time to start collecting change to donate to the VFW National Home. I hope those change jars are filling up! Remember, checks must be into Jackie Davis, Department Treasurer by May 1, 2022. However, you can bring your checks to the Department Fall Conference and Department Winter Conference as well. DO NOT bring change to turn in please. I will have a special prize for the district that raises the most money which I will present at the Department Convention in June 2022.