

Foundations

A Newsletter from Homes for Our Troops |

www.homesforourtroops.org |

JULY 2011

A Place Called

HOME



General Richard A. Cody (left), Sgt. Kenny Lyon (center), and John Gonsalves pose as the first wall is raised on Kenny's new home. See story on the Homes for Our Troops 100th Home Build inside.

GETTING A SECOND CHANCE |

A SOBERING LOOK AT WAR |

ALL IN THE FAMILY



Homes for Our Troops not only gave Matt and Tracy Keil a home, but a chance at building a family.



GETTING A SECOND CHANCE

Dear HFOT Supporters:

My husband Matt Keil was shot in the neck on February 24, 2007. We had been married just six weeks. Matt and I had our whole lives ahead of us and everything changed in an instant. Matt was instantly paralyzed from the shoulders down and we were told he would never walk again. With that came so many questions - how do we move forward and learn to live in a wheelchair? What does this mean for the rest of our lives? During the first four months we concentrated on Matt's health and recovery and rehabilitation to teach him how to live in a wheelchair. Matt lost function of his arms and legs and now he had to learn how to live the rest of his life without the abilities he had before. After a few weeks Matt was able to move his left arm, but not his hand. He regained about 10 percent of the function in his left arm that he had prior to injury but it was enough to drive a power wheelchair. Our lives had changed forever. During Matt's rehabilitation we moved out of our second story apartment and put everything in storage knowing that we could never return there. This began our new life, our new adventure, it's what Matt and I have called "Our New Normal."

As we grew closer to Matt getting out of the hospital we began our search for where we were going to live and started looking at homes that we felt we could adapt to become handicap accessible. There were times that we went in search of homes with Matt and had to drag him up stairs to get into the front door and then realize that no matter what there was no way to make a traditional home work even with \$100,000 worth of renovation work. We always came away feeling so defeated. It was then we truly realized just how different our lives would be, and how many places we couldn't go because of accessibility.

But that would all change on August 11, 2007. We were at a charity event, when we were called up to the stage. Matt was presented with a handmade rifle, and then we started to walk back to our seats, they said "not so fast, can you please come

back?" We did and standing there were two men, John Gonsalves of Homes for Our Troops and Gabriel Lopez from Pulte homes. John grabbed the microphone and said to us in front of the crowd of 300 with friends and family, "Matt and Tracy, I am John Gonsalves from Homes for Our Troops and along with help from Pulte Homes, we would like to build you a fully accessible home at no cost to you." Matt and I just cried! We were so shocked that people would do this for us.

We now have a place that we can truly call a home. It no longer represents a prison of inaccessibility. Matt is free to move around our home. This gift also brought with it the opportunity to begin a family. We were told Matt's injury was a "Christopher Reeve" type injury; he was a quadriplegic and would never be able to father children without costly in vitro fertilization procedures. Because we were no longer faced with the impending cost of adapting a home, we were able to consider fertility treatments. I am proud to say on November 9, 2010, Matt Jr. and Faith Keil were brought into this world. They are happy and healthy and a daily reminder to us of the gifts Homes for Our Troops have given us. We have received so much more than a home, we now have a family, within the walls of our house and beyond. If not for the generosity of strangers, Homes for Our Troops could not have provided a new life for Matt and I, and we would never have had the opportunity to experience the joy of parenthood.

Matt and I are not alone. There are so many others who have paid the price for freedom. Your help can give back that freedom and independence they lost at the hand of our enemies. We are proof that new beginnings do exist. Please help make that dream a reality for our service men and women who deserve a second chance.

Sincerely,

Tracy Keil

Photos: The Keil Family - Matthew and Tracy with their precious babies, Matthew Jr. and Faith.



