

# VFW National Home for Children

## Press Release

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### **National Home Delegates Attend Conventions in Kansas City**

**Eaton Rapids, Mich.** – The VFW National Home for Children sent its delegation all the way to Kansas City, Mo., home of the VFW National Headquarters, to represent the National Home at the VFW, Ladies Auxiliary and Military Order of the Cootie National Conventions from August 18-24.

On the morning of Tuesday, August 21, National Home leadership hosted a Military Assistance Program (MAP) Leadership Breakfast for MAP Chairmen with special guest National MAP Director Mike Penney. Later that day, the National Home began its formal presentation with a visit to the Ladies Auxiliary National delegates and 2006-2007 National President Linda Meader. Following was a presentation to 2006-2007 VFW Commander-in-Chief Gary Kurpius and VFW membership from across the country. Board of Trustees President Mel Garrett, Executive Director Patrice Green and Buddy Poppy Child Hunter Hammerschmidt made remarks to both groups honoring the contributions and dedication of the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary.

On Wednesday, the National Home thanked and honored its supporters with an Awards Breakfast. More than 100 organizations were presented with Star Donor awards honoring their financial commitment to the National Home. In addition, Department Life Membership awards were presented to six Departments. All award recipients were presented their awards by President Garrett and Director Green, and can view and download pictures online at [www.vfnationalhome.org/Photo\\_Gallery/Convention/Index.htm](http://www.vfnationalhome.org/Photo_Gallery/Convention/Index.htm).

National Home staff were pleased by a large attendance at the National Home Workshop on Wednesday afternoon. Attendees at the workshop were educated with current information about National Home programs and were able to meet National Home trustees and staff as well as the Buddy Poppy Child and the National Home's Patriotic Chorus.

Garrett, Green and Hammerschmidt again expressed their gratitude at the Military Order of the Cootie National Convention on Friday, August 24. Presentations were given to 2006-2007 Supreme Commander Ray Fern and 2006-2007 Supreme President Rebecca Strauss.

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A Community of Promises Kept.

Eight National Home residents and two National Home child care workers represented the National Home as the *Patriots Chorus* with their inspiring performances at the Patriotic Rally, the National Home Workshop and the Military Order of the Cootie National Convention Joint Opening Session.

An impressive amount of donations were given at the National Convention, totaling more than \$30,000. These donations were presented at the National Home Booth, Workshop, MOC/MOCA Joint Opening Session and at the Awards Breakfast. The National Home would like to thank all of these organizations for their generosity.

Among all the usual excitement at all Conventions, National Home youth were able to meet President George W. Bush. President Bush, as well as other presidential candidates, made remarks at the VFW Convention.

“Attending the Conventions allows the National Home youth to gain confidence and pride and to thank the veterans who have given them these opportunities through their service to their country and their support of the National Home,” said Director Green.

The National Home had another raffle this year, raising more than \$3,000. The first prize was a deluxe grill, the second was a \$500 gift certificate from Kansas City Steak Company, and the third prize a deluxe grill tool set. The winners are:

*1<sup>st</sup> prize* – Ladies Auxiliary 4327 of Odessa, Texas

*2<sup>nd</sup> prize* – Imogene Ellis of South Dakota

*3<sup>rd</sup> prize* – Chuck Clem of Nevada

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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