

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND SPACE

Senator Wright, Chair

Senator Cruz, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, December 11, 2019

TIME: 10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

PLACE: *Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building*

MEMBERS: Senator Wright, Chair; Senator Cruz, Vice Chair; Senators Broxson, Gainer, Harrell, Pizzo, and Torres

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	Presentation by:		Presented
	Brigadier General Tom Landerwermeyer, USA (Ret.), President and CEO, Homes for our Troops		
2	Presentation by:		Presented
	Andy Pujol, CEO, Founder and Volunteer, Building Homes for Heroes, Inc.		
	Other Related Meeting Documents		



MISSION

To build and donate specially adapted custom homes nationwide for severely injured post-9/11 Veterans, to enable them to rebuild their lives.



HFOT Home Recipient
Army SPC Marco Solt



The Need



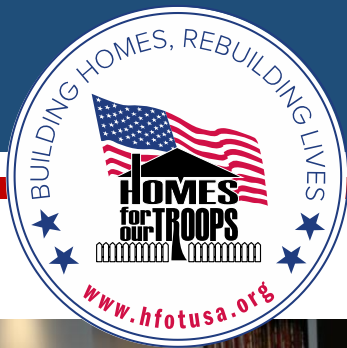
- Approx. 2000 severely injured post-9/11 Veterans
- Current home unsafe and not fully accessible
- Cannot do simple things for themselves
- Burden and stress on Caregiver and entire family
- Home should be a place of respite not frustration and stress
- Veteran has sacrificed their freedom and independence for us



HFOT Home

- Provide specially adapted custom homes where Veterans choose to live
- Single story, 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 2800 sq. ft.
- Over 40 Special Adaptations in every home
- Energy efficient
- 290 homes in 42 states
- 18 completed homes in Florida and an additional 14 projects underway.





Veteran Selection

- Rely on VA's Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant determination; injured in Iraq or Afghanistan Theaters of War
- Background and Financial checks
- Veterans Conference
 - Program Overview
 - Final interview
- Welcome into the Family

This is a “Mission Moment” for an HFOT staff member to inform the Veteran that they have been selected and will receive a home



HFOT Process

Program
Acceptance

Land Search
and
Acquisition

Construction

Home
Delivery

Home
Transfer

Rebuilding
Lives
Follow Up



Build Events



Community Kick Off



Volunteer Day



Key Ceremony



Unique to HFOT

Ensuring Veterans' Success as a Homeowner :

- Support network of HFOT staff, Veteran Action and Advisory Team, and community
- Background and financial health checks
- Veteran chooses where to live and we build from the ground up
- 3 year financial planning assistance, pro-bono
- Zero mortgage
- Ten year lien
- HFOT stands by the homes we build

By The Numbers



HFOT IMPACT

Our Mission: To build and donate specially adapted custom homes nationwide for severely injured post-9/11 Veterans, to enable them to rebuild their lives.

Recent survey results demonstrate what we at HFOT have known all along: we are making a lasting impact in the lives of our nation's most severely injured Veterans and their spouses/caregivers. Here is a look at the different ways our program sets the conditions for our Veterans' and their families' lifelong success.*

BEFORE
RECEIVING HFOT HOME

AFTER
RECEIVING HFOT HOME

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND VOLUNTEERING

12%

VETERANS PAYING IT FORWARD



67%

VETERANS PAYING IT FORWARD

FREEDOM & INDEPENDENCE

82%

of Veterans say they can now heal in a
SAFE ENVIRONMENT



OVER 90%

of Veterans have regained some/much of their
FREEDOM & INDEPENDENCE

AFTER RECEIVING HFOT HOME
Veterans

67%
INCREASE

EMPLOYMENT



AFTER RECEIVING HFOT HOME
Spouse/Caregiver

OVER 300%
INCREASE

BEFORE
RECEIVING HFOT HOME

AFTER
RECEIVING HFOT HOME

EDUCATION

Obtained/Pursuing a **degree** or **trade certification**

12%
Veterans

Spouse/Caregiver
8%



69%
Veterans

Spouse/Caregiver
90%

FINANCIAL BENEFIT

Education, better jobs for Veterans and spouses/caregivers and no mortgage result in

FINANCIAL STABILITY



HFOT provides **PRO-BONO FINANCIAL PLANNING** to all home recipients for three years to ensure they are set up for long-term success as a homeowner.

INCREASED FAMILY INCOME

37%

DECREASED FAMILY DEBT

58%

INCREASED FAMILY SAVINGS

57%

BEFORE
RECEIVING HFOT HOME

AFTER
RECEIVING HFOT HOME

FAMILY

59%
Married



79%
Married

Over **170** Babies have been born to HFOT families since 2010

The Average American household size is unchanged at 2.6 from 2005-2017- **U.S. Census**

HFOT FAMILIES GREW FROM 2.7 TO 3.8

*Results are based on a March 2018 survey of Veteran home recipients and their caregivers; response rate was 64%.