I ANSWERED MY CALL OF DUTY - NOW IT'S YOUR TURN

Marine Corporal Neil Frustaglio issues appeal to raise \$40 million to fund 100 More...Homes for Our Troops

I was left severely burned and a double amputee after two improvised explosive devices (IED) blew up in Ar Ramadi, Iraq in December 2005. I was returning from a routine mounted combat operations patrol, and was preparing my team to assist the casualties of an IED blast that occurred in the vehicle behind our HUMVEE. I ordered the team to secure the area and assist the wounded. But a second IED detonated; I was thrown face down into the dirt with diesel fuel igniting into flames all around me.

Although I was unable to feel anything from the waist down, I began dragging myself toward the Quick Reaction Force team, pulling up to aid the victims. My last memory before waking in Germany is that of my body giving out, vision failing, being carried by a friend and hearing him say everything would be alright. I was airlifted to Baghdad, Ballad, and then Landstuhl, Germany. I eventually arrived at Bethesda Naval Hospital, and finally to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where I spent more than a year recovering from my injuries. Despite what my buddy had reassured me, it has taken a long time for everything to be alright.

Recovery was only the first hurdle I had to clear – returning home, while familiar, represented a bigger challenge; no longer could I climb the stairs freely; my wheelchair hindered my mobility from one room to the next. Every day occurrences like bathing, cooking, or reaching food and dishware from the cupboard were constant reminders of the sacrifices I – and so many others – made.

It has been seven years since Homes for Our Troops answered the call to serve the men and women who so bravely fought for this country and have paid a seemingly

insurmountable price. Some 100 home builds have been initiated, but that only scratches the surface of the need. It is estimated that more than 1,500 service members who fought since 9/11 could benefit from receiving a specially adapted home – and those are the ones we know about, there may indeed be more.

Homes for Our Troops has made a commitment to build 100 More...Homes for Our Troops by the year 2014. To do so, however, they must raise \$40 million – by far the most ambitious undertaking and one that can't be accomplished without your help.

My future is secure thanks to HFOT. On behalf of my injured comrades, I am asking you to consider making a commitment to joining Operation Enduring Support – a monthly giving option that will ensure that our veterans gain back their freedom and independence in the most important place in the world, their home. The need is real and we need your help because we never want another veteran to suffer the same fate as I did.

Give generously because your contribution will indeed make a difference in many, many lives. It will only take a minute and it will help forever!

P.S. – If you have participated in a Homes for Our Troops build event, thank you, if not, I hope this newsletter will inspire you to attend one in the future to witness firsthand how your support changes the lives of our severely injured veterans. Please use the enclosed reply form to be added to our electronic mailing list to receive updates of Homes for Our Troops build events in your area.



Cpl. Neil Frustaglio (Ret.),
U.S. Marine Corps

YOUR ENDURING SUPPORT will Help Build 100 MORE... Homes for Our Troops

A Marine Corporal with over six years in the service earns \$2,325 each month, according to the Department of Defense. Couple that with the \$675 hostile fire/imminent danger pay received each month by those service members deployed to a combat zone and monthly pay increases to \$3,000. This translates to \$692.30 per week paid to many of the brave men and women who are thrust into harm's way on a daily basis.

As we look to build 100 MORE...Homes for Our Troops, we need the support of the American people more than ever. Consider

pledging \$3,000 toward this effort. Through Operation Enduring Support, you can contribute \$58 weekly, \$250 monthly, or one lump sum. Or, if you have a special service member in your life, consider pledging the equivalent of his or her monthly pay.

It's up to you, but it's a small price to pay to give back freedom and independence to our veterans who have served us and protected our safety.

For more information, visit us online at www.homesfourtroops.org/donate



Kenny Lyon is reunited with Colonel Pauline Schank during his Key Ceremony on April 15. Colonel Schank is the nurse who saved his life.

Success Makes A House A Home

Homes for Our Troops reaches a significant milestone with its 100th home build; looks forward to 100 More...Homes for Our Troops

There was never any question where Kenny Lyon wanted to live – in a house, next door to his best friend, separated only by a Barnes and Noble bookstore.

