



# Foundations

A Newsletter from Homes For Our Troops | [www.hfotusa.org](http://www.hfotusa.org) | November 2020

## Welcome Home Shumaker Family



## 300 Homes and Counting!

YOUR SUPPORT ENABLES VETERANS TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES

Dear HFOT Supporters,

On Sept. 12, 2020, we celebrated the significant milestone of delivering our 300th specially adapted custom home to Army Sergeant Nathan Shumaker in Hillsboro, Missouri. There are now over 300 severely injured post-9/11 Veterans and their families living in barrier-free environments, rebuilding their lives. This is something that should make you, as one of our valued Mission Supporters, truly proud.



We have been able to achieve this accomplishment despite the obstacles posed by the global pandemic. Like most organizations, Homes For Our Troops completely altered its daily operations, with all employees working remotely for several months to maintain the health and safety of all staff members. Although modified working conditions created challenges, the team has not lost sight of our primary mission: bringing these brave men and women into their forever homes. Our cause is crucial, now more than ever, and the need for a safe, secure, and accessible home is paramount for our Veterans during this time.

Despite timing, coordination, revenue, and cost challenges associated with the pandemic, we have been able to continue moving construction forward. In addition to our 300th home, HFOT has delivered over 15 homes since March, conducting scaled-down, modified events that adhere to local and regional COVID-19 guidelines. We are continuing the momentum and making sure we take care of these brave Americans, while keeping our Veterans, staff, and supporters safe.

Most importantly, what keeps us driving onward is the continued generosity from supporters like you. Each of the specially adapted custom homes we present is made possible by dedicated donors, volunteers, corporate partners, fundraisers, and foundations. We know you are still coping with the ongoing pandemic, but you have not forgotten our duty to take care of these great American Patriots. Though we have put over 300 severely injured post-9/11 Veterans into their forever homes, we have a long way to go. There are still over 1,000 severely injured Veterans in need of adapted housing, and we have more than 60 active projects and over 100 injured Veterans in our application process. Together, we will continue to move closer to our goal of making sure every Veteran who qualifies for our homes receives one.

I am proud to present this newsletter that demonstrates the impact you are making in these Veterans' lives. In the following pages, we share inspiring stories about what our Veterans are accomplishing. Each one of YOU play a part in making this possible. Thank you for being there for our Veterans and their families when they need you most.

Sincerely,

*Dick Cody*

Richard A. Cody  
General, USA Retired

November 2020

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Above: Army SGT Nathan Shumaker with his daughter, Kaylee, and HFOT Board of Directors Chairman GEN Richard Cody at the 300th Home Key Ceremony on Sept. 12, 2020.



## A History of Excellence

HFOT has been evaluated as one of America's Top Rated Veterans and Military Charities.



# An inspiring “Storey”

**Future HFOT home recipient Kionte Storey is conquering mountains and completing marathons**



Marine Corporal Kionte Storey with his service dog Koja.

The ability to summit the world’s tallest mountains or race as a competitive sprinter is impressive for anyone. For Marine Corporal Kionte Storey, these accomplishments are even more remarkable, considering he’s done both – and more – with a prosthetic leg.

While summiting Mount Vinson in Antarctica in 2013, Kionte reached an emotional breakthrough. The journey was long and tiresome, but one thing kept him going: his fellow Marines. *“The climb pushed me to my limits. As we got closer to the summit, the harder things got. But I thought about my Marines that are no longer with us, and Veterans in the hospital who inspired me,”* he says.

*“All of these sports helped with my recovery physically, but more so for my mental health and wellbeing. I had never done any of these activities before my injury, so they were all new to me. The excitement of traveling to experience things most people dream about made it even more special. It is a great outlet to show others what we as humans can do, despite our struggles, injuries, and hardships.”*

Kionte’s journey to scaling some of the world’s tallest summits was a rocky one at first. On Sept. 7, 2010, Kionte lost his right leg to an improvised explosive device (IED) while on patrol with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, in Sangin, Afghanistan. During his recovery, Kionte was discouraged while lying in his hospital bed. He felt himself going to a dark place, but then he realized he did not want his injury to define his lifestyle, and he set his sights on adventures that would take him far from his hospital room.

