

**Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Pennsylvania  
Buddy Poppy Program Contest  
2026-2027**

**Goals of the Program:**

1. 100% Post and Auxiliary participation throughout the Department;
2. Place Pennsylvania in the "**One Million Poppy Club**";
3. Encourage every member to wear a Buddy Poppy at all VFW functions and in their communities;
4. Remember our fallen by blanketing our communities with Buddy Poppies;
5. Increase participation of Posts and Auxiliaries in Buddy Poppy Display contest.

**DEPARTMENT CONTESTS FOR 2024-2025**

1. **District Chairperson** who attains 100% Post participation with three (3) poppies per member, by **December 31, 2026** (ordered from Department) will receive a Certificate of Appreciation, and a \$100.00 VFW Store Gift Certificate. These awards will be given out at the Mid-Winter Conference, 2027.
2. **District Chairperson** who attains 100% Post participation and exceeding last year's purchases by 25% before **April 30, 2027**, will receive a \$100.00 VFW Store Gift Certificate.
3. The first three (3) **District Chairperson** to have purchases of/or exceeding five (5) Buddy Poppies per member by **April 30, 2027**, will receive a \$100.00 VFW Store Gift Certificate for the District.
4. If the Department makes it into the "**One Million Poppy Club**" by **April 30, 2027**, each **District Chairperson** will receive a special Commanders Choice Award and every **Post** will receive a specially designed certificate.
5. All **Posts** participating in the Buddy Poppy Program will receive a Certificate of Participation. These certificates will be given out at the State Convention.
6. **Posts** must purchase five (5) Buddy Poppy per member (minimum of 500 Poppies) to qualify for All-State
7. **Posts** exceeding ten (10) Buddy Poppies per member in purchases will receive a Buddy Poppy Pin for the Post Chairperson. These Pins will be given out at the State Convention.
8. The top **Post** from each division purchasing the most Buddy Poppies per member by **April 30, 2027**, will receive a Buddy Poppy Award Plaque and \$75.00 VFW Store Gift Certificate. These Plaques will be given out at the State Convention.

**Group 1: Divisions 1 through 2 based on the National Membership Divisions.**

**Group 2: Divisions 3 through 6 based on the National Membership Divisions.**

**Group 3: Divisions 7 through 11 based on the National Membership Divisions.**

## **BUDDY POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST RULES**

1. While Poppies purchased in a prior year may be used in the Display, the 2026-2027 minimum Poppy Purchase is required to submit an entry.
2. All Buddy Poppy Display entries must adhere to the National Convention Buddy Poppy Display guidelines (Attachment C).
3. At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.
4. All Displays will be judge on the basis of effectiveness, purpose, clarity of theme, suitability, originality, beauty and number of Poppies used. Where a sample of a large number of identical items (such as corsages or wreaths) is entered, full credit shall be given for the total number of Poppies used.
5. All Buddy Poppy Displays will be judged based on the following categories:
  - Category 1. Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign.**
  - Category 2. Memorial or Inspirational Displays**
  - Category 3. Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies.**
6. All displays must have been assigned a category by the sponsoring Post or Auxiliary. Displays will not be judged if not categorized. Any display not meeting the qualifications for Categories 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered in Category 3.
7. All displays must have an official display entry form filled out completely. (A).
8. All Posts/Auxiliaries will bring their poppies display to their perspective District Convention to be judged.
9. All 1<sup>st</sup> Place District winners in each category will advance to the Department Judging.
10. Buddy Poppy Display Entries will be judged during the 2026-2027 Department Convention following the Patriotic Rally.
11. The display area will be announced. All displays **MUST** be set up prior to the opening of the VFW Friday morning business session.
12. There will be five (5) judges, two each selected by the VFW and Auxiliary Department Chairpersons. The Chairperson will select the fifth judge. Judging will be completed in a closed forum.
13. Contest winners will be announced on Saturday prior to the nomination of officers.
14. Prizes will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> place, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each category.
15. Displays placing 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Department Contest are eligible to advance to the National Contest. The Post or Auxiliary **must** notify the Department Adjutant in writing by June 30, 2027 if they are attending the National Convention.
16. **The Department will not transport** any displays to or from any convention.