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HFOT is consistently ranked as one of the

Top Performing Military Nonprofits

Nearly 90 cents of every dollar spent has gone to our programs since 2004.



Charity Navigator



"A" rating – Charity Watch



Platinum Seal of Transparency
on GuideStar



CHALLENGES

- **NEED FOR INCREASED REVENUE**
 - 84 current projects; 106 in application process; more than 1000 more Veterans still need our program
 - Land, construction and materials continue to increase in cost
 - We build 20-25 homes a year
- **BUILDING, MAINTAINING AWARENESS & INTEREST**
 - No longer front page news



HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Spread the word on HFOT
 - Who we are
 - What we do
 - Who we support
- Attend HFOT Build Events in your areas



THANK YOU!

BUILDING HOMES, REBUILDING LIVES

www.hfotusa.org



Current Florida Projects

Veteran Name	Build Location
Jarrold Addison	Jacksonville, FL
Ignacio Arriaga	TBD
Josh Cope	Lake Panosoffkee, FL
Justin Callahan	Jupiter, FL
Joseph “Blake” Deloach	West Palm Beach, FL
Liam Dwyer	Lake Worth, FL
Noe “Lito” Santos Dilone	Orlando, FL
Michael Montange	Orlando, FL

Veteran Name	Build Location
Tim Read	Wesley Chapel, FL
Chad Rozanski	Orlando, FL
Elliot Smith	Pensacola, FL
Patrick Wickens	Orlando, FL
Michael Monthervil	San Antonio, FL
Stephen Peterson	Land O’ Lakes, FL
*Vicente Ramirez	Crestview, FL (compl 7 Dec)

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

11 DEC 2019

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS OVERVIEW

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name TOM LANDWEARMYER BG, USA (RET)

Job Title PRES/CEO HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS

Address 6 MAIN ST.

Phone 703-863-9706

Street

TAUNTON

MA

02780

City

State

Zip

Email TLANDWEARMYER@HFOTUSA.ORG

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS, NATIONAL 501.C.3

Appearing at request of Chair: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☒ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (10/14/14)



OUR MISSION

Building Homes Building a Brighter Future



Building Homes for Heroes® is strongly committed to **building homes and providing a bolder, better and brighter future** ahead for the brave men and women who were injured while serving the country during the time of the wars in Iraq or Afghanistan. It's our honor to support the men and women who have loyally and courageously served our country.



