

VFW National Home for Children



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VFW National Home for Children and Department of Michigan Celebrate 26th Annual State Day

Eaton Rapids, Mich. – Sunday, July 27 was a fun-filled day of celebration for the members of the Department of Michigan and the residents of the VFW National Home for Children. Special guests from across the state enjoyed traditional picnic fare and games at this year's 26th annual "Michigan Day".

Department Commander Rick Redfern and Department President Gloria Phelps led a delegation of more than 400 visitors as they toured the National Home campus, visited with residents and shared a meal with the National Home community. Department of Michigan National Home Director Gary Paulin and Veterans and Family Support Chairman Marilyn Malick helped plan the annual event to kick off another year of support from the Michigan membership for their beloved National Home.

"It has been a great turnout today, we have veterans from all across the state of Michigan and many first time visitors. I am so proud to be a part of this organization that continues to strongly care about and support this Home and the many worthy programs offered here for our veterans", said Commander Redfern.

Department of Michigan President Gloria Phelps remarked, "It is wonderful to be able share in fellowship and to celebrate why we are here in remembrance of the veterans and service people past, present and future."

The campus was buzzing with activity, with residents and visitors enjoying games before lunch. There was plenty to do including hayrides, 40&8 train rides, campus tours, a fishing contest, and children's games enticing many with prizes.

After a morning of fun, Auxiliary Soloist Jill Williams led in singing the National Anthem to open the program. 2008 Buddy Poppy Child Hunter Hammerschmidt led the audience of over 400 guests and residents in the Pledge of Allegiance. The 2008 National Home Chorus performed a military medley to get warmed up for their big performance at National Convention this year in Orlando, Florida, receiving a warm round of applause following their debut. Many members brought in-kind donations including children's books and movies and generous monetary donations were presented during the program.

Buddy Poppy Child Hunter assisted in drawings for quilt and gift basket raffles, which concluded the program. All raffles winners were Michigan members in attendance at the festivities.

Since 1925 the VFW National Home for Children has been providing for the children and families of our nation's veterans, while at the same time serving as a living memorial to our nation's heroes. For more information on the National Home, please call (517) 663-1521, toll-free at (800) 424-8360 or visit www.vfnationalhome.org.

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Help, Hope & Honor



Commander Redfern, President Phelps and 2007-08
Buddy Poppy Hunter Hammerschmidt.



Michigan Day fishing contest – 2008.