

American Legion Auxiliary News Release

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Vermont Veterans Benefit From On-Going Efforts Of The American Legion Family

WATERBURY, Vt. – With her year of leadership for the American Legion Auxiliary in Vermont nearing its end, Merle McDermott of Montpelier is encouraged by the success of a family coming together to meet needs.

You often hear a reference to The American Legion Family. “The Auxiliary is a part of that family,” McDermott said. “Together with members of The American Legion, Sons of the American Legion and the Auxiliary’s Junior members, we have raised more than \$10,000 for our Family Assistance Fund.”

That fund provides grants to help Vermont veterans meet immediate financial needs. Recipients do not need to be members of the American Legion. McDermott is quick to point out that this year she believes the term ‘family’ has been realized in this effort. “With the economy slowing, some veterans in Vermont find they need a little help to get them through a difficult time. We’re proud that The American Legion Family Assistance Fund is there to help.”

McDermott will spend time with the organization’s National President the first weekend in April. Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan of Madison, Wisc., will visit the Green Mountain State April 4-5 to talk with members, tour important historical sites and slip in some unique shopping experiences.

McDermott will also share with Pulvermacher-Ryan how Auxiliary members here have spearheaded Homeless Veterans Stand-Downs twice a year for several years. “We arrange to have dentists, nurses, doctors, and eye care professionals on hand for a physical check up and there is always clothing to give those men and women who find themselves without a place to call home,” she shared.

When the leader of the nation’s largest patriotic women’s organization has an opportunity to speak to the membership, she will talk about the “Educating the Children of Warriors” scholarship endowment campaign the Auxiliary is conducting nationally.

“The sacrifices of military personnel are typically acknowledged and appreciated in our society; the sacrifices of their children are not,” she says. The Auxiliary has embarked on a \$1.2 million campaign, “Educating Children of Warriors,” to double the value of scholarships for 15 students each year. For many years, the nation’s largest patriotic women’s organization has relied upon a small endowment fund and the general operating dollars to provide scholarships.

“Our current operating budget makes the effort to continue funding these life-changing educational opportunities very challenging and uncertain,” Pulvermacher-Ryan said. “Getting the endowment fund better grounded will ensure these scholarships will be available as long as there are military personnel with children.”

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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EDITORS NOTE: Bio and hi-res photo at:

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

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