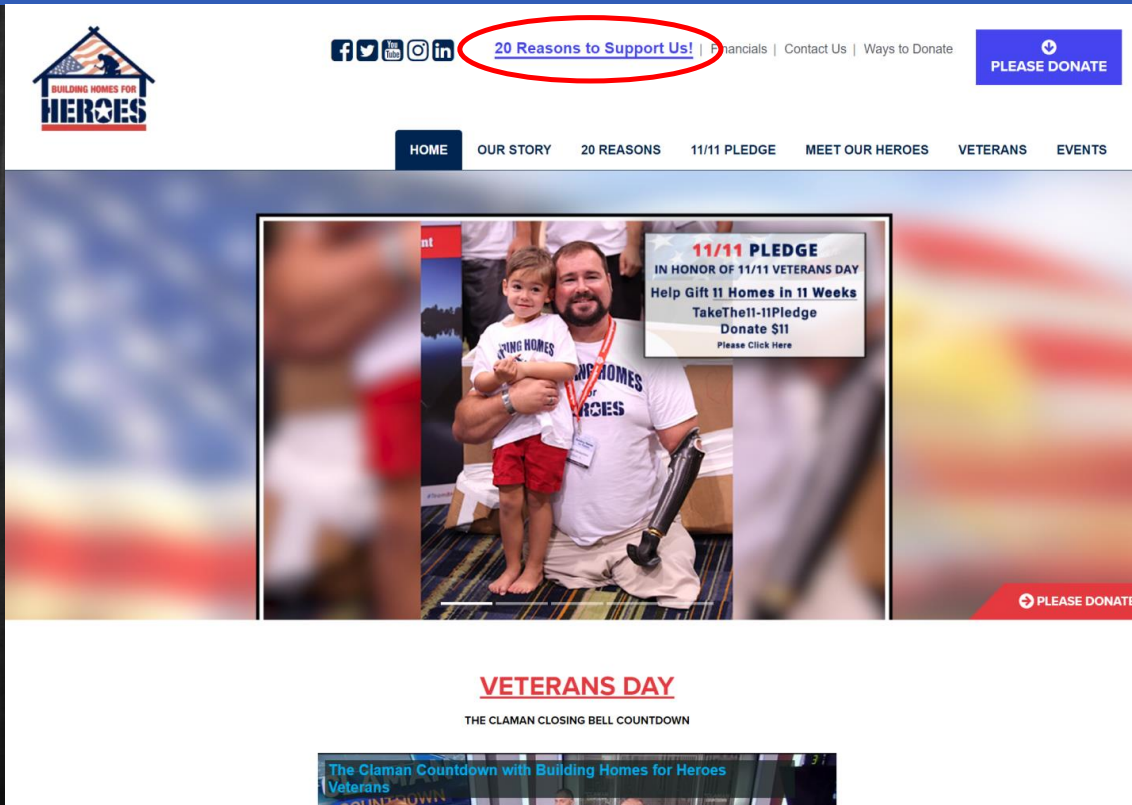


In 2019, Building Homes for Heroes completed a 14th consecutive year of record-setting growth. Our goal each and every year is to gift one home every 11 days. In 2020 we hope to construct, gift and modify as many as 40 homes for veterans.





20 Reasons to Support Building Homes for Heroes





Continuously One of the Highest Performing Charities in the Country



For four straight years, Building Homes for Heroes has received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator.

For a fourth consecutive year we also received a 100 rating in accountability and transparency.

For 8 consecutive years, Building Homes for Heroes has maintained a program rating of 93% or higher.





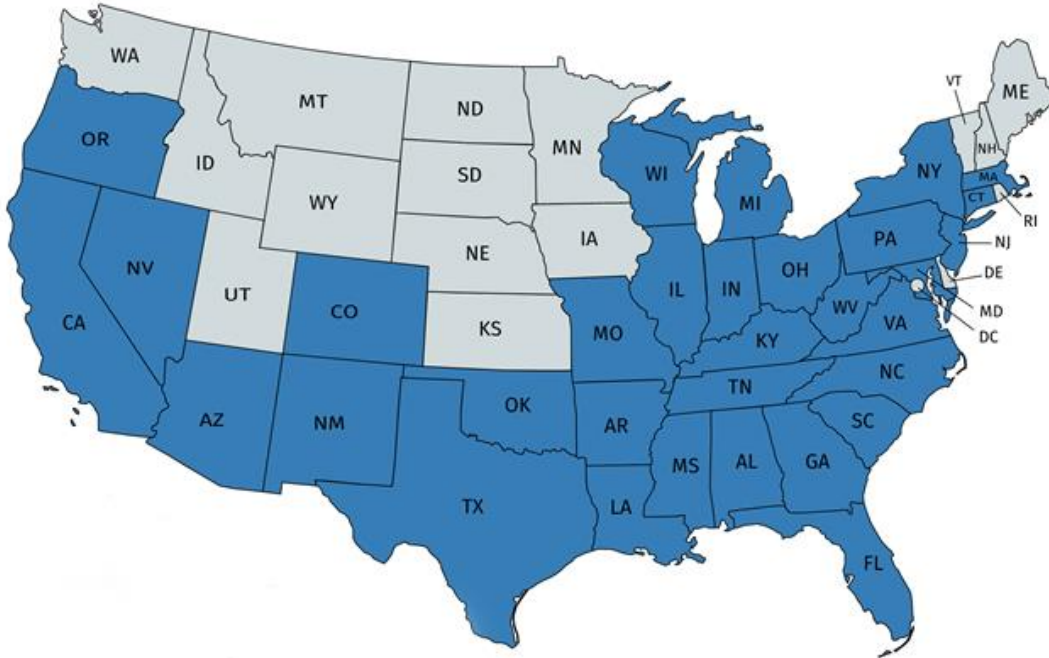
1 Mortgage-Free Home Every 11 Days



Our work for our veterans never ends...



225 Homes Gifted and Modified Across the Nation




We are honored to have gifted and modified 225 homes across the country for our nation's veterans across 33 states.

It all started with a vision to gift one home to one veteran and has blossomed into a beautiful network all working together to make our communities and country a better place for all to see.





V.A. Determination Letter



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
 810 Vermont Ave NW
 Washington, D.C. 20420

February 05, 2018

[Redacted] [Redacted]

In Reply Refer to: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]:

This letter is a summary of benefits you currently receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). We are providing this letter to disabled Veterans to use in applying for benefits such as state or local property or vehicle tax relief, civil service preference, to obtain housing entitlements, free or reduced state park annual memberships, or any other program or entitlement in which verification of VA benefits is required. Please safeguard this important document. This letter is considered an official record of your VA entitlement.

Our records contain the following information:

Personal Claim Information

Your VA claim number is: [Redacted]

You are the Veteran.

