**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Department of Maryland**

**Official 2025-2026 Buddy Poppy Contest Questions and Answers**

**Q1- What is the Motto or Pledge used in conjunction with the Buddy Poppy?**

1. “Honor the Dead by Helping the Living.”

**Q2- What is the purpose of the Buddy Poppy campaigns?**

1. To assist the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, the National VFW Rehabilitation Services in Washington, D.C., the Rehabilitation Services in Maryland, and to provide direct assistance to the needy and disabled veterans and their families within our own communities.

**Q3- Who assembles the VFW Buddy Poppies?**

1. Poppies are assembled by disabled veterans in Veterans Administration Hospitals. They are paid a small amount of money for their service, providing them with spending money, as well as providing therapy toward their rehabilitation.

**Q4- When are VFW Buddy Poppies primarily distributed by the VFW and Auxiliary?**

1. The week before Memorial Day is generally considered the time for distribution, however, each post may decide on other times of the year as well.

**Q5- In what year did the VFW begin their distribution of the Buddy Poppy?**

1. These distributions have been held continuously by the VFW since 1922.

**Q6- Does anyone connected with the distribution of Buddy Poppies get paid?**

1. No. This is done on a strictly volunteer basis and no one is ever paid.

**Q7-To whom are the services made available through the distribution of the Buddy Poppy?**

1. In addition to the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the services are made available to all needy veterans, widows, and orphans of the deceased veterans.

**Q8- In addition to America, where has the Buddy Poppy become recognized as the Memorial Flower?**

1. The Poppy has been recognized as the Memorial Flower in Europe and most of the countries of the British Commonwealth.

**Q9-How are the proceeds from the distribution of the Buddy Poppies divided under the VFW**

**distribution system?**

1. The proceeds from the distribution are divided between national, state, and local Posts for charitable purposes.

**Q10-How many Buddy Poppies are distributed annually, and approximately how much money is raised annually?**

1. Some 14 million Buddy Poppies are distributed annually, raising more than a million and a half dollars.

**Q11-Who wrote the immortal poem, “*In Flanders Fields*?”**

1. Colonel John McCrae.

**Q12-Please recite the poem “*In Flanders Fields*.”**

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

Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago

We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,

Loved and were loved, an now we lie,

In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:

To you from failing hands we throw

The torch; be yours to hold it high.

If ye break faith with us who die

We shall not sleep, though poppies grow

In Flanders fields.

Note: Department and District judging will be based on each contestant’s ability to answer the official questions and to recite the poem “In Flanders Fields.”

Answers must be presented in normal tone without being theatrical.