

My name is Valerie West and I am this years Chairperson for "Buddy" Poppy/ VFW National Home for the state of Oregon.

I am the auxiliary president of Post 2468 Roseburg, Oregon, Past President of Post 9745 Winston, Oregon and Sr. Vice of District 12. I am a Life Member. In my post/ auxiliary we have Veterans Breakfast every month. A Standdown as well as help with the annual Veterans Appreciation Golf Tournament, the Oktoberfest Suicide Awareness Fundraiser and other festivals.

I became a member of the VFW when my husband David West Jr. went to Iraq in 2004. They helped me to feel supported and not alone since at that time my husband was the only one in town who was deployed. My husband spent 26 ½ years either in the Army or Army National Guard. He was deployed to Panama as well as Korea during that time. I had a great uncle who along with the crew of the submarine the USS Runner was lost in 1942. I have a brother who was in Germany and Korea, an uncle who was in Vietnam as well as a cousin who was stationed in Korea.

I have been married for almost 41 years and have three children; 2 boys and a girl and 4 grandchildren all girls. My hobbies are jewelry making, gardening, art and essential oils.

My goals for this year is to be available for those who need information about the "Buddy" Poppy/ VFW National Home as well as strive to be the best Chairperson.

I hope your year is as productive as well.