

American Legion Auxiliary News Release

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Concern for Military Children Inspires Tennessee American Legion Auxiliary; National President to See Girls State Program Changes

NASHVILLE – For many generations, members of the Tennessee American Legion Auxiliary have toiled to serve veterans, their families and children. At the forefront of the patriotic women’s organization’s efforts this year is helping children of deployed troops with college expenses.

“Money is not the same when Mom or Dad goes off to war, so our members are working in every community possible to see that the children’s needs are met,” Jo Bridges of Ringgold, Geo., says. Bridges is the President of the Tennessee American Legion Auxiliary. “Knowing of these strains on families, I asked all American Legion Auxiliary units in Tennessee to get involved in serving those living in their communities, and they did.”

Bridges is looking forward to meeting with the organization’s National President Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan of Madison, Wis. who will attend several Auxiliary events in Tennessee on May 26-27. “Our national president’s goal this year was to raise \$1.2 million to endow a scholarship fund for ‘Educating Children of Warriors.’ Members in Tennessee have raised money throughout the year and will present another check to her,” Bridges said.

During her visit, Pulvermacher-Ryan will also speak with the young women participating in Volunteer Girls State about their roles as future leaders. Girls State is a weeklong leadership and citizenship training program that provides civic-minded high school seniors from across the state the opportunity to form and run a mock government. From this program conducted at Middle Tennessee State in Murfreesboro, two delegates are chosen to attend the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation program in Washington, D.C. in July.

“These young women have a role to play in preserving the American way of life, and attending Girls State will help them anchor their understanding of the political process,” Ryan said.

Bridges believes changes made this year to better the Volunteer Girls State program is one of the organization’s biggest accomplishments. “We have worked on new bylaws for the foundation and, if approved in June, it will allow us to raise money for scholarships to be awarded in the future to delegates to the program,” Bridges noted.

Also on the agenda for the national president’s visit is participation in Memorial Day ceremonies at the Nashville Memorial Cemetery and several smaller functions at American Legion Posts where she will explain more about the “Educating Children of Warriors” campaign.

Affiliated with The American Legion, the Auxiliary is a veterans’ support organization with members in nearly 10,000 communities. The organization sponsors volunteer programs on the national and local levels, focusing on three major areas: veterans, young people and the community.

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EDITOR’S NOTE: Bio and hi-res photo at:

<http://www.legion-aux.org/NationalLeaders/NationalPresident/index.aspx>