



## BUDDY POPPY/VFW NATIONAL HOME

What a beautiful beginning of the year for Buddy Poppy/National Home. Thank you, everyone, for doing your PARs. Department Arizona is at 100% for the Program! Way to go!

I know we are still busy with our Buddy Poppy Promotions. I want to share two recent activities that were heartfelt. First, as many of you know, our dear Sister, District 4 President, Angela Cummins Hubbard, passed away. Auxiliary 3632 hosted a wonderful Celebration of Life for her, complete with Buddy Poppy decorations everywhere. Buddy Poppy was near and dear to her heart, and she participated in the Buddy Poppy/National Home Jeopardy game in August at the MIT. We will miss you, Angela! Second, Auxiliary 6306, Topock, AZ, engaged local elementary school students to draw what patriotism means to them. The winning artwork will be incorporated into the Auxiliary's Buddy Poppy Project. What a great way to get our youth and educators involved in what we represent.

Do not forget to send your entry for the Buddy Poppy Program National Citation Award to me no later than March 31, 2026. Describe the activity/event with your Post to educate the community about the VFW Buddy Poppy. Include materials used: flyers, brochures, social media posts, newsletters, e-newsletters, handouts, videos, and pictures, pictures, pictures. The form is available on MALTA under Member Resources, Buddy Poppy/National Home Program, Award No. 1. You can send the form and materials to me by email, [sunlover1102@gmail.com](mailto:sunlover1102@gmail.com), or by "snail" mail to Peggy Welch, 8989 South Desert Well Rd., Tucson, AZ, 85736.

The VFW National Home has been busy honoring their Mission Statement: "The VFW National Home assists military, veterans, and their families with children, by creating a foundation of services and resources to achieve their personal and family goals in order to move forward in a positive, safe, and healthy environment." Dennis Parizek, District 11 National Home Trustee, shared some information from Western Conference. If you purchased a Centennial Life Membership, you are eligible for 10% off souvenirs and apparel, reduced Guest Lodge rates, and exclusive Members Only apparel. Note that after December 31<sup>st</sup> only regular Life Memberships are available for \$100. To make that purchase more affordable, an installment payment option is available.

Continue supporting "Stock the Store," this year's Special Project of Commander-In-Chief, Carol Whitmore, and National Auxiliary President, Lois Callahan. The new Retail Store will be in the Welcome Center which we supported a couple years ago. The donations will fund the coolers, freezers, and an honor point-of-sale program so residents can shop with a swipe card and pay by credit card, even after hours. Donations can be made at [vfwnationalhome.org/donate](http://vfwnationalhome.org/donate) and type Retail Store in the comments.

Dennis reports that the Arizona House is well funded by the Department of Arizona, with \$40,000 in the coffers. Good job, everyone.

The Guest Lodge was recently refurbished, and our purchases of memberships and Tribute Bricks helps support these activities. To date, eleven Department of AZ Auxiliaries have reported purchases of Tribute Bricks and three Auxiliaries have reported purchases of Memberships. Did you know that a National Home Membership can be purchased with funds from your Auxiliary's Relief Fund when passed by vote? If you have a member you would like to gift a membership, this could be an option. Regular Tribute Bricks are always available and there are 400 more Centennial Bricks for purchase, ready to be placed in the Centennial Garden.

Be sure to document and photograph, if possible, your Promotion of the National Home and Eligibility activities. Submit your entry for the VFW National Home National Citation Award to me by March 31, 2026. Describe the activity/event that created awareness, and education of eligibility and who qualifies for help from the VFW National Home and promoting it within their Department to help veterans and their families. Include pictures, emails, a write-up, etc. The form is in MALTA, Award No. 2. All entries must be sent to me by the deadline by email or "snail" mail. The award is \$25 to your Auxiliary.

Last, but not least, gather your Poppies and ideas for your entry in the Department and, hopefully, National Buddy Poppy Display contest. Categories and rules were printed in the January 2026 Newsletter. Short on ideas? Past entries are posted on Facebook under #buddypoppy. I am sure there are more, so feel free to share.

Keep it fun! Keep it real! Keep it Buddy Poppy/VFW National Home!

Peggy Welch