



Press Release

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Voice of Democracy Finalists from Michigan visit VFW National Home for Children

Eaton Rapids, Mich. – A group of 16 Voice of Democracy (VOD) finalists braved inclement weather and slippery highways so they could enjoy an informational tour and presentation on the campus of the VFW National Home for Children on Saturday, January 26.

The VFW Department of Michigan's finalists, accompanied by their families and Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Director Richard Fish, spent the morning exploring the campus of the National Home. Accompanying the group was VFW National Program Director Steve Van Buskirk, and Department of Michigan Ladies Auxiliary VOD Co-Chairman Gloria Dobbie and Patriot's Pen Co-Chairman Judy McGwigin. After touring the main facilities, the finalists were shown a video of National Home highlights from the past year. During lunch, they learned about the National Home's services then participated in an informal question and answer session.

The Voice of Democracy scholarship program is an audio-essay contest for high school students in grades 9-12 that annually provides more than \$3 million in scholarships nationwide. The first-place winner, who competes with all the first-place VFW Department winners, receives a \$30,000 scholarship for an American university, college or vocational/technical school. Four of the 16 finalists included the Department Michigan VFW's Patriot's Pen finalists (a scholarship program for students in grades 6-8).

"It was a wonderful opportunity to be able to host and educate such an intelligent group of young people," said National Home Program Director Molly Studinger.

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.

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America caring for the children and families of its veterans