

BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME PROGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO

Department Chairman, Kelly Fouse

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Introduction Letter

Welcome to the 2025-2026 Buddy Poppy and National Home Program!!! I am Kelly Fouse and will be your Department, (State's), Chairman this year. First, I would like to thank President Jeanette Garcia for appointing me to this Chairmanship. It is the first time I have held the Buddy Poppy/National Home Chairmanship; and I look forward to learning and sharing with each of you!

Our National Ambassador this year is Sandra Jeffries and she is out of the beautiful State of North Carolina! I will be sharing her main goals and motto in my first promotional.

I would like to introduce our counterparts on the VFW side of the house - for Buddy Poppy our VFW Department Chairman is Don Frias from Post 401 Albuquerque; and for National Home our VFW Department Chairman is Mark Bowman from Post 3274 Hobbs. I am excited to work with these Chairmen and know that all of you and the VFW will make the 2025-2026 year an amazing success.

So, I am planning something a little different this year. I know our Incoming VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore, Incoming VFWA National President Lois Callahan, our VFW State Commander Jim Haddox and VFWA State President Jeanette are all about team work when it comes to programs. Therefore, I will be emailing the Buddy Poppy/National Home promotionals to Commander Jim, and VFW Chairmen Don and Mark, when I email our Ambassador, President and Tech Chairman Betty Decker. I believe that this will give us a better foundation for our teamwork, it will also give them an opportunity to ask me to add information to the promotionals.

In my first promotional, I will go over our Ambassador Sandra's awards, main objectives as well as the awards program for the Auxiliaries and Districts that I will present at State Convention! **No, what we do isn't about awards or recognition, I know, we do the program work for the love of our veterans and their families.** However, we can also have some fun and recognize outstanding performance!

I am genuinely excited to see, hear, and work with all of you and our NM VFW to further the goals of the Buddy Poppy/National Home Program! May God Bless each of you and yours with much love and laughter; and may he Continue Blessing the United States of America.

Kelly Fouse

2025-2026

Buddy Poppy/National Home Chairman