



## **Media Release**

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## **Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity Assists Local Veterans and Recognizes Armed Forces Day**

**Colorado Springs, CO** (May 21, 2022) – The third Saturday of May marks the United States of America’s Armed Forces Day—this year it falls on May 21—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. PPHFH is dedicated to serving U.S. veterans, military service members and their families in El Paso County, and builds new homes and offers home repair assistance for eligible veterans. This year we will be building our fourth Veterans Build home for a local veteran.

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

Last year, Monya closed on her Habitat home in Colorado Springs, and her children finally have their own rooms and a yard to play in. “That’s a big thing for us, the yard. It’s a big deal [for the kids] to be able to play outside and not have to worry if something is gonna happen. They can just be kids.”

Monya served in the Army and National Guard for five years, stationed at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs, among other military bases during her military career. After her service, Monya wasn’t able to afford to live on her own, so she and her son moved in with her mother. In the following years, Monya had her daughter and a second son, and her family of four had to make do in a two-bedroom apartment in a less than safe area. Now as a Habitat homeowner, Monya can be assured of a safe and secure home for her family.

As an official Veterans Build affiliate, 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 [pikespeakhabitat.org/veteranbuild](https://pikespeakhabitat.org/veteranbuild).

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**About Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity**

Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity (PPHFH) builds strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter in El Paso County. We build permanent, affordable homes in partnership with the community and prospective homebuyers. Partner families purchase their homes with affordable mortgages. PPHFH has been an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International since 1986 and has assisted 202 families in El Paso County. In addition to new construction, PPHFH also offers repairs for homeowners who are seniors (65 and older), veterans, and cost-burdened families. For more information, visit [pikespeakhabitat.org](http://pikespeakhabitat.org). Find us on social media at [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

**Housing Facts about Veterans (per Habitat for Humanity International)**

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%.