

# VFW National Home for Children

## Press Release

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### **District 5 Trustee John Hamilton Moves On – Friendship and Support Remain**

**Eaton Rapids, Mich.** – “Till we meet again,” said outgoing Board President Roger Taylor while speaking about District 5 Trustee John Hamilton and the Annual Meeting of Life Members of the VFW National Home for Children.

Hamilton leaves the National Home’s Board of Trustees ending a six-year term on Saturday, October 25. A long time friend of the Home, Hamilton has spoken about the importance of supporting the children and families of our veterans and military, and how it makes a difference in his life. A thoughtful and active leader on the board, John has also volunteered each year since 1985 to bring Christmas joy to the children. In 1998, Hamilton was instrumental in establishing the annual Florida Christmas Picnic in the Snow.

“After Vietnam, I was told that I was struggling with survivor’s guilt, but I saw it differently. It was not guilt. It was survivor’s responsibility. The National Home gives me a way to ‘honor the dead by taking care of the living’ and giving peace to my brothers that didn’t make it home. That’s my responsibility,” said Hamilton.

Trustee Hamilton of Jacksonville, Fl. represented the Departments of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North & South Carolina, Virginia, Latin/Caribbean. He was Vice President of the Board in 2003 and became President in 2004. Elected to fill the new District 5 term is Jack McDermott of Palm Beach Gardens, Fl.

After graduating with honors from Georgia Military in 1967, Hamilton entered the United States Marine Corps serving with the First Marine Division in Vietnam. A highly decorated combat Marine, John was awarded three Purple Hearts. Discharged with disabilities in 1974, he returned to Jacksonville, and joined VFW Post 7909. Hamilton served in many capacities including; All American State Commander 1987-1988, National Council of Administration 1989-1991 and Vice Chairman of the POW/MIA Committee. Hamilton, a life member of the Military Order of the Cootie, served as All Star Grand Commander, 1984-1985 and Supreme Commander 1992-1993. Recognized by Presidents Carter and Bush for his outstanding community achievement, he was honored as the Young Veteran of the year for Florida in 1981. The 2002 State Convention was dedicated in Hamilton’s name for his work in Veteran’s Service. Retired in March 2002, he resides in Jacksonville with his wife, Pamela, and their son, Eric.

Since 1925 the VFW National Home for Children has provided Help, Hope and Honor for the children and families of our nation’s military and veterans. For more information please call (517) 663-1521, toll-free at (800) 424-8360 or visit [www.vfnationalhome.org](http://www.vfnationalhome.org)

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