

Top 10 American Patriotic Songs



How many of these songs do you know by heart? They're great to teach the children and grandchildren!

1. "The Star Spangled Banner," written by Francis Scott Key
2. "America (My Country, 'Tis of Thee)," written by Rev. Samuel F. Smith and Henry Carey
3. "God Bless America," written by Irving Berlin
4. "America the Beautiful," written by Katharine Lee Bates and Samuel Ward
5. "I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy," original version written by Dr. Richard Shuckburgh
6. "You're a Grand Old Flag," written by George M. Cohan
7. "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," written by Patrick S. Gilmore
8. "Battle Hymn of the Republic," written by Julia Ward Howe
9. "God Bless the USA," written by Lee Greenwood
10. "This Land is Your Land," written by Woody Guthrie

Calendar of Events

Jul 21 - 25 • Children perform at VFW and Ladies Auxiliary National Convention • **Reno, NV**

Aug 4 • Ohio Day • **NH Campus**

Aug 5 • Michigan Day • **NH Campus**

Sep 30 • Indiana Day • **NH Campus**

Oct 27 • Annual meeting of Life Members • **NH Campus**

Oct 27 • WI/MO Fall Festival • **NH Campus**

Dec 1 • Cootie Christmas Party • **NH Campus**



THE Home Front

A Special Report for Friends of the VFW National Home for Children • Summer 2012

YOU Our Kids Move Onward and Upward

High school graduation is one of the most momentous occasions in life – and not just for the graduate. There is something about the formality of the

Allison, who's been with us throughout her high school years, graduated second in her class with a 4.2 GPA and membership in the National Honor Society. She enjoys figure skating, and looks forward to studying psychology at Michigan State University's Honors College.



One of the National Home's recent high school graduates, Whitney hopes to study music in college.

Whitney is our singing graduate. In high school, she performed with two school choirs, her church choir and the VFW choir. Whitney writes music as well, and will continue polishing her skills while pursuing a music degree in college.

A member of the National Home family for the past 10 years, Carolyn says she "loves books, puzzles...and books!" She excelled as a cheerleader – both for football, and on the competitive cheerleading team – and won school awards in government and in public speaking.

We like to think that the tutoring programs, computer labs and all the educationally enriching activities here have helped these girls make the most of their high school experience. So, on their behalf, thank you for supporting the National Home and our educational assistance programs!

We hope you share our pride in the accomplishments of these graduates, and our best wishes for their futures.

ceremony, the gowns, the song "Pomp and Circumstance" that stir the emotions...and the memories.

Here at the National Home, we had the privilege of seeing three of our residents pass this milestone last month.

reimbursing the National Home for half the original cost of the animal and the cost of feed, each 4-H member will keep the profit from their sale.

We congratulate our VFW Dynamos on their hard work, and wish them luck at the fair!



Then there are the chores. Besides feeding their animals, the hog pens need to be cleaned every day, and the rabbit cages cleaned every other day. It's hard, physical work.

But the kids will see their efforts rewarded during this month's fair, when all animals will be sold at auction. After



It's Fair Time for 4-H Members

As we go to press with this issue, several National Home kids are in the final stages of preparation for the Charlotte County Fair, where they will show and sell the farm animals they've raised. It's the exciting culmination of an intensive 3-1/2 month long program offered in partnership with the 4-H.

The 4-H animal program at the VFW National Home for Children is designed to teach children responsibility, give them a sense of accomplishment, and provide a chance to have fun. Called the "VFW Dynamos", our 4-H club raises rabbits and hogs.

And these Dynamos have put in a lot of time and effort to get to this point. In fact, children are encouraged to go to the farm every day to work with their animal, since the more time they can put into training, the more success they will have at the fair.

In this Issue:

- **A Word from our Executive Director** page 2
- **Donor Spotlight: Dennis Parizek** page 3
- **County Fair Time for 4-H Members** page 4



Did you know...

Roughly 1.5 million men and women are on active military duty today, compared with 16 million during World War II?

THE HOME FRONT

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A Word from... Patrice Green, Executive Director

As the summer starts winding down and we move closer to the beginning of another school year, I am thinking with gratitude of all the ways that friends like you help our National Home kids to learn and grow.

For example, just in this edition of *HomeFront*, you can meet three girls who recently passed one of life's major milestones, graduating high school and moving on to continued studies. I hope you'll also enjoy the story of our National Home kids who raise pigs and rabbits as part of the 4-H program subsidized by our friends. And I'm proud to announce that you've brought us *this close* to fully funding and completing a new Science Lab for the kids. Once finalized, the lab will be a tremendous addition to the excellent library, computer lab, and tutoring programs that caring supporters like you have provided for our kids and families.



We definitely take education seriously here. And we always will.

But anyone who's visited the National Home understands that we're also serious about having fun. At the moment, the kids are reveling in their annual summer break from homework, tests and rigid schedules. They've got the Charlotte County Fair to enjoy this month, lots of recreational activities around campus, fishing and other sports, and of course, plenty of unstructured play.