Fate had a different plan for Kenny, however. And while he still lives close to his best friend in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and while there is likely a Barnes and Noble somewhere between the two, the home is decidedly different than that of his

childhood dream. The 2,600 square foot home was built with Kenny in mind – to specifications, which allow him to move freely about the three-bedroom structure, without worry for the leg he lost while serving his country in Iraq.

“Saying ‘thank you’ just seems like so little when so much has been given back to me,” he confessed, during the historic home build in April, which marked the 100th home started by Homes for Our



4/1/11 at 10:30 a.m.



4/1/11 at 1:00 p.m.



4/1/11 at 8:00 p.m.



4/2/11 at 2:00 a.m.

Troops. It was a day some seven years in the making and a moment that humbled President and Founder John Gonsalves as much as the maiden undertaking in 2004.

"In my opinion, this is the least we can do for our servicemen and women who have given so much and paid such a price for their sacrifices and those of their family," he said. "To be able to give them back the freedom and independence they lost while protecting ours there should be no question, it's the right thing to do."

The Lyon home build was launched Friday, April 1, before a crowd of hundreds who gathered to share the celebration, volunteer their time, participate in the building, or simply show support and gratitude. The momentous occasion was punctuated the following Monday, April 4 at 1:40 p.m. when the certificate of occupancy was granted; Lyon was given his keys the following Saturday and moved in.

The four-day building is atypical of the average Homes for Our Troops project, which takes an estimated three to four months to complete. The Fredericksburg spectacle, while carefully orchestrated, was the result of nearly six months of painstaking preparation. Atlantic Builders took on the challenge. It would be the second home Atlantic Builders would complete for HFOT; the first was for Kenny's best friend Steve Kiernan, completed last year. It's one of three projects altogether; Jude Recendez was given his keys on May 21, following another whirlwind home build lasting less than a month.

"I wish there was more we could do, but it makes us very proud to be working with such a great organization and being able to help like this," said Gene Brown, Vice President of Production for Atlantic Builders and the Building Partner in charge of the project. Brown and his colleagues

at Atlantic Builders are careful to divert the spotlight. The team, consisting of less than half a dozen individuals, worked together to bring the best tradesmen together to complete the project.

Brown spent months holding meetings each week, to develop a schedule of events for the weekend, which would enable the trades to work together and complete each phase.

"For anyone who has ever built a home, you know it's not always easy to get tradesmen to work together and overcome any territorial issues they might have," said Brown, with a chuckle. "That was all put aside; everyone stepped up and focused on the overall goal of building this home for Kenny."

"...with the strength of our leadership behind us...we can accomplish anything and truly be able to show our appreciation for our servicemen and women..."
- John S. Gonsalves
Founder and President, Homes for Our Troops

That level of synergy, according to Mike Duckett, Lead Construction Manager for Homes for Our Troops, speaks to the level of respect Atlantic Builders, and more specifically Brown himself, has within the building industry.

"Atlantic Builders represents the gold standard of general contractors we want to work with at Homes for Our Troops," said Duckett. "To be able to take charge of a project of this magnitude and pull it off the way they do consistently is truly a testament to the work ethic they bring to the table."

With the completion of the Lyon home, Homes for Our Troops officially launched its 100 MORE...Homes for Our Troops campaign. The organization has committed to reaching that milestone by the year 2014. Since 2001, some two million of our nation's sons and daughters

have answered the call of duty. Over 5,000 of these brave men and women have been killed and over 40,000 have suffered physical injuries. Of those 40,000, some have paid a terrible price, suffering injuries so severe that they must rely on others for care, losing much of their independence. These severely injured veterans have a desperate need for specially adapted homes that will help restore the independence they have lost.

As the number of eligible applicants continues to grow, it is estimated there are nearly 1,500 post-9/11 war veterans among us that have injuries so severe that they are in need of a specially adapted home.

