

American Legion Auxiliary News Release

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Virginia's American Legion Auxiliary Helping Meet Needs of Children; Sharing Efforts with Auxiliary National President

RICHMOND, Vir. – The American Legion Auxiliary is well known for its work on behalf of veterans. Virginia Auxiliary President Pat Knight of Alexandria wants people to understand the members of the nation's largest patriotic women's organization do so much more.

Knight plans to highlight just one area of focus in Virginia that centers on the Patrick Henry Boys and Girls Plantation. She believes in the program so much she is taking the National President, Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan of Madison, Wisc., to visit the home at Brookneal during the national leader's three-day visit March 14-17.

The American Legion family, members of the Legion, the Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion in Virginia, play a "very big role" for the Plantation, Knight says. "We raise money for things that sometimes can not be afforded. One year the Auxiliary members raised money for washers and dryers for the cottages. This year we are raising money to help repair the softball field," Knight notes with pride.

Naturally the visit of the National President will also take in stops at veterans medical centers where Pulvermacher-Ryan can visit with patients. She is especially interested in a planned trip to the Department of Veterans Affairs Poly-Trauma Center at Hunter Holmes McGuire Richmond center.

While there she will share with patients and their families of the effort the American Legion Auxiliary is undertaking nationwide to endow a scholarship program, "Educating Children of Warriors."

"The sacrifices of military personnel are typically acknowledged and appreciated in our society, but the sacrifices of their children are not," she notes. "The 800,000 military children face frequent moves, school transitions, isolation, long-distance parenting, stress of knowing Mom or Dad is in harm's way and parents reentering family life after the trauma of combat. Providing even a small scholarship is an important need our members can help meet."

The two leaders will also hold informal meetings with members at the state headquarters here on March 15.

In Virginia special focus is also being placed on women veterans' issues and raising money for the Women in Military Service to America Memorial in Washington, DC, with special emphasis on "...helping women share their story so the history of their contributions are not lost," Knight said.

Affiliated with The American Legion, the Auxiliary is a veterans' service 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>