



BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME

Arizona Auxiliaries, your lights are shining bright on Buddy Poppy and National Home! Amazing entries for the Buddy Poppy National Citation Award were received from Auxiliaries 6306, 2066, 2357, and 541. Entries listed events including a table at America's 250 in Prescott celebrating 250 years of the USA, a Buddy Poppy Ice Cream Social and drive with the JROTC in Nogales, a Bouse Days celebration with Buddy Poppy education and distribution, and Buddy Poppy education to schoolchildren in Topock with a follow up artwork contest, T-shirts with the winning artwork depicted for all school children and staff, and the art inspired the Auxiliary's Buddy Poppy Display entry. Auxiliary 7968's entry for the National Home Citation Award included an actual National Home Store at the Florence National Guard Family Fun Day. Participants learned about the National Home Eligibility and history while "shopping" for and "buying" items to "Stock the Store" for the National Guard Food Pantry. These diverse and creative events were exciting to review and really spotlighted your Auxiliaries' dedication to the Programs. The positive responses from the communities really keep us motivated!

Let's keep the momentum going into April and early May. Some potential ideas for themed events are:

- Yuma Salutes America's 250 – April 18
- National Volunteer Week – April 19-25
- National Lookalike Day – April 20
- Earth Day – April 22
- World Book Day – April 23
- Arbor Day – April 24 (Plant a Tree)
- National Pretzel Day – April 26
- Loyalty Day – May 1
- Silver Star Service Banner Day – May 1
- VE Day – May 8
- Military Spouse Appreciation Day – May 8
- Home Front Heros Day – May 9
- Mothers Day- May 10
- Children of Fallen Patriots Day – May 13
- Armed Forces Day – May 16

Did you know that the VFW National Home once had its own hospital? It was spearheaded by the VFW Auxiliary in 1928 and completed in 1930. In the 1990s a hospital was no longer needed, and the Auxiliary funded its conversion into the Health and Education Building. VFW Auxiliaries are major supporters of the

National Home and Auxiliaries that purchased Life Memberships, purchased Tribute Bricks, and donated to “Stock the Store” are continuing this legacy of support. We also benefit the Home by getting Eligibility information out to our communities so that we can help fill vacant homes and better the lives of veteran families.

The Department of Arizona Buddy Poppy Display Contest is just 2 months away, in June. Each Auxiliary may enter under 1 or all 3 of the 3 following categories: **Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign, Memorial or Inspirational Displays, and Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies.** Auxiliary name, number, city or state (including the shape of the state) may NOT be visible on the display. Entries will be judged on effectiveness, purpose, clarity of theme, suitability, originality, beauty and number of Poppies used. Include at least 100 Buddy Poppies on your display and, remember, one complete, fully visible Buddy Poppy in original color with full stem and label must be in the display. Traditional Buddy Poppies or Tin Pin Poppies may be used. Non-VFW trademarks or copyrighted material are prohibited. The rules and entry form are located at vfwauxaz.org under Programs, Buddy Poppy/National Home.

“From sea to Shining Sea, Honoring Our Veterans Who Keep Us Free”

Sincerely,

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