



October 7, 2020

Notice regarding Cootie Christmas 2020

The Cootie Christmas party has been a source of joy and holiday cheer for residents and staff alike for almost as long as the Home has been in operation. As you may know, we have canceled all of our on-campus events this year due to Covid-19, unfortunately, Cootie Christmas, scheduled for December 5th, is too, a casualty of these cancellations.

Rest assured that even with the absence of the party this year, and the energy and holiday spirit that the Cooties bring to our campus, our residents will have a happy holiday season. Like everything else, our resourcefulness and creative staff will make sure the families continue to feel the love and support of our donors during these trying times. To that end, each family will be provided with a holiday meal with all of the trimmings and stockings filled with goodies. We didn't forget about you either! We are currently working on a video compilation of Cootie Christmases over the years, which we will share on our social media channels on December 5th.

Under the guidance of National Home Board of Trustees member Gary Goff and the District Eight team out of Charlotte, Michigan, we are going to preserve the traditional Santa Fire Truck delivery of packages to our children on Friday, December 4th. As social distancing guidelines are still in place, only a handful of member of District Eight and National Home support staff will be in attendance for this event. We will not be entering the houses but Santa will be at the doorstep leaving his packages. The event will be filmed and shared on our social media channels shortly thereafter.

As unfortunate as the cancellation of the Cootie Christmas party is, I know that you understand it is in the best interests of our residents, staff, and visitors. The Military Order of the Cootie and its Auxiliary were instrumental in the founding of the Home, and for over 95 years, you have helped to provide a serene and comfortable refuge to the families of those who have given their all so that we all may enjoy the freedoms that we have. If not for your dedication, we would not be able to continue to serve our mission. That, we will never forget.

You have been here since day one and we thank you for your unwavering support of our veterans and their families. We highly anticipate and look forward to celebrating Christmas with you again next year!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Puffenberger".

Fred Puffenberger
Executive Director
VFW National Home for Children