

# American Legion Auxiliary News Release

8945 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46260

Download this release at: [www.legion-aux.org/PressRoom](http://www.legion-aux.org/PressRoom)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 30, 2008

CONTACT: Lee Harris, 317-908-6718

## **American Legion Auxiliary National President to Address Louisiana Girls and Boys State**

NATCHITOCHES – It is not often the leader of the nation’s largest patriotic women’s organization has the opportunity to provide an Independence Day address to future leaders of the state and nation. That is why Maggie Watts of Tickfaw is looking forward to celebrating the nation’s birth this year. She is the Louisiana president of the American Legion Auxiliary and also serves a director of Girls State.

Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan of Madison, Wisc., is the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary. She is attending the 2008 Louisiana Girls State gathering on the campus of Northwestern State University. She is a strong advocate for education and support to the young men and women of the nation. “Educating the Children of Warriors” is a campaign she has aggressively conducted during her one year in office.

“This endowment scholarship campaign assists students, whose parents are veterans, with funding to help them pursue their college dreams,” Pulvermacher-Ryan said. The funds will more than double an existing endowed scholarship program and allow the value of scholarships to increase as the cost of higher education climbs.

Watts shares Pulvermacher-Ryan’s passion for education and youth. She also notes that the Girls State program in the Pelican State is run totally by members. Some 45 volunteers give time and talent to the weeklong program that provides a hands-on experience of local and state government workings.

Watts has lived a busy year, serving both as director for Girls State and as the Louisiana Auxiliary President. She points with pride to the support the more than 11,000 members have given to Operation Landstuhl.

“We collected money throughout the state to support this vital link in the recovery efforts for casualties of the war on terror. By letting members and the public know of the need for personal supplies we opened eyes and pocketbooks,” she said. “This is a time when the wounded can not help themselves and it is the first step in the chain of need. By bringing recognition of the need and helping provide personal care products and clothing, we are setting the stage for the help to follow them home.”

The citizens of Louisiana Girls and Boys State are also the special guests of the City of Natchitoches for the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration with patriotic music, lights and fireworks display.

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, serving veterans, their families and their communities.

-30-

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

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

*Empowering Women – Inspiring Communities*