A leadership committee is in place and will

be working closely with the organization to ensure success. General Richard Cody, retired U.S. Army General and former Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, will serve as chairman of the new campaign with support from former Dateline NBC co-host Stone Phillips and others. The Honorary Congressional Committee will be co-chaired by Massachusetts Senator Scott Brown, joined by House and Senate colleagues.

"Homes for Our Troops is extremely proud of our commitment to build 100 MORE...Homes for Our Troops over the next three years," said Gonsalves. "We definitely have our work cut out for us, but with the strength of our leadership behind us and the support of such outstanding companies such as Atlantic Builders, we can accomplish anything and truly be able to show our appreciation for our servicemen and women."



4/2/11 at 10:00 a.m.



4/2/11 at 11:00 a.m.



4/4/11 at 1:00 p.m.



4/9/11 at 11:00 a.m.



A SOBERING LOOK AT

Although the average U.S. troop in Iraq and Afghanistan is older than the average Vietnam veteran, those being severely injured and killed are disproportionately young

May 30th marked Memorial Day — the day set aside to remember the U.S. service members who died. And on the holiday, the enduring toll the battle in Iraq has taken on American troops can be summed up by one phrase: the Invisible War.

That's how Paul Rieckhoff, executive director of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America refers to the war that has been raging since 2003 and has had a startlingly different effect on veterans returning than the war it's most often compared to, Vietnam.

"This is not a drafted army, it's a professional force, so folks are staying in longer, they're older and they're more likely to

have families," he said of the average age of Iraq and Afghanistan warriors, which is around 27. "But those who are being killed and injured are disproportionately young — the people you played soccer with and went to high school with."

Some 12 percent of the U.S. population served in World War II, however, less than one percent have suited up for the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. While the numbers are less in terms of casualties than Vietnam or World War II, it's merely because the numbers overall are smaller. As a result, fewer people are being impacted, leaving this generation more disconnected from the war and how it's affecting veterans. Unlike Vietnam, where troops typically

did one tour and were rotated back home, some Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are returning to the front three or four times for long stretches, with many of the fighters becoming disconnected from what's going on in society back home, making for a challenging reintegration when they return.

Though medical advances and the use of body armor are helping to save the lives of Iraqi soldiers who might have died in previous wars, traumatic brain injuries could end up impacting 10-20 percent of veterans, a number that might end up between 150,000 and 300,000 people.

Number of service members who have died in combat:
 VIETNAM: 58,148 IRAQ/AFGHANISTAN: 4,474

Average age of soldiers killed in combat:
 VIETNAM: 23 IRAQ/AFGHANISTAN: 27

Total number of soldiers deployed:
 VIETNAM: over 9 million (1965-1975); 543,000 at peak
 IRAQ/AFGHANISTAN: over 2 million (2003-present);
 162,000 at peak

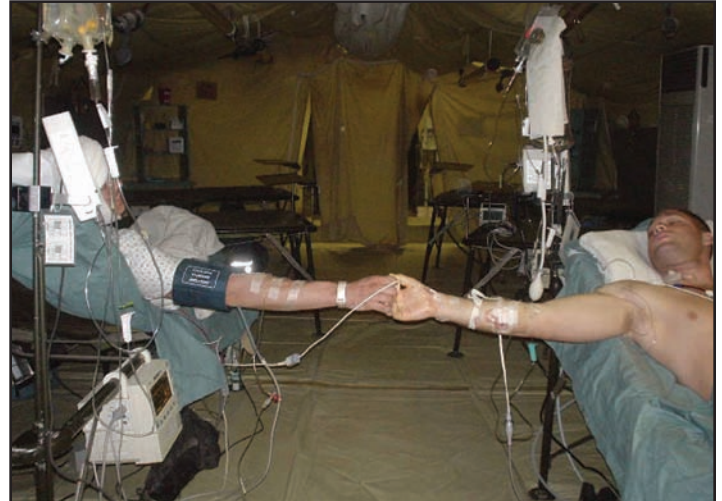
Wounded in action:
 VIETNAM: More than 300,000, with just over 150,000
 requiring hospitalization.