**ATTACHMENT A**

**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Buddy Poppy Display Form  
2026-2027**

Theme Explanation:

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**Fill out completely (print), separate and place under your display.**

Number of Poppies used: \_\_\_\_\_

Category of Display: \_\_\_\_\_

Post or Auxiliary - Name and Location: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_



**ATTACHMENT B**

**Winner Transmittal Sheet**

POST: \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_

**Category 1: Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign** (window, booth, parade, poster displays, campaign promotions, etc.)

- Displays must be designed for public exposure and must bear a message soliciting a donation for and wearing of the VFW Buddy Poppy.
- At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with a label attached.

**Please state the THEME, POST, DISTRICT below**

1st Place Category 1: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Category 1: \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Category 1: \_\_\_\_\_

**Category 2: Memorial or Inspirational Displays** (wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes).

- Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the Buddy Poppy.
- At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with a label attached.

**Please state the THEME, POST, DISTRICT below**

1st Place Category 2: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Category 2: \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Category 2: \_\_\_\_\_

**Category 3. Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies.** (Post Home displays, table centerpieces, corsages, pictures, plaques, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc.)

- Any display not meeting the qualifications for Categories 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered in Category 3.
- At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

**Please state the THEME, POST, DISTRICT below**

1st Place Category 3: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Category 3: \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Category 3: \_\_\_\_\_



ATTACHMENT C      **NATIONAL CONTEST RULES FOR 2026-2027**

A Buddy Poppy Display Contest will be held at the National Convention. Rules have been designed to put emphasis on the purpose and effectiveness of the displays. It is suggested that Department Contest rules be set up in conformance with this outline.

**DISPLAYS WILL BE PRESENTED AND JUDGED IN THREE CATEGORIES:**

**Category 1. Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign.** (window, booth, parade, poster displays, campaign promotions, etc.)

- Displays must be designed for public exposure and must bear a message soliciting a donation for and wearing of the VFW Buddy Poppy.
- At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

**Category 2. Memorial or Inspirational Displays.** (wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes).

- Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the Buddy Poppy.
- At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

**Category 3. Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies.** (Post Home displays, table centerpieces, corsages, pictures, plaques, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc.)

- Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the Buddy Poppy.
- Any display not meeting the qualifications for Categories 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered in Category 3.
- At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.
- Departments purchasing over 250,000 Poppies will be allowed two displays in each of the three categories for the National Display Contest. All others will be allowed one display in each of the three categories, no deviations.
- The Department Adjutant will notify the Buddy Poppy Director, in writing, by June 30 of the Posts that will represent the Department in each category. This will allow the necessary time to ensure each entry has sufficient space to set up at the National Convention. **NOTE:** The National Buddy Poppy Committee shall have no responsibility in setting up, taking down, or returning displays.
- Displays may be entered and set up at any time from 9 a.m. Saturday until 4 p.m. on Monday of the Convention week.
- Displays shall be set up in space provided in the Convention facility. At the time the display is set up, the responsible person must complete an entry form which will show the category of competition, the number of Poppies used, the purpose of the display, the Post and/or VFW Auxiliary number and location, and the name of the person who will dismantle and remove the display at the close of the Convention.
- Displays may be accompanied by a white card, not to exceed 4 inches by 6 inches in size, on which is lettered in black ink an explanation of the theme for the display or other information of interest to the viewers or the judges.
- Post name, number or location may not be visible on display entries. **Failure to comply will result in disqualification.**

## **Judging**

Judging of displays will be on the basis of effectiveness, purpose, clarity of theme, suitability, originality, beauty and number of Poppies used. Where a sample of a large number of identical items (such as corsages or wreaths) is entered, full credit shall be given for the total number of Poppies used.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st place, 2nd place, and 3rd place in each category.

**1st place winner will receive a plaque and \$100.00 VFW Store Gift Certificate**

**2nd place winner will receive a \$75.00 VFW Store Gift Certificate**

**3rd place winner will receive a \$50.00 VFW Store Gift Certificate**

### **VFW Buddy Poppy Chairperson:**

Ian Sparrow (Post 1568)  
202 Thomas Street, Towanda, PA 18848  
E-mail: fourpaws@epix.net Phone: (570) 250-8497 (texting is ok)

### **Auxiliary Buddy Poppy Chairperson:**

Deanne Mannella  
456 Dennison Drive, West Mifflin, PA 15122  
E-mail:deannepaws343@gmail.com, Phone: 412-551-1212