

DATE: March 28, 2025

TO: Department Adjutant/Quartermasters
Department "Buddy"® Poppy Chairperson, VFW
Department "Buddy"® Poppy/National Home Chairperson, VFW Auxiliary
National "Buddy"® Poppy/National Home Ambassador, VFW Auxiliary

FROM: Lynn W. Rolf, III, Director, VFW Programs

SUBJECT: "Buddy"® Poppy Display Contest Program Information

The annual National Convention "Buddy"® Poppy Display Contest will be held in the Greater Columbus Convention Center, in Hall B/C, during the 126th National Convention. Entries will may be set up beginning at 8 a.m., Saturday, August 9th and up **until noon, Monday, August 11, 2025.**

I am attaching some updated information to assist with this year's Buddy Poppy Contest. The National Contest Rules are attached which includes any use of non-VFW trademarks or copyrighted material on the display is prohibited. It is suggested and recommended that the Departments' (State) contest rules be established in a like form. Also attached is the National entry form to show the information that will be required when entering/registering your department's approved display at the National Convention.

Posts and Auxiliaries that want to ship their displays to the National Convention site are asked to please use the shipping label(s) which will be forwarded to you soon. To ensure timely and proper delivery, it is imperative that the label used reflects the exact address, Show Name, Company Name and Booth Number. All Buddy Poppy displays should be mailed within 30 days prior to the convention. **Please note, for delivery after Monday, August 4th; please use the appropriate label that states your display must arrive on Friday, August 8th only.** If you have a question, please contact Mary Spencer at 866-789-6333 prior to shipping. Do not ship directly to the Greater Columbus Convention Center's normal address.

The judging is scheduled for completion on Monday evening and the winning displays will be identified with appropriate ribbons on Tuesday morning. Winners will also be announced on the convention floor. Awards will be mailed for the top three winners in each of the three categories to the winning Department Adjutants after the convention.

PLEASE REMEMBER: The sponsoring unit is responsible for shipping to and from the convention (to include all costs) and the assembly/disassembly of their display. The displays must be removed **before noon on Tuesday, August 12th**, otherwise the display will be removed and destroyed by the convention center's personnel during the dismantle of the Hall.

I would like to wish all the VFW Posts and Auxiliaries luck on your displays and hope to see you in Ohio.

Thank you!

NOTE: ALL DEPARTMENT ADJUTANTS MUST NOTIFY THE PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT, IN WRITING, BY JULY 1 OF THE POSTS THAT WILL REPRESENT THEIR DEPARTMENT IN EACH CATEGORY OR THEY WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO BE JUDGED.