IRAQ/AFGHANISTAN: 33,105

Mental-health problems:
 VIETNAM: 18.7 percent of Vietnam veterans suffer from
 a stress disorder.

IRAQ/AFGHANISTAN: One in three veterans of the War
 on Terror will face mental health issues of post traumatic
 stress disorder; nearly a quarter of all U.S. troops serving
 in Iraq and Afghanistan are coming home with
 problems requiring mental health or medical treatment.

WAR STATS



War Stats data compiled from Globalsecurity.org, Time, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Combat Area Casualty File, National Archives, Walter Reed Medical Center, Discover, the Iraq Body Counts Web site, The New York Times, The American War Library and Defense Manpower Data Center.

T THE TOLL OF WAR



Watch more stories told by members of the Homes for Our Troops family.

Hear what General Richard A. Cody, USA (Ret), Chairman of 100 MORE...Homes for Our Troops has to say about the challenges faced in fulfilling that commitment.

View our online newsletter for these and other stories at www.homesforourtroops.org/newsletter

A Family Reunion ... With a Purpose

The Bagge and Pannell Build Brigades in Oregon, a family affair for one volunteer group

Ken Newman considers himself a quiet, low-key person. While he has had occasion to volunteer his time to what he considers to be worthy causes, he was never one to put out a rally cry to get others involved.

That changed, however, one fateful day when Ken stopped into a local coffee shop. Opening a copy of the Hood River News, the local newspaper in his Oregon town, he learned of a nearby home build of a specially adapted home for Army Staff Sergeant Christian Bagge, a severely injured veteran who was left a double amputee as a result of a roadside bombing in Iraq.

Although Ken had little knowledge of Homes for Our Troops, he was inspired to answer the call to help. The result was not only his involvement, but nearly two dozen of his own family members who answered a long silent rally cry.

"Sometimes you just need to have faith and make the call to go ahead and do something you believe in," he said, in retrospect. "I truly believe we were meant to do this."

While visiting with his parents one afternoon, Ken casually mentioned the project, urging them to join him. No stranger to the building trade, Jesse

Newman had since retired from drywall manufacturer U.S. Gypsum. To him, there was no question that he and wife Paula would join their son.

"It seemed like such a small thing to do for the sacrifices Christian and his family had made," said Jesse. "To us, there was no doubt we would join Ken. It was the right thing to do."

That casual conversation had a snowball effect and within two days Team Newman was 18 strong, comprised of relatives separated by hours and in some cases, state lines.

"It really turned into a family reunion with a purpose; it brought us even closer together," said Ken. For Ken's brother Jim, the mission of building a home for



Christian Bagge was more personal. After more than two decades in the U.S. Navy, Jim had retired from the service.

“When you meet these guys, you can’t help but be inspired,” he said. “They have the most positive attitudes, as if there’s nothing they can’t accomplish. Playing even a small part in the life of someone who has given so much just leaves you walking away with the most incredible feeling.”

Not an experienced tradesman, Jim said he believed his time at the Bagge Build Brigade was going to be spent as a “gopher,” running small errands and doing whatever necessary to keep things moving along. And although many of his family members had the same expectation, what they found was quite different – assisting in the application of siding and preparing stud walls for drywall were among the tasks they were asked to complete.

Although the Build Brigade came to an

end following the three days in August, it was hardly the end for the Newman family. Another build soon followed for Army Specialist Kevin Pannell, whose home is located in Gresham, Oregon and the clan answered the call once again.

“If it was within driving distance, we were

‘...what we experienced working with Homes for Our Troops is the thing we still talk about to this day. It really brought us even closer together.’
- Ken Newman

going to be there,” said Ken, who took on the pivotal role of Key Volunteer for the Pannell project, serving as a crucial point-of-contact in Oregon for Homes for Our Troops, which is headquartered in Massachusetts.

