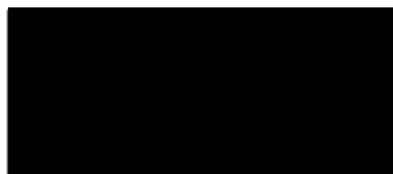


# VFW NATIONAL HOME AMBASSADOR



MARY ANNE KREUTZ



The National Home is once again its own Program for the VFW Auxiliary, and this comes with a renewed focus on this crucial service and its tradition of ***Serving America's Heroes***.

## **VFW National Home**

The mission of the VFW National Home is to assist military members, veterans and their families with children by crafting a foundation of services and resources to achieve their personal and family goals in order to move forward in a positive, safe and healthy environment. Located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, it originally served as a working farm and community for families whose service members did not return. Today it has evolved to meet modern challenges like helping veterans with reintegration and PTSD.

The National Home community is open to families of actively serving military personnel, veterans and relatives of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members. The family can have one or more children. It is a place where a military family with children can find help during tough times to reestablish themselves in today's world.

## **Membership**

VFW National Home Members, remember to make sure that the National Home has your correct personal information for the database in Eaton Rapids so we can hear your voice. The National Home and the VFW/VFW Auxiliary have completely different databases. Providing your personal information

ensures that VFW National Home Life Members can vote. A ballot will be emailed when it's your District's time to elect a new Trustee. See the VFW National Home website to see what District you're in. Making sure your information is up to date also ensures that you will receive election results, any changes in the Bylaws and updates of what is happening at the National Home. This is all done electronically. Remember, the computer systems that are used by the VFW or the VFW Auxiliary do not update the National Home database when you update your email address, mailing address, telephone or report a deceased member in MALTA. If you are not yet a member of the VFW National Home today, consider becoming a member. We are striving to support one another for another 100 Years of Service and we could certainly use your help.

## **Promotion of the VFW National Home**

This year, VFW National Home Program will focus on educating members to help fill all the 43 houses at the National Home. The goal is to fill all the houses and find additional funding to build more homes for our heroes. We need to get the word out to all members, Veteran Service Officers, family and friends to encourage those who need help to make that call. Just encourage those who may need help to make the call to 1-800-424-8360 or check out [vfnationalhome.org](http://vfnationalhome.org). Take the first step to ask for help.

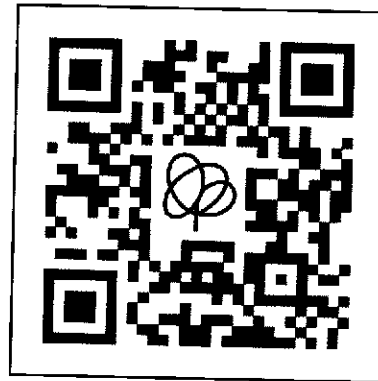
## **Did you know these fun facts about the VFW National Home?**

- During the springtime, the 4-H kids at the National Home receive their hogs or bunnies; this helps to build their self-confidence as they discover values such as team building, responsibility and social skills.
- Your state could sponsor a hole at the National Home's Annual Golf Tournament.
- Cooties Christmas is a fun holiday tradition at the VFW National Home.
- Success stories of families that we all have helped over the years are available to read. Visit

[vfnationalhome.org](http://vfnationalhome.org) to learn more.

- Your state or Auxiliary can sponsor a house at the VFW National Home. Visit the Community Section on their website to take a virtual tour of some of the homes. While on the tour, see if you spot your state-sponsored home. Check out the square footage, number of rooms, when it was built and more. Just because your state sponsors a home does not mean that a family in need from your state will be placed in that home. They will be placed in a home more suitable to their family size.

The VFW National Home is a living memorial to veterans. As one veteran who stayed there said, "Words can't describe my gratitude and thankfulness for the VFW National Home."





# VFW NATIONAL HOME PROGRAM

## *VFW National Home Education*

The VFW National Home was founded in 1925 as a place where families left behind by war—mothers and children, brothers and sisters—could remain together, keeping the family circle intact even when their serviceman didn't come home. The VFW National Home serves as a living memorial to America's veterans by helping our nation's military and veteran families during difficult times.

Over the years, VFW National Home has met the changing needs of America's military and veteran families. Through it all, one thing has remained constant: the VFW National Home's commitment to honor our nation's veterans and service members by providing help and hope for their children and families.

### **The VFW National Home Community**

The VFW National Home located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, has helped military and veteran families who need a fresh start. Families can live there rent-free for up to four years and have access to professional case management services, on-site licensed childcare, life skills training, tutoring and other educational services, as well as recreational and community service opportunities. The VFW National Home's community is open to families of service members, veterans and—recognizing that the effects of war can last for generations—descendants of members of the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary. The family can include one or both parents with one or more children.

Families find healing in a safe and peaceful environment of tree-lined streets of 43 single family homes and facilities such as a gym, library, computer and science labs, day care center, playgrounds, fishing pond, hiking trails and more.

