

VFW National Home for Children



Press Release

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National Home Resident Selected for National Honor

Eaton Rapids, Mich. – National Home resident Samantha Spitzley has been selected by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary as the 2006-2007 Buddy Poppy Child. Spitzley continues a 75-year tradition by representing the VFW National Home for Children at the VFW National Convention in Reno, Nevada on August 26-31.

The Buddy Poppy Child is selected annually from National Home residents between the ages of six and 12. Applicants write and record a speech about their interests, family and why they appreciate the opportunity to live at the National Home.

Ten-year-old Spitzley is a member of the National Home's Single Parent Family Program with her mother and two older brothers. She will begin fifth grade in September and continue her favorite subjects of art and gym. She is currently involved in the 4-H program and took second place at the Eaton County Fair for showmanship of her bunny, Chip. Her interests including drawing, painting, horses, riding her bike and listening to music.

Spitzley's responsibilities include traveling to the VFW National Convention and the Military Order of the Cootie National Convention to present her speech, meeting organization members and participating in convention activities as a representative of the National Home. Her year of service ends next summer.

Five National Home residents will also attend the convention and serve as the opening act at the convention's Patriotic Rally. The National Home "Patriots Chorus" will perform before a crowd of more than 15,000 people.

Since 1922 the Veterans of Foreign Wars has held its annual poppy drive to raise money for needy and disabled veterans and their families. A portion of the proceeds benefits the privately funded National Home for Children. Each year since 1930, children from the National Home have been chosen as Buddy Poppy Children.

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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