

VFW National Home for Children

Press Release

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Illinois Celebrates, Donates During Annual State Day

Eaton Rapids, Mich. – It was a beautiful fall day on October 7 as members of the Department of Illinois and residents of the VFW National Home for Children celebrated Illinois Day. Special guests from Illinois enjoyed fun and food, donating nearly \$20,000 to the National Home.

Department Commander Richard Coombe, Jr. and Department President Donna Walker led a delegation of more than 200 as they toured the National Home campus, visited with residents and shared a meal with the National Home community. National Home Trustee Cynthia Paris represented the Board and her home state of Illinois. Department National Home Chairmen Bob White and Connie Wilson helped plan the annual event to kick off another year of support from the Illinois membership.

After a morning of enjoying wagon rides, a petting zoo, crafts and tours of the campus, Department of Illinois Auxiliary Chaplain Beverly Beyer led the group in singing the National Anthem with 2007-2008 Buddy Poppy Child Hunter Hammerschmidt giving the Pledge of Allegiance following. A special performance was also given by the National Home's Patriots Chorus.

Buddy Poppy Child Hunter assisted Executive Director Patrice Green and Chairman White in drawings for a quilt and gift basket. Both winners were members from the Department of Illinois.

The program concluded with the traditional parade of checks as organizations presented donations to their state leadership to honor the National Home. Posts, Auxiliaries and Districts donated a grand total of \$19,192.56.

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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A Community of Promises Kept.