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Media Release

Media Contact:

Laura Williams-Parrish, Community Relations Manager
Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity
Office: 719.475.7800 ext. 106
laura@pikespeakhabitat.org

Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity Recognizes Armed Forces Day and Helps Local Veteran Family Build New Home

Colorado Springs, CO (May 16, 2020) – May 16 marks the United States of America’s Armed Forces Day, a day for our country to appreciate all active duty service members. Established in 1949 by Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson, Armed Forces Day combined celebrations into one day for all U.S. military branches as they were united under the Department of Defense.

As we honor our military forces locally and nationwide, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity (PPHFH) is proud to be a Veterans Build affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. We are dedicated to serving U.S. veterans, military service members and their families in El Paso County.

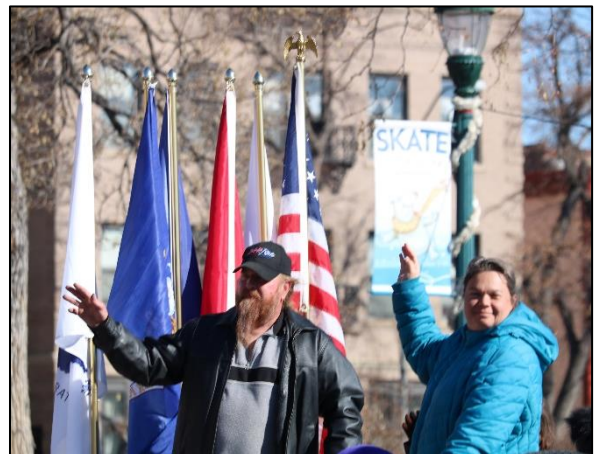
The last thing a veteran should have to worry about is fighting for their own home.

Our second Veterans Build is for Ron and Amanda and their three girls. Ron enlisted in the U.S. Army as a high school senior, and he eventually came to Fort Carson where he served as a medic. About the same time, Amanda’s father was completing his 21-year career in the army, also at Fort Carson. Ron and Amanda happened to meet at a local coffee shop, and after marrying and having their first daughter, they moved to Fountain, Colorado. Now they have three daughters. Amanda is a stay-at-home mom and Ron works as a tow truck driver.

Securing affordable housing for their family has been tough. The townhome where they were living was sold to a new company, and untimely renovations forced all renters out of the complex in the middle of winter with only 60 days’ notice to relocate. They settled in a small home where all three girls share one tiny bedroom.

Now as future Habitat homeowners, Amanda and Ron have spent hundreds of hours building their Habitat house in Fountain alongside volunteers, and they will close on their new home in June. Their dream of a stable home and safe neighborhood for their children is coming true.

A house dedication is planned tentatively for June 6, 2020, although given the COVID-19 situation, the dedication will be virtually shared instead of in-person, with a pre-recorded video celebration. Please watch PPFH’s website and social media below for updates.



Ron and Amanda riding PPFH’s float in the 2019 Colorado Springs Veterans’ Day Parade



About Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity

Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity (PPHFH) builds affordable housing in El Paso County in partnership with the community and prospective homeowners. Partner families build their home alongside volunteers, and purchase their house with an affordable mortgage. PPHFH has been an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International since 1986 and has assisted 175 families achieve and maintain homeownership in El Paso County. As an official **Veterans Build Affiliate** with Habitat for Humanity International, PPHFH is part of a national effort to not only provide affordable and decent homes for men and women who have served, but we also join a larger voice advocating for the needs of our veterans and their families. We are committed to seeking more volunteer engagement from veteran groups as well as recruiting veterans for employment, internships, and other service opportunities. To learn more about our Veterans Build, please visit <https://pikespeakhabitat.org/veteranbuild> and a [media kit can be found here](#). For more information, visit www.pikespeakhabitat.org. Find us on social media at [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

Housing Facts about Veterans

The National Low Income Housing Coalition finds that 2.5 million veterans heading households are at least 55 years of age. Of those 2.5 million veterans, 24% have housing cost burdens. Unlike our older civilians, our older veterans are more likely to have a disability - 35% versus 28% - which may require home modifications, health and other supportive services as they age.

According to a report by the National Housing Conference, nearly half of our veterans who are single mothers spend more than 30% of their income on housing. Our female veterans face significant economic and housing challenges and are particularly vulnerable to housing cost burdens compared with our overall veteran population.

The current economic situation has made the transition from military service to civilian life difficult for many of our veterans.

In addition, nearly 4 million of our veterans pay at least 30% of their income toward rent or mortgage, while more than 1.5 million pay at least 50%. As you can imagine, using half of your income to pay your rent or mortgage is an enormous strain on any budget.

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