MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE AUXILIARY

NATIONAL HOME PROGRAM

PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

The National Home Program promotes awareness and support of the VFW National Home. Through that support, members help strengthen military and veteran families.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NATIONAL HOME CHAIRMAN

The National Home Chairman keeps MOCA members informed about National Home activities, projects, and special events. The Chairman promotes and coordinates fundraising efforts that support Easter Treat, Cootie Christmas, the MOC/MOCA House, and the Supreme President's National Home Special Project while encouraging members to actively participate in the Auxiliary's support of the VFW National Home.

REPORTING

The National Home Chairman should maintain accurate records of donations, volunteer activities, fundraising activities, and member participation in National Home events. Reports should be submitted in accordance with established deadlines and reporting requirements.

MOC & MOCA NATIONAL HOME TRADITIONS

The MOC and MOCA support the National Home through several long-standing traditions that provide direct support to families who reside at the National Home.

- **Easter Treat** - Easter Treat brings the MOC and MOCA together with National Home families for a weekend of Easter celebrations and fellowship. Traditional activities include Easter basket presentations, Easter egg hunts, visits with the Easter Bunny, and other family-centered activities.
- **Cootie Christmas -** Each December MOC and MOCA members gather at the National Home for Cootie Christmas. This week-long tradition provides meals, fellowship, activities, and Christmas cheer for National Home families. The Grand of Florida coordinates meals for both residents and staff throughout the week. The Grand of Michigan concludes the event on Saturday with a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus at a luncheon where gifts are distributed to all the children. Cootie Christmas remains one of the most visible demonstrations of the Cootie commitment to the National Home.
- **The MOC/MOCA House -** The MOC and MOCA proudly sponsor a home on the National Home campus. This sponsorship helps provide a safe and stable home for a veteran family while supporting ongoing operating expenses, maintenance, repairs, utilities, and other needs associated with the home.

NATIONAL HOME AT A GLANCE

BRIEF HISTORY

Founded in 1925, the VFW National Home began as the vision of Cooties who believed no veteran's family should face hardship alone. As the project grew, responsibility for the Home was assumed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, where it remains one of our organization's most enduring commitments to veterans and their families. Today, the National Home stands as a lasting example of our shared commitment to "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living."

ABOUT THE NATIONAL HOME

The VFW National Home assists military, veterans, and their families with children, by creating a foundation of services and resources to achieve their personal and family goals to move forward in a positive, safe, and healthy environment. Through a combination of housing, education, case management, childcare, life-skills development, and community support, the National Home helps families build a stronger future.

The National Home's Red, White, and Blue Program provides individualized guidance and support while families work toward personal goals and increased independence. Families are encouraged and supported throughout their journey toward long-term success.

NATIONAL HOME VETERAN AND FAMILY RESOURCES INCLUDE

- On-campus housing
- Childcare and early education
- Educational assistance and scholarships
- Financial education
- Case management services
- Life-skills development
- Tutoring and academic support
- RAVE (Regenerative Agriculture for Veteran Engagement)
- Heroes to Hives
- Cup of Joe
- Guitars for Vets
- Veteran transition support

For complete information regarding current programs, eligibility requirements, and available services, visit the National Home website.

ELIGIBILITY

Families may qualify for National Home services through:

- A veteran parent
- An active-duty military parent
- A relationship to an eligible VFW or Auxiliary member

RESOURCES

National Home Helpline: 800-313-4200
National Home Website: www.vfwnationalhome.org