Three generations of Newmans were represented at the Pannell build as Ken’s daughter Danielle made the trek from Portland. Although she’ll admit she wasn’t sure what she was getting herself

into, she wouldn’t trade the experience. “It was probably the most incredible thing I have ever been privileged to be a part of,” she said.

As a small business benefits consultant, Danielle spends much of her time in a corporate environment. Much of her

time during the build was spent on non-construction tasks and cleaning the site. Regardless, she said working alongside members of her family enhanced the experience.

“It was really nice to be there with my family, but it was so much more rewarding knowing that we were there helping someone who had sacrificed so much and didn’t ask for anything in return,” she said.

SUPPORTING CAREGIVERS as They Support Our Veterans

Taking Care of the Caregiver

Family members may face the prospect of starting a new chapter in their own lives if their loved one returns from military service with an injury or disability. Many have had to put life on hold, leave jobs or change residences to care for a spouse, adult child or significant other. Caregiving can be overwhelming as one tries to meet all of the emotional, physical and medical needs of a veteran. Mourning the loss of a “normal” life and relationship prior to the war may also occur. At this point, it’s important for caregivers to accept that things have changed and to surround themselves with their own spiritual, emotional and physical resources.

The health and emotional well-being of the veteran’s caregiver also needs to be a priority. If not addressed, caregiver fatigue, illness and impatience can directly reflect on and impact the quality of care that one is able to give. An important analogy can be found in our airline industry. Just as the flight attendant instructs passengers to use the oxygen mask on themselves first and then assist the person next to them, so must the caregiver follow the same important instructions.

Caregivers who learn what help is available to veterans and how to access that help will feel more in control of a complex situation. Some ideas are:

- Become educated about the veteran’s medical condition, whether physical or emotional.
- Learn to communicate with members of the health care profession. Write down questions prior to appointments and, if needed, have an additional person attend appointments to gather important information.

- Keep good medical records and summaries of office visits. Bring identification and health insurance cards, plus names and doses of the veteran’s medications to the appointments.
- Learn the routines and points of access with the medical facilities used by the veteran. This includes office hours and how to reach health care providers, schedule appointments and transportation.
- Inquire about assistive technology devices and utilize home care and skilled-care services.

Find out about benefits that are available through the military and Department of Veterans Affairs.

Helpful Websites:

- www.aarp.org
- www.militaryonesource.com
- www.disabilityinfo.gov
- www.operationmilitarykids.org
- www.guardfamily.org
- www.va.org
- www.usa.gov
- www.dma.state.mn.us
- www.remind.org
- www.pva.org
- www.tricare.osd.mil/cap



HFOT Events and Sponsor Highlights

Veteran Home Recipients Pay it Forward to Benefit Homes for Our Troops

Every year, hundreds of fundraisers are held by volunteers on behalf of Homes for Our Troops. These fundraisers include everything from bake sales and raffles to golf tournaments and road races. This year some of our own Veterans are using their talents and passions to help pay it forward through fundraising so we can continue to build specially adapted homes for severely injured veterans.

Our first home recipient, Peter Damon, recently hosted an auction for a one-of-kind painting of the New York skyline that he painted himself, while recent home recipient, Jude Recendez hosted an art show showcasing his pottery skills and other artists' works. These Veterans raised over \$2,000 for HFOT through their artwork.

Over the next few months, a few of our Veterans will be hosting fundraisers in hopes of raising thousands of dollars

to help build another home. Bryant Jacobs will be hosting his 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament in Utah on August 19th. Last year, Jacobs' inaugural tournament raised \$11,000. On September 12th, Tim Johannsen will be hosting his first annual golf tournament, Mulligans for Military, in Colorado. In November, Debbi Smith, wife of Joey Smith who will be receiving a home in North Carolina, will be hosting a military appreciation day in North Carolina that will include horseback riding, an auction, and family fun.