And that's what I'm wishing for you today: some good, old-fashioned summer fun. We all need it, in these stressful times. But I can't think of anyone more deserving than friends like you. Enjoy!

Patrice Green

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Dennis Parizek

Service to others, especially to his fellow veterans, is central to Dennis Parizek's life.

Since retiring, he has devoted a lot of time to volunteer work for veteran-related organizations (and, some time to golf and pool).

A long-time member of VFW Post 1481 in Ogden, Utah, Dennis has been Post Quartermaster since 1995. Currently, he's also serving in leadership roles for two other groups: the Homeless Veterans Fellowship, which provides transitional housing and counseling to help homeless veterans integrate back into the community, and the Wasatch Front North Veterans Council, an informal social organization bringing together members of veterans' service agencies.

In addition, Dennis has been a National Home Life Member since 1997 and is a Life Member recruiter as well.

His special empathy for children and single-parent families springs in part from his own background. When he was

young, Dennis' parents divorced, leaving three children in the sole care of his single mother for some years. Though his mom was able to find a good job to support the family, Dennis knows: "it could have been much more difficult."

Not surprisingly, Dennis firmly believes in remembering those who are left behind, saying "it is our obligation to help the widows, widowers and orphans of our fellow servicemen and servicewomen who gave up their life for our country."

And he challenges any doubters to visit the National Home campus, where they will "see firsthand what a wonderful place it is." On his own visit, Dennis was impressed with the sense of community, and the care shown by National Home staff for the residents.

As Dennis notes, there are so many worthwhile causes. But we're grateful that, for him and his Post, "the National Home has always been a priority...and will continue to be."



Dennis is a Vietnam vet who served on the USS Newport News from 1971-75, and first became involved with the VFW National Home for Children in 1995.

Where should we shine the Spotlight next?

If you would like to nominate another member of our community – or volunteer yourself -- for a future Donor Spotlight, please contact Veronica LaDuke at (800) 424-8360, or by e-mail to: vladuke@vfwnationalhome.org

New at the National Home! The Tribute Park

Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present, Preparing for the Future

A prime area of the National Home campus has now been re-dedicated as a Tribute Park. It's a place of peace and beauty that our residents and visitors will enjoy, but also so much more. This lovely park offers an opportunity to honor or memorialize a friend, colleague or loved one while helping to significantly build the National Home's Endowment Fund.

Our mission is our promise: to honor our nation's veterans and active-duty military by providing help and hope for their children and families. Supporters who choose to honor or memorialize a loved one with a plaque, path stone or other tribute are helping to make sure that promise never goes unfulfilled—today and in years to come.

That's because when you place an item in the park, your net donation will go to

our Amy Ross Endowment Fund, a permanently restricted endowment fund that was created to generate annual income for the National Home.

A variety of Tribute opportunities are available, from sculptures and tables to trees and stone seats, to leave a lasting honor or memorial in this tranquil and highly visible natural setting at the entrance to the National Home.

Visit our website for more details:
www.vfwnationalhome.org/tribute

But please be aware: quantities for each type of tribute are limited. If you are interested in placing a specific tribute in



The first phase of the Tribute Park is nearly complete, except for a bronze sculpture which will be the park's focal point. Five more park phases will follow.

the National Home's Tribute Park, please contact us regarding availability.

Call: 866-4VFWNHC (866-483-9642)

Email: info@vfwnationalhome.org

Plans for New Science Lab are Still Pending

New matching gift challenge doubles the value of all gifts

The most recent National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) evaluating the state of science education in America found that only one in five 12th graders are proficient in science.

But we know the kids here at the VFW National Home for Children can do better.

That's why we're modifying a large room in the Cootie Field House to turn it into a teaching facility and lab devoted to science and math. When completed, the lab will include:

- laboratory benches or tables for four students each, with electrical outlets, computers and ergonomic stools
- dual sinks and eye wash station
- classroom dry-erase board

- storage cabinets and shelves
- a screen and projector linked to a teaching computer with DVD
- as well as scientific supplies such as microscopes, digital scales, slides, microwave, glassware, and lots of safety equipment.

This is now a matching gift opportunity!

While the lab funding is still \$10,000 short, a generous supporter has offered to get us half the way there – matching every gift dollar for dollar, up to \$5,000.

As a result, any gift toward our Science Lab will have twice as much impact. For example, a donation of \$25 becomes \$50, \$100 becomes \$200!

With the help of friends like you, our kids and families will have a great facility for science and math tutoring, group lessons, weekly "Science Nights", and individual science-based projects. It should be especially useful during the summer months, to stimulate continuing interest in science.

If you would like your gift to qualify for the Science Lab Match Challenge, just write "Science Lab" on the "info" line of your check. And thank you!

Truly, your support will help our kids, who need science skills to succeed in the jobs of the 21st century...and our country, which needs science skills for global competitiveness and national security.