

“Buddy”[®] Poppy & VFW National Home Promotion #1 | July 2023

Lisa Jackson

2023-2024 National “Buddy”[®] Poppy & VFW National Home Ambassador

buddypoppyvfwhomeamb@gmail.com

Hello, my name is Lisa Jackson, and I am your “Buddy”[®] Poppy & VFW National Home Ambassador for 2023-2024. I was eligible to join the VFW Auxiliary under my husband, Keith M. Jackson, who served in Korea, Kosovo, Bosnia and Iraq while in the Army. My father was also a World War II Navy veteran. I am a Life Member of the VFW Auxiliary 6538. I am the Junior Past Department President for the Department of Massachusetts. I am currently the District 15 Trustee number 2 and Auxiliary Treasurer. I work full-time as a supervisor for a behavioral health clinic. I have three adult children, Alicia, Matthew, and Rebecca, four grandchildren and two dogs. I enjoy volunteering my time to our veterans and their families, crafting, traveling and spending time with my family.

I am excited to share with you this year my experiences and knowledge about the “Buddy”[®] Poppy and the VFW National Home Program. Each Program has gone through changes over the past year. I hope that you can appreciate the work that VFW and National Home have done to bring these programs to the forefront.



This year the “Buddy”[®] Poppy Program has evolved due to the high costs of supplies and the pandemic. Our poppies are now being made in Kansas City by a group of disabled individuals that work for Cottonwood Inc. These individuals can make an authentic poppy. With the help of Cottonwood Inc, VFW can ship poppies out within three days. Unfortunately, the cost of our poppy has doubled in price. With the cost increase, VFW has investigated finding new forms of poppies at a lower price. They have found a metal poppy that will be able to be purchased from the VFW store. The price is still being determined and more information on this will be available in September. Here is a short video of the employees that make our poppies at Cottonwood Inc. I hope you enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BZDIwgH-wY>

The VFW National Home has also gone through some changes. Did you notice that I did not say the “VFW National Home for Children?” They have dropped the “for Children” and will be now known as the VFW National Home. This was the original name when the National Home was

first started. They are centering on the needs of the military, veterans and their families. They have also changed their logo. They kept the “three hearts tree” and removed the box that was around it.

This year more than ever the VFW National Home needs your help in fundraising. Please consider becoming a Hometown Hero. This can be a small donation of as little as \$5 each month. This is guaranteed money for the National Home to help them plan their budgets. The more members who join this fundraiser, the more we can help the National Home plan its budget.

We are coming up on the 100th year celebration at the National Home in 2025. Please take some time to contact your District Trustee to see what you can do to make the 100th year a huge success.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can reach me via email at BuddyPoppyvfwhomeamb@gmail.com.

I look forward to working with everyone!