

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Arkansas
The Ernie D. Kyzer Memorial Buddy Poppy Program

“Honor the Dead by Helping the Living”

For almost 90 years, the Buddy Poppy Program has been used to raise money to support needy veterans and their dependents. The program was initiated in 1922 and soon became the official memorial flower of the VFW. Fittingly, the State of Arkansas has decided to dedicate this program to the memory of one of this state’s most active and dedicated VFW members, a veteran of the Air Force with 22 years honorable service, Ernie Kyzer.

“In Flanders Fields the poppies blow, between the crosses, row on row. That mark our place; and in the sky, the larks, still bravely singing fly...” (In Flanders Fields, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, 1915).

Ernie Kyzer left us on June 27, 2011 and in the memory of his legacy, we as VFW members must continue the tradition that he started by supporting this program wholeheartedly.

Today, VFW Buddy Poppies are assembled by disabled, needy and aging veterans in VA Hospitals across the country. The majority of the proceeds derived from each sale conducted by the VFW Posts and their Auxiliaries is retained locally to provide for veteran services and welfare. The minimal assessment (cost of Buddy Poppies) to VFW Posts provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the VFW National Home for orphans and widows of our nation’s veterans.

Mid-Winter Conference: A state Buddy Poppy Display Contest (Category TBD) will be held on Saturday during this convention.

2023 June State Convention: The winner of the three categories will be rewarded cash awards and Buddy Poppy – related prizes based upon originality and relevance to the category entered.

Category 1: Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign

Category 2: Memorial or Inspirational Displays

Category 3: Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies

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