

VFW National Home for Children

Press Release

3573 S. Waverly Road ~ Eaton Rapids, MI 48827 ~ vfnationalhome.org

Contact: Sara Lyon
Public Relations Specialist
(517) 663-7012
slyon@vfnationalhome.org

For Immediate Release
November 5, 2007

Annual Life Member Meeting Installs New Officers, Honors Late Serviceman

Eaton Rapids, Mich. – The VFW National Home for Children hosted their Annual Meeting of Life Members on Saturday, October 27.

Highlights of the Annual Meeting include the formal installation of new officers. Newly-elected Board Members Donna Knapper of Rochester, N.H. (District 1) and Joan Chwalisz of Hicksville, N.Y. (District 2) were sworn in along with newly-elected President Roger Taylor of Grover Hill, Ohio and Vice President Ron Stensland of Lebanon, Pa. Outgoing District 2 Trustee and President Mel Garrett of New Rochelle, N.Y. and District 1 Trustee and Past President Dana Hussey of Rochester, N.H. were honored.

During the formal meeting, a plaque was unveiled that honors the late Joseph Robert Blake. In December 2006, the National Home accepted a \$500,000 pledge in his name to establish a new permanently restricted endowment fund. The Board of Trustees matched the gift and in January 2008, the Amy Ross Endowment Fund will have a one million dollar balance.

The parents of Blake chose to make this generous gift in his honor. Joseph joined the Army in 2005 and was eventually deployed to Afghanistan in March 2006 where on August 17, 2006 he was killed in action while serving our country. Blake's parents attended the Annual Meeting to talk about their son and why they chose the National Home to be the recipient of the gift.

The plaque is on display where the National Home welcomes visitors.

“This physical representation of our gratitude will always be on display and remind future visitors of this family's selfless desire to help the children and families of those who serve our country,” said National Home Executive Director Patrice Green.

Another highlight of the Annual Meeting was a video that displayed photos from major events during the National Home's last fiscal year, including photos of when the Home hosted The Moving Wall in August.

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.

###

A Community of Promises Kept.