

# VFW National Home for Children

## Press Release

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### **National Home Welcomes New Leadership, Plans Expansion** *District 11 Trustee Cooper Completes Board Duties*

**Eaton Rapids, Mich.** – The VFW National Home for Children Board of Trustees welcomed new members and honored past members while conducting a series of meetings from October 26-28. District 11 Trustee Lewie Cooper participated actively in the productive meetings to accomplish his final duties of oversight as a member of the Board.

Trustee Cooper of El Dorado, Kansas represented the Departments of Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Pacific Areas, Utah and Wyoming. His six-year term ended at the Board Meeting on October 28. Cooper was Vice President of the Board in 2002 and became President in 2003. He was a member of the 17-member Board of Trustees that includes 12 elected members from across the country and five national officers of the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary who serve as ex-officio members.

A highlight of the meetings included a decision regarding the use of the generous \$3.5 million donation resulting from the 2006 Memorial Day Campaign conducted by the Buick, Pontiac and GMC Division of General Motors.

“The Board’s decision paves the way for the Home to strengthen Program growth and development initiatives - essential to meet the changing needs of today’s veterans and their families, as well as members of the active-duty military,” said National Home Executive Director Patrice Green.

The Board of Trustees unanimously adopted a resolution to set aside \$500,000 for a new duplex to be built on the 629-acre campus of the National Home. Construction dates will be announced in the near future.

This will be the second new housing construction at the National Home since 1966 and closely follows the completion last summer of a duplex built and sponsored by the National Veterans Affairs Department of the United Auto Workers. The National Home campus consists of 72 buildings, 38 of which are individual housing units.

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The resolution also provides for the investment of the remaining \$3 million to be used for Program growth and development. This investment will provide both short and long-term resources dedicated to researching, testing and implementing new programs and services and for expansion of existing programs.

Outgoing Board President Dana Hussey of New Hampshire summed up the feelings of his fellow Trustees regarding the generous gift.

“This has been a wonderful and exciting year at the National Home. The generosity of General Motors will have a lasting impact on the families of veterans served by the National Home for many years to come,” Hussey said.

In other Board business, the Board of Trustees welcomed newly-elected Trustees for Districts 7 and 11. James Goldsmith of Lapeer, Mich. and Raymond Warren of Winfield, Kansas arrived at the National Home for new member orientation on Wednesday and were briefed on the structure and operations of the National Home.

Goldsmith and Warren joined the full Board of Trustees as observers for committee meetings on Thursday and the official meeting on Friday. They were sworn in during the annual meeting of Life Members on Saturday along with newly-elected President Melvin Garrett of New Rochelle, N.Y and Vice President Roger Taylor of Grover Hill, Ohio.

During the annual meeting, outgoing District 7 Trustee David Schmid of Oak Creek, Wisconsin and District 11 Trustee Lewie Cooper of El Dorado, Kansas were honored. Both made comments in conclusion of their years of service to the National Home Board.

The VFW National Home for Children is governed by a Board of Trustees elected from Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary members who are Life Members of the National Home. There are 12 elected Trustees and five ex-officio members from the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary National leadership. Trustees are elected for six-year terms and meet at least three times a year to conduct their responsibilities of oversight and policy setting. Duties of the Trustees also include traveling, speaking and fundraising in support of the National Home.

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.vfwnationalhome.org](http://www.vfwnationalhome.org).

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