Military Information

Your most recent, verified periods of service (up to three) include:

Branch of Service	Character of Service	Entered Active Duty	Released/Discharged
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

(There may be additional periods of service not listed above.)

VA Benefit Information

You have one or more service-connected disabilities: [Redacted]

Your combined service-connected evaluation is: [Redacted] 100%

Your current monthly award amount is: [Redacted]

The effective date of the last change to your current award was: [Redacted]

You are considered to be totally and permanently disabled due solely to your service-connected disabilities: [Redacted]

You should contact your state or local office of Veterans' affairs for information on any tax, license, or fee-related benefits for which you may be eligible. State offices of Veterans' affairs are available at <http://www.va.gov/statedva.htm>.

How You Can Contact Us

- If you need general information about benefits and eligibility, please visit us at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov> or <http://www.va.gov>.
- Call us at 1-800-827-1000. If you use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the number is 1-800-829-4833.

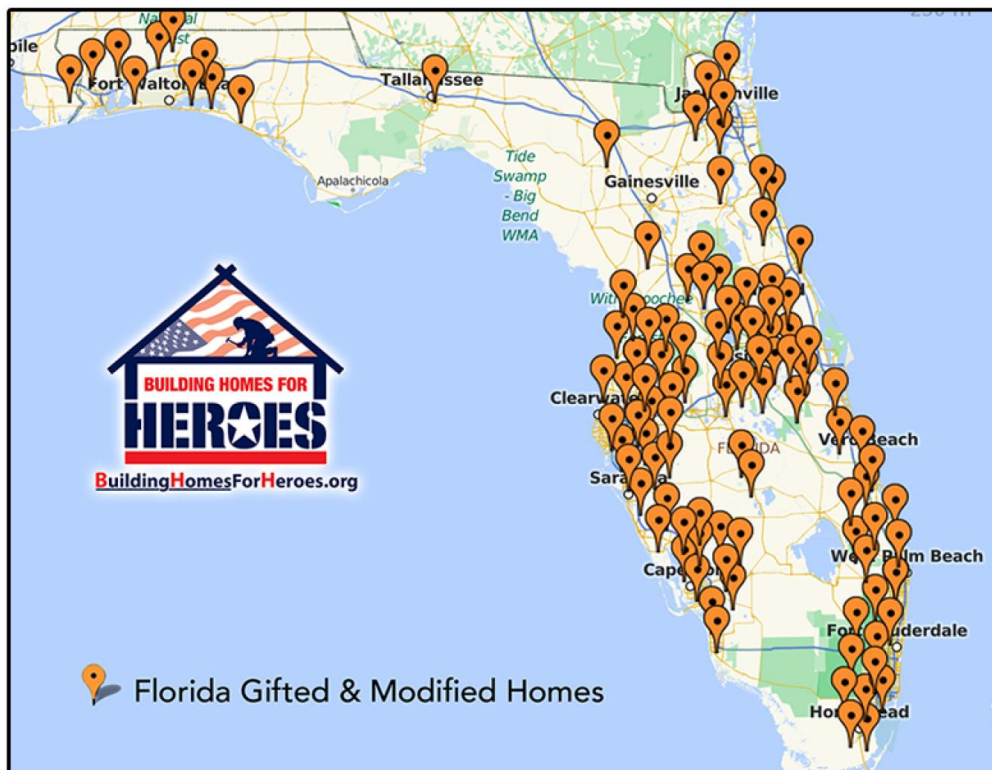
Building Homes for Heroes also requests medical records to verify injuries, most notably a determination letter from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Building Homes for Heroes requires two, sometimes three, verifiable letters of recommendation along with their DD-214 discharge papers as verification of their service.





Gifted and Modified more than 100 Homes in Florida



While we operate nationwide, Florida is the state we are proud to have done the most work in, by far. To date, we have gifted 92 homes in Florida and modified 10, equaling 102 total homes gifted and modified for Florida veterans. At the end of the Better, Brighter and Bolder Fiscal Year, we'll hope to have gifted 125 homes in Florida.





Admiral McRaven, General Chiarelli, General Abrams and Lt. General Williams all attend a Home Ceremony



Admiral William McRaven, General Peter Chiarelli, Lieutenant General Darryl Williams and General Robert Abrams attended our Home Ceremony for Army Sergeant Joel Tavera in Florida, who was among the most severely injured veterans to survive since the Iraq War began.





U.S. Army Sergeant Joel Tavera Welcomed Home



After enduring nearly 125 surgeries, Sergeant Tavera earned his B.A. in history from the University of Tampa last year.





