



BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME PROGRAM

Go Team Department of Arizona! We are going strong to meet our Buddy Poppy/National Home goals! Some reports from Auxiliaries are noted:

- Auxiliary 2066 – September 9th: Presentation to the Nogales High School AF JROTC classes on scholarships, Buddy Poppy, National Home, Auxiliary, Veterans and Family Support, Americanism, POW/MIA, and Blankets for Bryan. 150 cadets attended over 6 classes.
October 15th: Partnered with the Santa Cruz Workforce Development for 2025 job Expo & Services community event. Comrades and Auxiliary promoted Membership, Americanism, Scholarships, and Buddy Poppy. Giveaways and business cards were available.
- Auxiliary 1433 – September 20th: Hosted a joint VFW/Auxiliary Membership, Buddy Poppy and National Home Drive outside a busy restaurant from 6-9 pm. Timing and location helped make it successful with Relief Fund donations and 5 applications for the Auxiliary.
- Auxiliary 9972 – November 4th: Stuffed gift bags for Veterans in care facilities, including Buddy Poppies.
November 6th: Membership and Buddy Poppy Drive
- Auxiliary 10254 – October 12th: Held a Buddy Poppy Drive with a bake sale outside the General Store. Donations were received for the Relief fund and the fund to help rebuild Post 10254.
- Auxiliaries 2190, 10386, 11014 – October: Attended JAVC's Standdown/Resource fair and promoted Scholarships, Buddy Poppy, Americanism, Membership, Youth, and Legislative Programs and had some creative giveaways.
- Auxiliary 1677 – For Halloween, 1850 bags of candy were tied with a Buddy Poppy and handed out at the Halloween stroll on Main Street. Youth were involved in bagging the candy.

Great activities! You have shown creativity, collaboration with Comrades and other Auxiliaries, thinking "outside the box" on venues and times, and inclusion of other Programs. We truly have great events and we inspire one another! If I have missed your

activities, please send your information to sunlover1102@gmail.com and USE YOUR HASHTAGS with Facebook posts.

November and December are going to be busy with special days. We have Thanksgiving, Pearl Harbor Day and Bill of Rights Day (12/7), Hanukkah (12/14-21), Kwanzaa (12/26-1/1), and Christmas. November is also Native American Heritage Month and National Caregivers Month. Let's not forget some other fun national days: World Kindness Day (11/13), International Men's Day (11/19), Universal Children's Day (11/20), National Apple Pie Day (12/3), National Cookie Day (12/4), National Hamburger Day (12/21), Thank a Soldier Week (12/21-27), and National Bacon Day (12/30).

Start thinking about applying for a National Citation Award for your Buddy Poppy and National Home Programs. The entry forms are on MALTA. An award is available for each. For Buddy Poppy you must describe your outstanding activity/event with your VFW Post to educate your community about the VFW Buddy Poppy. For the National Home you must describe your outstanding activity/event that creates awareness and education of eligibility and who qualifies for help from the National Home and promoting it within their Department to help Veterans and their families. Each must be mailed by March 31, 2026, for judging.

Keep working on our Department Goals:

Buddy Poppy: Order your Poppies now. The Comrades have to order them, but the Auxiliary can help purchase them. Keep a Buddy Poppy "kit" with you to distribute. WEAR YOUR BUDDY POPPY EVERYWHERE. People notice, so be prepared to educate. Brainstorm ideas for your Buddy Poppy Display Entry at Convention.

National Home: Get the information on eligibility criteria out to your members and the public. Make business cards with the Helpline (800-313-4200) and the QR code. Buy your Life Membership NOW. The price goes up to \$100 on January 1st. Until then you can purchase a Life membership for \$50 and a Centennial Membership for \$100. Purchase your Tribute Brick. If you want a Centennial Brick, go in with the Auxiliaries in your District. Support our Comrades goal of "Stocking the Store" to supply residents with needed store items. Western Conference Auxiliaries and Comrades are collecting together to purchase a bench in The National Home Memorial Garden and appreciate our support. Currently 10 homes have been vacated and 32 homes are occupied. The Washington House had a great success story – the family was accepted and graduated in just 7 months!

Keep going strong, AZ. Let's flood Arizona with Buddy Poppies!

