



# Buddy Poppy/National Home Program-2023-24

August/September Bulletin

July 12, 2023

## “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy



This year the “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> 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, National VFW can ship poppies out within three days. Check out Cottonwood Inc. by clicking or copy and pasting this link to see a video about them. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BZDIwgH-wY>

Unfortunately, the cost of our poppy has doubled in price. You will want to check the new price on the order form before you vote on the number of poppies you are going to buy. Also starting this year, all orders need to go through the WI VFW Headquarters in Monona. They have access to a program to put the orders into National.

With the cost increase, VFW has investigated finding new forms of poppies at a lower price. They have found a metal poppy (See picture below) 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.



## Come to the National Home!



Every year, Ambassadors and Chairmen have told you about the wonderful VFW National Home and its mission—“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.”



If you truly want to understand what a wonderful community has been created at the National Home, you need to see it for yourself!

The Wisconsin and Missouri VFWs and Auxiliaries have the honor of visiting the National Home each year in October. We attend the National Home Annual Meeting and provide a Halloween Party for the families that live at the National Home. We have the opportunity to tour the entire community-see the Wisconsin House; the Pre-School; chapel; and other facilities on the grounds.

Our VFW has reserved bus transportation for us. Lamers Bus service will pick us up at one of multiple locations around the state on Friday morning, October 27th. We will drive to the Quality Suites in Lansing, MI. On Saturday morning the bus will take us to the National Home for the Annual Meeting, take a tour of the facilities, and then lunch and the Halloween party in the afternoon. We return to our hotel after about 3 p.m. The bus service will also drive us to a local VFW Post that offers dinner on Friday night, and then we find a place to go out to dinner on Saturday night. Breakfasts will be provided at the hotel.

**TRIP COST:** The cost to ride with us and two-night stay at the hotel is \$300 per person for double occupancy and \$435 for single occupancy. However, check this out!

**DISCOUNT PROGRAM:** If you sign up by August 10, 2023 you will receive a 10% discount off of the cost. (i.e. \$300 for double occupancy will be \$270 and \$435 single occupancy will be \$391.50).

**Plus,** If we have a minimum of 40 members signed up by September 25, 2023, each member that has signed-up and paid in full, will receive a \$40.00 rebate.

**THEME:** Our Halloween theme for this year at the National Home is Harry Potter. The VFW has divided the state up between the four houses of the Hogwarts Academy. Slytherin: Districts 1, 7, 8, & 11; Ravenclaw: District 2 & 4; Hufflepuff: District 3 & 10; and Gryffindor: District 6 & 9. If you are unsure of a costume, there are lots of pictures and information on the internet regarding Harry Potter.

I really hope you will join us for this fantastic trip to a wonderful facility for Veterans.

Forms for Poppies & the National Home Trip can be found on the WI VFW Auxiliary website at: [vfwauxwi.org](http://vfwauxwi.org) and then click on Programs and go to the Buddy Poppy/National Home page and scroll down.