General Heithold, General Merchant and Congressman Gaetz support Building Homes for Heroes



We have received amazing support from the highest ends of the military to the U.S. Government. We were grateful to have Lieutenant General Heithold and Major General Merchant attend our home ceremonies in Florida as well.



U.S. Representative Matt Gaetz was our champion in the Florida Legislature when he served in the state and has continued to champion us on the federal level since joining the United States Congress in 2017. Representative Gaetz spoke at the home ceremony for Air Force Captain Nathan Nelson, whom he now employs as a congressional aide.





Senator Simpson Attends Home Ceremony



Florida State Senator Wilton Simpson joined Building Homes for Heroes to help us welcome home Army Master Sergeant George Vera and his family to the beautiful, ground-up home in Tampa, Florida. Senator Simpson continues to be a strong advocate and supporter of the organization.





Governor Scott and Governor Jindal attend Home Ceremony



In 2015, Building Homes for Heroes was honored to have been joined by Governor Rick Scott of the Great State of Florida, and Governor Bobby Jindal from the great state of Louisiana to help us welcome home an injured veteran.





State of the State Address

Governor Scott recommends Building Homes for Heroes for substantial funding



In 2017, Governor Scott praised Building Homes for Heroes and personally thanked Army MSG George Vera in his State of the State Address in front of the entire Florida Legislature and Florida State Supreme Court.





Approved by Governor Scott in Florida Budget for 5 Straight Years



Our relationship with Florida has grown so strongly that from 2014 to 2018, Governor Scott continually approved funding for Building Homes for Heroes in Florida's state budget.





Governor Ron DeSantis proposed \$1 million in funding for BHH in 2019-20 and 2020-21 Budgets



In his first two years in office, Governor Ron DeSantis included \$1 million for Building Homes for Heroes in his proposed budget. We are honored by his recognition of Building Homes for Heroes.





7 Straight Years in the Florida Budget



Governor Scott and Governor DeSantis included us in Florida's budget and/or proposed budget for each of the last seven years.





Recipient of the USSOCOM Patriot Award at MacDill Air Force Base from General Thomas



In 2018 United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) presented Andy Pujol, with the Patriot Award, the highest award USSOCOM can bestow upon civilians and nonprofit organizations, their founders and CEOs. It was personally presented at the MacDill Air Force Base by General Thomas, the highest ranking General at Special Operations Command.





Annual Team Building retreats in Orlando

\$1 million invested over 5 years and growing



The annual program in Orlando, Florida is designed to strengthen bonds and family spirit among veterans and their families. It is yet another step toward marital success, family happiness, camaraderie and comfort in their everyday lives. The organization has found this program to be tremendously inspirational for veterans and families alike, another step toward being defined by their accomplishments and activities, and not their injuries or disabilities.





Building Homes for Heroes helps Florida Become the second ever Hidden Hero State



Building Homes for Heroes supports not only veterans, but their children and their spouses who are the Hidden Heroes.

In April of 2019, Building Homes for Heroes supported the Elizabeth Dole Foundation to pass a resolution in the Florida Capitol designating Florida a Hidden Hero State – only the second state to do so. When passing the resolution, Florida lawmakers recognized that their longstanding and successful partnership with Building Homes for Heroes has helped Florida lead the way to become one of the most veteran-friendly states in the country.





Veterans Helping Veterans Our New Ambassador Program



Building Homes for Heroes' veteran home recipients have become such strong advocates for our organization that we just created the Ambassador Program. Our veterans will be personally representing Building Homes for Heroes, thanking our donors and partners for their support. Several of our Ambassadors are Florida home recipients.





Annual Board Meeting takes place in Orlando





More than 600 airings on Florida TV in last six years



To date, Building Homes for Heroes has **never** paid for a single TV commercial. Still, our home ceremonies across the state have been aired by most all television stations and many radio stations, all across Florida.





Five-Part Series on Fox Nation Featured Five of our Amazing Veteran Home Recipients



We were honored to have been approached by Fox Nation earlier this year for a five-part series on their streaming network. They filmed stories on five of our home recipients:

- USAF Captain Nathan Nelson
- Army SSG Aaron Hale
- Army MSG George Vera
- USMC Sergeant Kirstie Ennis
- USMC Sergeant Greg Caron





Building Homes for Heroes turned \$4.84 Million invested from the State of Florida into a \$19M Return on Investment



Of the \$4.84 million that has been granted to us by the State of Florida, we have turned those funds into a \$19 million return on investment directly towards Florida veterans and Florida communities, utilizing only Florida licensed contractors.

- **A return on investment of 350%**
- **A return of \$4.5 to every \$1 dollar received**





Homes Designed to Improve the Life of a Veteran



Commonly, we design our homes with accommodations that include, but are not limited to: 3-foot doorways, 4-foot hallways, 5-foot turn radius, stair lifts, grab bars, elevators, chair rails, hand rails, lowered cabinets and countertops, special flooring, unique floor lighting, home automation, hurricane protections and outdoor elements for veterans who struggle with PTSD and TBI.





