



We remind our country of the price of war with a buddy poppy a symbol of sacrifice of lives in all wars. During World War II the poppy grew on the battle fields of Flanders Field among this bomb scarred landscape where blood was shed, this is where the bright red bloom became a sign of hope and renewal for those lives who never left. This flower is a memorial to their bravery. Since 1922 this poppy has become the official flower of the VFW and has been a tribute to Veterans who are disabled or died in war. Many remember the buddy poppy as a child and this longstanding distribution has continued.

We as members of the VFW need to continue this tradition and distribute this flower. How do you Distribute this flower.

Our poppy cans are good ways of not only accepting donations but also are available for anyone to take one. So, we need to get those Buddy poppy cans in our Posts, at our events, and throughout the community.

Suggestions on ways we can also get the Buddy poppy out within the community

1. Ask the Blue Star mothers or other organizations that distribute pkgs to the troops in your area if they could include a buddy poppy in the packages they send out to the troops.
2. When the troops come home, attend the homecomings at the airports or on base and distribute a buddy poppy.
3. Buddy poppy on hand sanitizers bottles and pass out.
4. Decorate and distribute poppies during your events at your home post or wherever they may be.
5. Work with the children in area schools teaching about the buddy poppy what it means and educating them to get involved and help distribute make buddy poppies.
6. Distribute at your clinics, hospitals, dental clinics or even eye clinics Veterans are everywhere.
7. Work with other Veteran Organizations in your area to distribute the buddy poppy.
8. Work with other businesses asking them if you can have a distribution at their location or leave a buddy poppy can for donations with buddy poppies.

These are just some ideas to be creative and keep the old tradition of the buddy poppy going.

There are two awards that will be given at the end of the year for Buddy Poppy awards. Each unit can turn one in and win this award, but you need to report!!!!

This year I hope to see much more reporting we need to toot our horns and let everyone know what were doing, also remember by reporting you also give other Auxiliary ideas of how they can also distribute the buddy poppy have fun and make it meaningful.

Barbara Santillanes
Dept of NM Buddy Poppy Chair