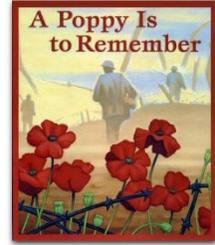


**WI VFW Auxiliary
Buddy Poppy/National Home Program
July 13, 2024**



A Brief History of the Buddy Poppy

- Since 1922, the Buddy Poppy has been an integral part of the VFW Community
- The Poppy represents the blood shed by service members
- It reiterates the VFW will not forget their sacrifices
- The poppies originally came from France, but took too long for them to arrive
- So they came up with a better idea; disabled, hospitalized and aging veterans could make paper flowers
- Provides extra income for the Veterans for little luxuries that make life more tolerable
- Offered a therapy program to provide exercise for fingers and hands crippled by wounds, disease and the effects of old age
- All proceeds from distribution are used for veteran's welfare or for the well-being of their needy dependents and orphans of veterans
- More than 2,300 children of veterans have been, or are being cared for in the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, thanks to a portion of Poppy funds

Poppies purchased by a Department for distribution contributes to the following:

- *One (1) cent goes to the VFW National Home
- *One (1) cent goes the VFW National Headquarters Veterans Service Fund
- *One and a half (1.5) cent goes to the Department's Veterans Service Fund

The Poppy movement was inspired by Canadian Army Col. John McCrae's famous poem, "In Flanders Fields."

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

VFW National Home

The origins of today's VFW National Home can be traced to a 23-year-old woman named Amy Ross. In 1922, Ross made it her mission to help find jobs for the thousands of unemployed veterans in Detroit.

News of Ross' efforts reached millionaire cattleman Corey Spencer, who gifted 472 acres of land near Eaton Rapids, Michigan, to build on Ross' vision of supporting veterans.

On Jan. 7, 1925, the VFW National Home was founded, helping to fulfill the VFW pledge to "honor the dead by helping the living." Later that spring, the Home welcomed its first family in an old frame farmhouse, Mrs. Pollett and her six children. Pollett had become suddenly widowed and lost her husband's military pension.

Since its founding, the VFW National Home has grown from an old frame farmhouse to a sprawling campus with playgrounds; park areas; and multiple buildings, including single-family homes, a community center and gymnasium, child care facility, guest lodge, chapel, and administrative offices.

Over the years, the National Home has evolved to meet the changing needs of America's military and veterans' families. Through it all, one thing has remained constant: the National Home's commitment to honor our nation's veterans and active-duty military by providing help and hope for their children and families.



Wisconsin Home
Built in 1937
2,400 Square Feet
4 Bed, 3 Bath



VFW National Home Fall Festival
Friday-Sunday
October 25-27, 2024
Eaton Rapids, MI

100th Anniversary Events

January 7, 2025

Original Birthday Party Celebration
VFW National Home

February 8, 2025

Black Tie Event
VFW National Home

March 9, 2025

Pollet House Dedication / Ribbon Cutting
VFW National Home

June 28, 2025

100th Birthday Party
VFW National Home

August 9-14, 2025

VF National Convention
Columbus, Ohio

We hope to see you there!

2025

A Year to Remember



V F W
NATIONAL HOME