More than Just Building Homes



Above and beyond gifting homes, we're building a bolder, brighter and better future ahead...





2-4 years of Financial Guidance



We are proud to partner with the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors, who pair all of our veteran home recipients with certified financial planners for at least two years of pro bono financial guidance. To date, no veteran has ever lost a home for financial reasons or any other reason whatsoever. Thanks to this program, we have success stories all across Florida.





Emergency and Watershed Funding



We provide emergency and watershed funding for veterans and their families who experience sudden life-altering moments in their lives.





Keeping Families Together



Countless times, we have been told by our veterans and their spouses that the gift of a mortgage-free home has saved their marriage. More than 95% of married couples in our program remain together today, an astounding accomplishment when you consider that the national success rate for marriages is reported to be about 50%.

"The family we have gained here is something we never knew we needed, but have seen that it is what builds us up and holds it together."
-- Kate Denker, wife of Air Force Staff Sgt. Bryan Denker





We now support Veterans in Invictus Games, the Warrior Games, and the Paralympics



Army Staff Sergeant William Castillo, captain of the U.S. Bobsled Paralympic team.

This past year, we launched another program, where we also support our veterans in the grueling training process for the Invictus Games, the Warrior Games and the Paralympics. Recognizing the significant benefits that outdoor recreation and sporting competition can have on veterans as they rehabilitate from physical, emotional and psychological injuries, we plan to expand this program further.





Supporting Veterans pursue their career dreams and achieve dreams they never imagined when injured



Army Staff Sergeant Aaron Hale and his wife McKayla formed Extra Ordinary Delights

We're also supporting veterans pursue their career dreams. This includes many of our veterans who have gone on to receive degrees in higher education after receiving their home, or veterans who began their own businesses or pursued new careers. This is a new development in our organization that is growing with great enthusiasm. Pictured is U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Aaron Hale, who is completely blind, and his amazing wife McKayla, who started their own successful chocolate business. Building Homes for Heroes continues to support our veterans' career dreams across Florida and the United States.





1,500 Applications in the State of Florida



More than 1,500 Florida veteran applications have been submitted to our organization, hoping for a home.



THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

12/11/19
Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Building Homes For Heroes / Military and Veterans Space Amendment Barcode (if applicable) _____
Committee

Name Andy Pujol

Job Title Founder and CEO

Address 4584 Austin Blvd
Street

Phone 516 684 9220

Island Park NY 11558
City State Zip

Email Andy@buildinghomesforheroes.org

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Building Homes For Heroes

Appearing at request of Chair: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☒ No

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S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

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12/11/19

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Military & Veterans Space Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name George Verg, MSGT

Job Title Ambassador

Address 4858 Lago Vista
Street

Phone 850 9026571

Land o Lakes FL 34639
City State Zip

Email George@buildinghomesforheroes.org

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

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S-001 (10/14/14)



BuildingHomesForHeroes.org

20 REASONS TO SUPPORT **BUILDING HOMES FOR HEROES** **IN 2020**

If you are visiting the Building Homes for Heroes site, you are, perhaps, interested in supporting, or further supporting, the meaningful and memorable work we do. To those who generously support us, we are truly thankful. Together, we are making a tremendous impact in many ways. For those who are seeking insight and/or considering future support of our organization, please find 20 highly regarded reasons why Building Homes for Heroes may very well be your choice in 2020.

1. **Gifting 11 Homes in 11 Weeks in Honor of Veterans Day 11-11**
This Veterans Day, we honored our heroes with 11 home giftings in 11 weeks. Nine of the recipients are Purple Heart recipients and two have been awarded the Silver Star. All are rated 100% injured and permanently disabled by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This is a feat we hope to accomplish again next Veterans Day .
2. **One Mortgage-Free Home Every 11 Days** – With growing support, we hope to help more veterans and families than ever before by gifting and modifying as many as 40 mortgage-free homes for injured veterans in 2020, exceeding our goal of gifting one home every eleven days, on average.
3. **225 Homes Gifted and Modified** – Thanks to the continued support from so many, we are proud to gift our milestone 225th home by the end of 2019 for our nation's veterans.
4. **Gifting and Modifying 500 Homes by 2025** — With more than 5,000 applicants at this time hoping for a home, Building Homes for Heroes hopes to gift as many as 500 mortgage-free homes to our nation's veterans by 2025.
5. **Now Gifting Homes to Gold Star Spouses** – In June of 2018 we proudly gifted our first home to a Gold Star family, for Natasha De Alencar and her five children in Navarre, Florida. We have every intention to gift more homes to Gold Star Families in the years ahead.
6. **Expanding Our Emergency Funding** – We hope to further expand our efforts to provide emergency and watershed funding for veterans and their families who experience sudden life-altering moments in their lives.

