



**Ecor Rouge Chapter**  
**National Society Daughters of the American Revolution**

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For Immediate Release

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## **DAR Brings Sunshine to Patriots on 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Patriot Day, September 11**

Fairhope, Alabama –

Every day, all over the country, members of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), one of the world's largest, most active service organizations, honor patriots of the past and present. This year, to mark the 15th Anniversary of nationally designated Patriot Day, September 11, five DAR chapters in the Southern District of Alabama and the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Special Projects Committee joined forces to bring sunshine to service members who've sacrificed so much for our country.

The award-winning William F. Green State Veterans Home, in Bay Minette, which takes in servicemen from all of Alabama but especially Mobile, Baldwin and Escambia counties, currently houses 150 veterans. The staff at William F. Green developed a wish list of sturdy, functional outdoor furniture that accommodates wheelchair patients. The table and chairs mean that some meals can be enjoyed outdoors and the retired soldiers, sailors and airmen can socialize with family in a picnic atmosphere rather than a hospital setting.

The five DAR chapters--d'Iberville (Mobile), Ecor Rouge (Daphne, Fairhope), Needham Bryan (Mobile), Tristan de Luna (Mobile) and Zachariah Godbold (Bay Minette)—united to raise money for a starter set of furniture. They then applied for and won a matching grant from NSDAR Special Projects Grant Committee. Working together, the chapters and NSDAR were able to make the vets' wishes come true in time for the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Patriot Day.

“William F. Green is a friendly, active, beautiful facility,” says Ecor Rouge Regent Judy Culbreth Kirkland, “but if you visited and spent one hour watching our vets wheeling themselves through those same corridors over and over again, you would know how important it is to give them a pleasant place to congregate outdoors and enjoy sunshine, nature’s bright rays of hope. The DAR is delighted to do this for our modern-day patriots.”

\*Donations for Sunshine for Patriots can be made to William F. Green State Home for Veterans, C/O Kathy Voll, Director of Veteran Affairs, 300 Faulkner Dr., Bay Minette, Alabama 36507-1461

## FACTOIDS

\*There are 401,000 veterans in the state of Alabama. (2011 numbers)

\*Among Alabama men aged 75 and over, 69 percent are veterans.

\*World War II vets are in their 80s and 90s. Nationally, one of these servicemen dies every three minutes, and that rate is escalating rapidly.

\*Studies show the sensory stimulation of being outdoors, in nature, improves well-being in countless ways. Within three minutes of seeing green spaces, heart rate, blood pressure, muscle tension and stress levels drop, while mood-lifting serotonin production rises.

\*Natural light is the most important synchronizing agent for the body and brain. It regulates all-important intake of Vitamin D for a strong immune system and sets the body's internal clock for longer and better sleep.

\* More time in nature gives the brain a break from the overstimulation of busy settings. Sunny moments are calming, restorative and, after surgery or a major illness, promote faster healing and reduce the need for pain medication.

\*In 2002, President George W. Bush established Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance following the 9/11 attack on America. Similarly named state holidays—Patriots' Day-- in Massachusetts and Maine are celebrated in mid-April to commemorate the opening battle of the American Revolution, April 17, 1775, in Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in 1890 to promote historic preservation, education and patriotism. Its members are descended from the patriots who won American independence during the Revolutionary War. With more than 177,000 members in approximately 3,000 chapters worldwide, DAR is one of the world's largest and most active service organizations. DAR members are committed to volunteer service having served more than 12.5 million hours in communities throughout the world during the past three years. To learn more about the work of today's DAR, visit [www.DAR.org](http://www.DAR.org) or connect with DAR on social media at [facebook.com/TodaysDAR](https://facebook.com/TodaysDAR), [twitter.com/TodaysDAR](https://twitter.com/TodaysDAR) and [youtube.com/TodaysDAR](https://youtube.com/TodaysDAR)



Five chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution--d'Iberville (Mobile), Ecor Rouge (Daphne, Fairhope), Needham Bryan (Mobile), Tristan de Luna (Mobile) and Zachariah Godbold (Bay Minette)—united to raise money for a set of sturdy, wheelchair-accessible outdoor furniture to bring sunshine to service members at William F. Green State Veterans Home, in Bay Minette. The chapters were one of 41 chapters nationwide, and the only from Alabama, to be awarded a matching special projects grant from the National Society Daughters of the Revolution.



Just in time for Patriot Day, September 11, vets at William F. Green State Home for Veterans have a pleasant place to congregate outdoors, thanks to the DAR's Sunshine for Patriots project.