To learn more about each of these fundraisers, please visit their event pages:

www.homesforourtroops.org/bryantgolf11

www.homesforourtroops.org/mulligans

www.homesforourtroops.org/lovevalley11



8TH ANNUAL MOTORCYCLE RIDE & RAFFLE
8.07.11... WE RIDE
TWO SIMULTANEOUS RIDES
Up North:
NEW HAMPSHIRE
NEW!
Down South:
RHODE ISLAND
Raffle Bike:
2011 H-D ROAD KING
\$50/ raffle ticket
Buy your tickets online!
Go to www.homesforourtroops.org/bikerun TODAY



1ST ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC
JOIN US...
DATE:
Tuesday, September 13, 2011
LOCATION:
Spring Valley Country Club
Sharon, Massachusetts
www.homesforourtroops.org/golfclassic

HFOT BUILDING NEW PARTNERSHIP **Volvo Rents Construction Equipment**

Volvo Rents Selects Homes for Our Troops as a National Charitable Partner

The worldwide provider of small-to-medium sized construction equipment, Volvo Rents, has selected the national, non-profit organization Homes for Our Troops as its charitable partner, aiding in the construction of new homes for injured veterans. With commitments to build 35 homes this year, the equipment provider will be assisting Homes for Our Troops by donating construction equipment to each build location and volunteers to support injured servicemen and women.

"We would not be able to support so many injured veterans without the fundraising and support from local businesses like Volvo Rents," said John Gonsalves, President and Founder of Homes for Our Troops. "These veterans sacrificed for our country, and I'm proud to come together with Volvo Rents to help restore their freedom and independence through the gift of a specially adapted home."

www.homesforourtroops.org

THIS KID'S GOT HER EYES ON THE PRIZE!

South Carolina Girl Scout lauded by Fuji Films for her photo essay as part of the Kids for Our Troops community service program

Girl Scout Amy Crittendon, Troop 576, Oconee County, was selected by Fuji Films to photo-journalize the troop's community service project at the Build Brigade for Home for our Troops. Based on her essay, "What Volunteering Means to Me," Amy has won a Fuji camera and is in the running for a \$5,000 scholarship based on the coverage of the event.

The contest was a collaboration between Fuji Films and Homes for Our Troops. Through the Kids for Our Troops community service program, youngsters are encouraged to get involved and raise awareness of the need to build specially adapted homes for severely injured veterans.



Build Brigade and Key Ceremony Highlights



PHOTOGRAPHER: DOUGLAD FOLMAR

Cpl Larry Draughn, Jr.'s Build Brigade was held May 6-8, 2011. The volunteers worked hard and made this Build Brigade, our first in the great state of Ohio, a success! *Way to go Fairborn, Ohio!* We look forward to welcoming Cpl Draughn, his wife Kaytlin and their son Garon home later this year.

UPCOMING BUILD BRIGADES

- Cpl Tyler SOUTHERN** **AUGUST 12, 13 & 14, 2011**
Saint Augustine, FL *Building Partner: Dream Finders Homes*
- SSG Juan ROLDAN** **AUGUST 19, 20 & 21, 2011**
Parrish, FL *Building Partner: Badger Construction*

COMPLETED BUILD BRIGADES

- Cpl Jose "Daniel" GASCA** **APRIL 29, 30 & MAY 1, 2011**
El Paso, TX *Building Partner: Veliz Construction, LLC*
- Cpl Larry DRAUGHN, Jr.** **MAY 6, 7 & 8, 2011**
Fairborn, OH *Building Partner: Daniel DeVol Custom Builder, Inc.*
- SGT Austin BURCHARD** **MAY 13, 14 & 15, 2011**
Lutz, FL *Building Partner: Southern Crafted Homes*
- SGT Latseen BENSON** **JUNE 17, 18 & 19, 2011**
Elizabeth, CO *Building Partner: G.J. Gardner Homes*
- CPL Jeffery WILLIAMS** **JUNE 17, 18 & 19, 2011**
Madison, AL *Building Partner: Renaissance Builders, Inc.*
- SGT Marco A. ROBLEDO, Jr.** **JULY 7, 8 & 9, 2011**
Clarksville, AR *Building Partner: G.N.H. Construction*

