



Press Release

3573 S. Waverly Road ~ Eaton Rapids, MI 48827 ~ vfnationalhome.org

Contact: Susan Maxwell Stevens
Public Relations Director
(517) 663-7020
[sstevens@vfnationalhome.org](mailto:ssstevens@vfnationalhome.org)

For Immediate Release
July 10, 2009

Buddy Poppy Child Strefling expresses gratitude and shines at the Department of Michigan Convention

Eaton Rapids, Mich. – 2008-2009 Buddy Poppy Child Marie Strefling quickly captured the hearts of the 2009 Department of Michigan Convention attendees in a heartfelt speech. Strefling and Child Care Worker Cammie O'Dell represented and spoke on behalf of the VFW National Home for Children at the annual convention.

The convention took place over the days of June 17-21. National Home Board Trustee Jim Goldsmith led off and introduced Cammie O'Dell. She featured how opportunities available at the National Home are making a difference in the lives of military and veteran families every single day due to the generous support of the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary.

Marie Strefling then took her turn at the podium and stole the show. In an emotional speech, she conveyed the importance these attendees have had on her life by supporting the National Home.



Strefling concluded her speech with three simple, yet powerful words that echoed the sentiment of the National Home residents. The young girl let out an exuberant “you guys rock!” This statement could not have better expressed the importance these people have on the life of Strefling and the rest of the National Home residents.

The National Home would like to thank VFW Department of Michigan Commander Rick Redfern and the Ladies Auxiliary Department President Gloria Phelps, along with the rest of the attendees for listening to the presentations of O'Dell and Strefling. More importantly, the National Home would like to thank all of the Michigan supporters. Marie Strefling and the rest of the National Home residents would never have the opportunities they have now if it were not for your generous support.

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.

###