7. **Financial Awareness and Well-Being Programs** – In partnership with the NAPFA Consumer Education Foundation (NCEF), we provide 2-4 years of free financial planning for all of our veteran home recipients. We plan to expand upon our financial awareness programs to help an ever-expanding number of families live a life of financial freedom and reduced stress, directly related to their injuries, including PTSD and TBI.
8. **Supporting Recreational Activities, Outdoor Rehabilitation and Entrepreneurial Dreams** – In 2018, we were honored to support the first-ever all-female veteran climb of Mount Denali in 2018, the tallest mountain peak in North America. We have since supported our veterans in the grueling training process for the Invictus Games, the Warrior Games and the Paralympics. We're also helping our veterans start new business and pursue dreams they never imagined when injured.
9. **Team Building** – The annual program in Orlando, Florida is designed to strengthen bonds and family spirit among veterans and their families. It is yet another step toward marital success, family happiness, camaraderie and comfort in their everyday lives. The organization has found this program to be tremendously inspirational for veterans and families alike, another step toward being defined by their accomplishments and activities, and not their injuries or disabilities.
10. **Supporting our Soldiers on the Front Lines** – We have forged a strong bond with our nation's Special Forces, with many high-ranking SOCOM officials frequently attending our home ceremonies. We will strengthen our bond with our nation's Special Forces in 2020, including helping to fly loved ones to military hospitals to visit their injured family members.
11. **4 Stars from Charity Navigator and Platinum on GuideStar** – Building Homes for Heroes was proud to receive the highest possible rating of 4 stars from Charity Navigator, the nation's largest charity evaluator. This score was re-validated in 2018 for a fourth straight year, a rare accomplishment achieved by just 18% of charities nationwide. We were also honored to be awarded a Platinum rating on GuideStar, another independent nonprofit evaluator. Building Homes for Heroes also received a perfect 100 score for accountability and transparency from Charity Navigator, as well as an overall score of 96.46, which puts our organization at the forefront among not only military charities, but all nonprofit organizations of any kind across the country. We anticipate repeating these perfect scores for a fifth consecutive year in 2020.

12. **93% Program Rating or Higher for 8 Consecutive Years** – The organization reached an eighth consecutive year in 2018 in which, at least, 93% of every dollar donated, or more, goes directly to our mission, one of the few charities in the nation to accomplish this feat. We anticipate reaching a 9th consecutive year in 2019.
13. **Founder and CEO's Salary** – For a 16th consecutive year, the Founder and CEO of the organization will donate his time and salary to the organization.
14. **500 Times on Air in 2018** – In 2018 we aired 500 times on different channels, a new record for our home ceremonies and national events, surpassing the previous year's record by 114 airings. To date, the organization has not paid for a single commercial.
15. **Growing Presence on Social Media** – With nearly 130,000 followers on Facebook, more than 11,000 followers on Instagram and more than 140,000 social media followers overall, we are proud to share our achievements with you on a day-to-day basis via social media. Please visit us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to receive regular updates on our activities!
16. **Economic Advancement** – While many contractors are willing to donate their time and service, many do not have the means to do so. Building Homes for Heroes plans to support nearly 700 contractors and their families in the year ahead. We have especially had a major impact in the Great State of Florida, where we have partnered directly with the [State Department of Economic Opportunity](#) for the last several years to gift and modify more than 100 homes for veterans while boosting communities and having a major economic impact across the state.
17. **Community Inspiration** – At many ceremonies, we often see firefighters, police officers, political dignitaries, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies, Daisies, school bands, vintage cars, ROTC volunteers, veterans' groups, family, friends and neighbors alike gather together to celebrate a veteran's homecoming. The impact produced is clearly making our communities and country a better place, and setting a positive example for all to see.

18. **Marital Success and Family Happiness** – Having completed construction on nearly 225 homes for veterans and their families, we are proud to announce that more than 95% of our families remain together currently. A remarkable phenomenon by itself. The combination of financial freedom and community support appears to be creating a clear and concise path towards marital triumph and family happiness for veterans, who are struggling with severe physical and cerebral injuries, including PTSD and TBI.
19. **Corporate and Organizational Support** – Building Homes for Heroes is supported by amazing organizations such as Chase Bank, Advance Auto Parts, Truck Hero, Mazda, Johnson Controls, York Systems, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Cantor Fitzgerald, GE Silicone II, the FDNY, 343 Ride, Legrand North America, Hillwood Properties, Tijuana Flats, BuilderTrend, Volvo, Valvoline, Mansfield Plumbing, William Ryan Homes, Randy Wise Homes, PCL Construction, Sikorsky Aircraft, Ebby Halliday Realtors, BAE Systems, the Arizona Diamondbacks, Mission BBQ, Chick-Fil-A, plus an ever-growing number of organizations and communities nationwide.
20. **Twelve Straight Years of Continued Growth** – After gifting and modifying 17 homes in 2013, 23 homes in 2014, 28 homes in 2015, 29 homes in 2016 and 30 homes in 2017 and 34 homes in 2018, we have every intention of continuing this successful trend in 2019 and again in 2020.



