

BUDDY POPPY PROGRAM

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A flower that evokes the memories and emotions of war is the red poppy, which became associated with war after the publication of a poem "In Flander's Field," written by Col. John McCrae of Canada. For more than 75 years, the VFW's Buddy Poppy program has raised millions of dollars in support of veterans' welfare and the well being of their dependents. Today, VFW Buddy Poppies are assembled by disabled, needy and aging veterans in VA Hospitals and domiciliaries across the country and are distributed by VFW Posts and their Auxiliaries. The minimal assessment (cost of Buddy Poppies) to VFW units provides compensation to the veterans who assemble the poppies, provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the VFW National Home for orphans and widows of our nation's veterans.

Post and District Poppy Chairmen should also refer to the National VFW Programs Guide 2011-12 "It's About Service"

ORDERING

- Buddy Poppy orders (Poppy's only) are made through Department Headquarters on (Form 3a).

Please allow 4-6 weeks for processing an order. Please note that Buddy Poppy Facilities are closed beginning mid-November through December. Be sure to allow lead time for all orders.

- Other Poppy supplies such as cans and boards need to be ordered directly from the National Headquarters Emblem and Supply Department.
- All orders purchased May 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012 shall be credited to the 2011-2012 year.
- All poppy orders shall be in increments of 500, 1,000 or 2,000 poppies.
- **All invoices for poppies ordered prior to November 30th must be paid by December 31st. All orders received after January 1st must be paid by May 15th.**

- All orders must have a street address for delivery. No post office box orders will be accepted because UPS will not deliver to P.O. Boxes.
- Auxiliaries (Men's and Ladies) - All orders for Poppy's and or supplies should be ordered through your respective Post Quartermaster.

POST BUDDY POPPY GOAL

Post Membership Divisions	Buddy Poppy Goal
1,501 & over	7,500
751 to 1,500	5,000
551 to 750	3,500
326 to 550	2,500
226 to 325	2,000
166 to 225	1,500
126 to 165	1,000
96 to 125	500
71 to 95	500
51 to 70	500
31 to 50	500
30 & under	500

HOW TO REPORT

- You will receive credit for purchasing Buddy Poppy's when your purchase (Form 3a) is received and processed by Department Headquarters.

PLEASE NOTE NEW REPORTING FORM (visit our home page at www.vfwca.org or go to www.ca.vfwportal.net/) and enter your program reporting information.
PLEASE NOTE – FORM 12'S ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTED

Important! – To qualify for awards a Post must send a copy of the Program Reporting to the Department Chairman with all applicable attachments.

AWARDS

Post and Auxiliary Awards

- Posts and Auxiliaries need to submit a Buddy Poppy Report and Application for Awards (Form 3c) to Department Headquarters not later than May 15, 2012.
 - Awards will be presented based on the following basic information
 - number of poppies purchased
 - number of poppies distributed
 - number of members participating
 - total number of hours

First place Post and/or Auxiliary Chairman will receive a plaque; second and third places will receive citations.

The Post having the Best All-Around Buddy Poppy Program (selected from the reports submitted) will receive the John F. Kennedy Award plaque and \$100.00.

District Awards

First place District Chairman will receive a plaque; second and third places will receive citations. To qualify the district must have 100% Post and/or Auxiliary participation and show a purchase increase over the previous year.

The best overall District Chairman will receive \$100.00

Individual Awards

Comrades and Auxiliary Members distributing 1,500 or more Poppies during street distributions will receive a Department citation. Complete (Form 3b) and submit to the appropriate Department Chairman not later than May 15, 2012.

Plaques will also be awarded to the Comrades and Auxiliary Members distributing the most Poppies during street distribution.