In accepting families to the program, only one thing is asked of them: They must be committed to making changes in their lives. To remain at the VFW National Home, they are expected to demonstrate consistent progress toward family goals. Together, in partnership with the whole family, the VFW National Home is dedicated to helping each family reach its full potential.

For more information and to find help visit [vfnationalhome.org](http://vfnationalhome.org) and click on the Get Help button.

The VFW National Home, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, is governed by 12 elected members, one member appointed by the Board and seven ex-officio members with VFW and VFW Auxiliary members, who as Life Members of the VFW National Home, are dedicated to the mission of the VFW National Home.

### **Health & Happiness Fund**

One way the VFW Auxiliary supports the VFW National Home is through gifts of 10 cents per member to the Health & Happiness Fund. Contributions are critical since the campus and its programs receive no government funding. The Health & Happiness Fund supports the following at the VFW National Home:

- Maintenance of VFW Auxiliary-sponsored buildings
- Emergency repairs and renovations
- Christmas and graduation gifts

Donations can be made online in MALTA or by mail. Making a gift is easy in MALTA and can be made by an Entity (Auxiliary, District, Department) or by individuals.

### **To Make a Gift online in MALTA on behalf of an entity (Auxiliary, District and/or Department)**

- The Treasurer logs into MALTA
- Go to the Duties tab for the entity you are making the gift on behalf of
- Select Make a Gift shortcut icon
- Click on Make a Gift blue box
- Choose program and enter amount
- Click on I hereby agree to the terms and conditions of purchase
- Click on Pay Now

Entity gifts are done by ACH, if it asks you for credit card information you are not on your duties tab.

### **To Make a Gift online in MALTA on behalf of yourself, as an individual with a personal gift**

- Visit [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org) and select MALTA Member Login
- Log into MALTA
- Select Make a Gift from the Main Menu
- Click on Make a Gift blue box
- Choose program and enter amount
- Enter credit card information
- Click on I hereby agree to the terms and conditions of purchase
- Click on Pay Now

### **To donate by mail, send a check earmarked Health & Happiness to:**

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters  
Attn: Health & Happiness Donations  
406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor  
Kansas City, MO 64111

### **VFW National Home Life Membership and Associate Life Membership**

Another way to offer support is by becoming a Life Member of the VFW National Home. There are two types of Life Membership:

VFW and VFW Auxiliary members and organizations are eligible to become Life Members. Life Members

may vote for the Trustees who represent their VFW National Home District and approve any proposed changes to the bylaw and article of incorporation. Please be sure the VFW National Home has your correct name and email address; the bylaws and ballots are emailed.

Any individual or organization wishing to support the VFW National Home's mission can become an Associate Life Member. Associate Life Members do not have voting privileges. For more information on membership, visit [vfnationalhome.org/membership](http://vfnationalhome.org/membership).

### **Other Ways to Give and Offer Support**

- Become a Home Front Hero
- Purchase a Tribute Brick or a Centennial Garden Brick
- Purchase an item for the Tribute Park
- Gifts from your IRA, stocks and securities
- Amazon Wish List
- Create awareness by wearing VFW National Home apparel and distributing promotional materials.

### **VFW Auxiliary Sponsorship**

The VFW Auxiliary has been involved in the VFW National Home in myriad ways since the very beginning; as vocal supporters, fundraisers and volunteers. The VFW National Home was the Auxiliary's first continuing Program and we named our first official VFW National Home Chairman in 1927.

A few of our projects include:

- The Health & Education Center
- The Margaret A. Armstrong Guest Lodge and Memory Chapel
- Early Education Center
- The Community Center, with a gym, auditorium, kitchen, elevator and additional office space
- VFW National Home's Welcome Center

For more information, see MALTA Member Resources or visit the National Home's website at [vfnationalhome.org](http://vfnationalhome.org).

# VFW NATIONAL HOME PROGRAM AWARDS

## **Awards for Auxiliaries:**

1. Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most creative activity and/or event that demonstrates what and where the VFW National Home is and who is eligible for the services provided by the VFW National Home.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the VFW Auxiliary Department VFW National Home Chairman by March 31, 2027 for judging.

The VFW Auxiliary Department VFW National Home Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the VFW Auxiliary National VFW National Home Ambassador by April 30, 2027 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

## **Awards for Departments and Department Chairmen:**

1. Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary Department VFW National Home Chairman in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best promotion of what and where the VFW National Home is and who is eligible for the services provided by the VFW National Home.

Winners will be announced, and citations will be presented at the 2027 National Convention. Money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary Department account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention for distribution to the winning VFW Auxiliary Department Chairman.

2. The Outstanding Performance Award and Second-Place Outstanding Performance Award will be awarded in each of the 10 Program Divisions based on the criteria listed on page 5 and for the promotion of the Ambassador's Program goals.

Winners will be announced and awards will be presented at the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention. Money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary Department account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.