



**VFWA NEW MEXICO
BUDDY POPPY PROGRAM
Dominique Garcia Program Chair 2026-2027**



Promotional September 2026

VFW Auxiliary National Ambassador - Donna Marie King
VFW State Auxiliary President - Michelle Dennisson
VFW State Auxiliary Secretary - Betty Decker

Since school is back in session I figured lets have a history lesson of Buddy Poppy.

The Buddy Poppy became part of the VFW in 1922, it is the official memorial flower as it represents the blood shed by American service members. That year they held their first Poppy drive before Memorial Day and became the first veterans' organization to hold a distribution. It inspired the famous poem by Canadian Army Col. John McCrae titled "In Flanders Fields" I never knew this the Franco-American Children's league used to distribute them to benefit the children in devastated areas of France and Belgium following WWI. February 1924 the name "Buddy"Poppy was registered with the U.S. Patent Office. They granted the VFW all trademark rights with a certificate on May 20, 1924. No organization firm or individual can legally use the name "Buddy" poppy.

To order you can contact your VFW post but it is recommended to order at least 8 to 12 weeks prior to your event.

Be sure to look at all the Buddy Poppy items and distribution supplies at vfwstore.org

Don't forget we have Department training in Las Cruces September 19th at VFW Post 6917. More information is to come. But remember this is open to ALL members, the more the merrier.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me.

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Loyally,
Dominique C Garcia
Department Buddy Poppy Chairman