SPC Craig ANDRADE **JULY 15, 16 & 17, 2011**
Marion, TX *Building Partner: Hardin Construction*

MSG Daniel ROBLES **JULY 15, 16 & 17, 2011**
Garden Ridge, TX *Building Partner: RD Campbell Custom Homes*

COMPLETED KEY CEREMONIES

Cpl Jeremy STENGEL **MAY 21, 2011**
Mukwonago, WI *Building Partner: Burback Builders*

SGT Jude REZENDEZ **JUNE 11, 2011**
Fredericksburg, VA *Building Partner: Atlantic Builders LTD*

SSG Ronell BRADLEY **JUNE 18, 2011**
Columbia, SC *Building Partner: Hallmark Homes International, Inc.*

CWO3 Jeffrey PCOLA **JUNE 18, 2011**
Seneca, SC *Building Partner: Markovich Homes*

SGT Jeffrey ADAMS **JUNE 25, 2011**
Elbert, CO *Building Partner: Genesis Custom Homes*

Sgt. Adam KISIELEWSKI **JULY 16, 2011**
Frederick, MD *Building Partner: Case Design/ Remodeling, Inc.*

Homes for Our Troops thanks the hundreds of volunteers who gave their time and heartfelt support to each of these projects.

Homes for Our Troops
6 Main Street
Taunton, Massachusetts 02780
866-7-TROOPS

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A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER

Dear Friends:

Serving the brave men and women of our military who have given so selflessly to preserve our freedoms is the least we can do as Americans.

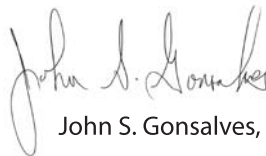
The Global War on Terror is fast approaching its 10th anniversary. Is it finally coming to an end? That depends on who you believe – the media, Congress, or the President of the United States. When you take into account that there are thousands of our brothers and sisters whose lives have been lost during that time, and nearly 2,000 who have suffered injuries so profound they need a specially adapted home in order to continue living day-to-day, self-imposed timelines seem so irrelevant. What's not irrelevant is the need to provide our veterans with homes that they and their families can call just that, "home;" Free from the unnecessary barriers of making it through just one day.

That need will not be fulfilled without your help. We have shared with you this month stories of some of the Homes for Our Troops families. Each story is different, but the lasting effects of the injuries sustained have ramifications extending beyond the veteran to his or her family – wives, husbands, parents, siblings, caregivers, and even the children who never made the conscious decision to live the military life, but whose future with their parents will be forever changed by fate.

Many grateful Americans we have met since embarking on the Homes for Our Troops mission some seven years ago have expressed feelings of helplessness – they want our heroes to know their sacrifices aren't for naught, but they are often challenged to figure out just how they can help. Your tax-deductible contribution is how you can help. And believe me, whatever amount you are able to give is worth so much more than its face value. It will play a pivotal role in restoring freedom and independence to our veterans who so deserve our support.

I thank you for allowing us to share these stories. In the months ahead, we will continue to introduce you to our families, update you on their progress, and with your help eliminate the need to keep building specially adapted homes.

Respectfully,



John S. Gonsalves, *Founder and President*



Charity Navigator, one of the premiere charity rating agencies in the country, has awarded Homes for Our Troops with its highest rating of 4 stars.



Homes for Our Troops is a Top-Rated Military & Veteran Charity by the American Institute of Philanthropy.



#12525 For our active duty military supporters: CFC #12525 is a national beneficiary of the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign. Your CFC pledge will help Homes for Our Troops build our next 100 specially adapted homes for our nation's severely injured troops.