**20 REASONS TO SUPPORT
BUILDING HOMES FOR HEROES IN 2020**



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:

Banking and Insurance, *Chair*
Agriculture
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Environment, and General Government
Community Affairs
Military and Veterans Affairs and Space

JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight

SENATOR DOUG BROXSON

1st District

December 11, 2019

Chairman Wright,

I am writing to request respectfully that I be excused from the December 11 meeting of Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs and Space, due to a death in the family.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please feel free to contact my office, or myself.

Thank you for time and consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Doug Broxson".

Doug Broxson

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 418 West Garden Street, 4th Floor, Room 403, Pensacola, Florida 32502 (850) 595-1036
- ☐ 318 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5001

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

BILL GALVANO
President of the Senate

DAVID SIMMONS
President Pro Tempore

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

12/11/19

Meeting Date

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Veteran Housing

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Nicolette Jennings

Job Title Miss Florida USA 2019

Address 1325 Playmook Dr.

Phone 301-974-9519

Street

Palm Harbor

City

FL

State

34683

Zip

Email Miss FLUSA 2019@gmail.com

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing _____

Appearing at request of Chair: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☒ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (10/14/14)

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: LL 37

Case No.:

Caption: Senate Military and Veterans Affairs and Space Committee

Type:

Judge:

Started: 12/11/2019 10:01:55 AM

Ends: 12/11/2019 11:27:29 AM **Length:** 01:25:35

10:01:53 AM Meeting called to order by Chair Wright

10:02:01 AM Senator Broxson is excused

10:02:19 AM CAA Lois Graham calls the roll

10:02:27 AM Quorum is announced

10:02:40 AM Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Torres

10:02:58 AM Chair Wright with opening comments

10:03:46 AM Tab 1 Presentation by Brigadier General Tom Landerwermeyer, USA (Ret), President and CEO, Homes for our Troops

10:03:58 AM General Landerwermeyer presents

10:27:55 AM Chair Wright with comments

10:27:58 AM Senator Cruz with question

10:28:10 AM General Landerwermeyer responds

10:30:34 AM Senator Pizzo with question

10:30:49 AM General Landerwermeyer responds

10:32:44 AM Senator Pizzo with follow-up

10:32:54 AM General Landerwermeyer responds

10:33:25 AM Senator Pizzo with follow-up

10:33:33 AM General Landerwermeyer responds

10:35:20 AM Senator Gainer with question

10:35:27 AM General Landerwermeyer responds

10:36:08 AM Senator Gainer with comments

10:36:13 AM General Landerwermeyer responds

10:36:54 AM Chair Wright with comments

10:37:05 AM General Landerwermeyer responds

10:37:51 AM Senator Torres with comments

10:39:51 AM Chair Wright with question

10:40:02 AM General Landerwermeyer responds

10:40:11 AM Chair Wright with comments

10:40:26 AM Senator Pizzo with introduction

10:40:40 AM Nicollette Jennings, Miss Florida USA with comments

10:41:41 AM Senator Pizzo with comments

10:41:56 AM Tab 2 Presentation by Andy Pujol, CEO, Founder and Volunteer, Building Homes for Heroes

10:42:22 AM Mr. Pujol presents

11:16:28 AM Senator Pizzo with question

11:16:35 AM Mr. Pujol responds

11:16:52 AM Senator Pizzo with follow-up

11:16:58 AM Mr. Pujol responds

11:17:05 AM Senator Harrell with comments

11:17:31 AM Mr. Pujol responds

11:20:04 AM Mr. Pujol continues presentation

11:23:25 AM Senator Wright with comments

11:23:35 AM Mr. Pujol responds

11:24:27 AM Chair Wright with comments

11:24:38 AM Senator Torres moves to adjourn

11:24:44 AM Senator Pizzo with comments/recognition

11:24:53 AM MSGT Gorge Vera (Ret), Ambassador, Building Homes for Heroes, with comments

11:27:10 AM Chair Wright with comment- recognizes Senator Torres for motion to adjourn

11:27:16 AM Meeting Adjourned