

VFW National Home for Children

Press Release

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VFW National Home for Children to Serve More Families in Need

Eaton Rapids, Mich. – The VFW National Home for Children cut the ribbons to open the doors of a new duplex that will help care for families of our nation’s veterans and active-duty military at a dedication ceremony on the National Home campus on May 31.

The Hawaii/Alaska duplex was built with a portion of the funds of a \$3.5 million donation that resulted from the 2006 Memorial Day Dealership Campaign conducted by the Buick-Pontiac-GMC (BPG) Division of General Motors Corp. Veterans of Foreign Wars Departments of Hawaii and Alaska are assuming future sponsorship of each side of the duplex.

“This new duplex, the second new construction on our campus in over forty years, is the result of the generosity of a member of corporate America, the Buick-Pontiac-GMC Division of General Motors,” said National Home Board President Mel Garrett. “It is gratifying to see the social responsibility of such a large and well-respected corporation being displayed in this tangible way – through the building of a duplex to help two more families here at the National Home.”

The Hawaii/Alaska duplex was built to help care for families of our nation’s veterans and active-duty military and will house residents of the National Home’s various family programs that serve single parent families, families of deployed service members and the families of disabled veterans participating in VA Vocational Rehabilitation. The National Home also offers long-term residential services for children in a family-life home environment.

“The Department of Hawaii is proud and honored to officially become a member of the VFW National Home for Children family,” said Department of Hawaii National Home Chairman Richard Haake. “We can’t think of a better way to support the families of our veterans and active-duty military.”

VFW Commander-in-Chief Gary Kurpius from Alaska shares the same feelings about the National Home.

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A Community of Promises Kept.

“The VFW goes the extra mile as an organization to make sure that the families of our veterans are taken care of,” said Kurpius. “The Department of Alaska can now ensure that even more families will receive the best care that can be offered.”

Each side of the 2,400 plus-square-foot duplex will include three bedrooms and two bathrooms and are ADA compliant. The brick structure was selected to fit current program needs while fitting seamlessly within the campus neighborhood of more than 70 buildings including 36 individual family homes and one duplex.

Participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony was Gary Kurpius, Commander-in-Chief, VFW; Virginia Carman, Sr. Vice President, Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW; VFW National Home for Children Board of Trustees President Mel Garrett of New Rochelle, New York; Patrice Green, Executive Director, VFW National Home for Children; Richard Haake, Department of Hawaii National Home Chairman, VFW; and Jim Bunnell, General Manager, Buick-Pontiac-GMC.

In attendance at the dedication ceremony was Jim Mueller, Past Commander-in-Chief, VFW; Dixie Hild, Jr. Vice President, Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW; JoAnne Ott, Past National President, Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW; the VFW National Home for Children Board of Trustees; Brigadier General Carol Ann Fausone, Assistant Adjutant General, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, State of Michigan; Representative Robert Jones, Chairman, Senior Health, Security and Retirement; Representative Mike Simpson; Mayor Jamie Davison, City of Eaton Rapids; and Bill DeFrance, Superintendent, Eaton Rapids Public Schools.

During the dedication ceremony, a surprise donation of one million dollars was presented by BPG General Manager Jim Bunnell. The donation is part of BPG’s “A Million Thanks” Memorial Day and National Military Appreciation Month campaign.

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.

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