Kionte’s first athletic achievement was qualifying for the U.S. Paralympic Team as a sprinter. He eventually added snowboarding and mountaineering to his athletic endeavors. He has also run several races with Team HFOT, Homes For Our Troops’ running team. *“I found that I was able to inspire others around me. Mountaineering was scary at first, but it brought me so much peace being out in nature,”* he says.

Reaching a mountain top or crossing a finish line is always a joyful moment for Kionte. *“It’s like there is nothing I am unable to do, and I want to find that next challenge to push me to those limits.”*

Though Kionte has conquered impressive athletic goals post-injury, his current home still presents many challenges. He often fears he’ll slip in the shower, injuring himself further, and sometimes resorts to crawling to access individual rooms because his home does not accommodate a wheelchair. Receiving a specially adapted custom home with a roll-in shower and an open floorplan will mitigate many of Kionte’s concerns. Not to mention, having a therapy tub will enable Kionte to rest and recover in between his athletic excursions.

When he was welcomed into the HFOT Family, Kionte felt incredibly humbled. *“My first feeling was excitement and that I don’t deserve this. I know there are others who deserve it more, but I feel so blessed,”* he says.

Kionte says the home will enable him to focus on his education and future career. He is currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree in kinesiology, and plans to obtain a doctorate in physical therapy with hopes of working with adaptive athletes. Most importantly, the home will provide the foundation to raise a family in the future. *“I am grateful that I will be able to come home to a place of my own, and, when it comes time, raise a family without financial stress.”*

Kionte says words cannot express his gratitude to HFOT’s supporters for providing him with this special gift. *“Because of you, my life will change for the better. Your support of HFOT’s mission truly goes above and beyond. You are changing so many lives.”*



Three years after his injury, Cpl Storey climbed Mount Vinson in Antarctica.





## HFOT Celebrates its 300th Home!

Sept. 12, 2020, will always be a special date for Army Sergeant Nathan Shumaker, his wife Missy, and their two

children – it was the day they received the keys to their specially adapted custom home in Hillsboro, Missouri. *“We have our forever home now, and it’s amazing how everyone came together. I want to say thank you to all those who donated to make this home our home,”* says Nathan. *“You’re making our dreams come true.”*

The day is significant not only for the Shumaker Family but for Homes For Our Troops as well: it marks the 300th specially adapted custom home the organization has delivered since its inception in 2004. The occasion was celebrated with a Volunteer Day to coincide with September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance and a Key Ceremony the following day. Both events were scaled-down in attendance to align with local COVID-19 guidelines. Still, the spirit of everyone who supported the Shumakers’ home – and the other 299 Veterans who have received HFOT homes – was felt throughout the crowd as Nathan received his keys. *“All our donors and supporters are the reason we’re able to Build Homes and Rebuild Lives,”* said HFOT Chairman of the Board GEN Richard Cody.

Several HFOT Corporate Partners joined us for the 300th Home Celebration. Representatives from C.H.I. Overhead Doors, ABC Supply, Boeing, Wyffels Hybrids, Shaw Flooring, Veterans United, Wounded Warrior Project, Budget Blinds, and Broan-NuTone were in attendance at the event, and Wayfair fully furnished the Shumakers’ home.

*“It’s heartwarming to see this come to fruition for Nate and Missy. Delivering 300 homes is a fantastic milestone for Homes For Our Troops; it signifies the longevity, the endurance, and the permanent impact of the organization, and C.H.I. is privileged to be a partner,”* says David Bangert, CEO of C.H.I. Overhead Doors.

*“It’s humbling and reminds me of what I think America is all about,”* adds Broan-NuTone LLC President/CEO Frank Carroll.

Though Homes For Our Troops is proud of this achievement, our mission continues, and we are not stopping anytime soon. *“With great corporate partners, donors, and supporters across the country, neither time nor COVID-19 has stopped us. With over 65 ongoing projects across the country, more than 100 Veterans in the application process of our program, and another 1,000+ severely injured post-9/11 Veterans who qualify, we’ve got a lot of work ahead,”* says HFOT President/CEO Tom Landwermyer.



### An uplifting future

In her Key Ceremony speech, Missy Shumaker shares how moved she is by the generosity HFOT’s donors and supporters have shown their family.

*“Homes For Our Troops is such an amazing organization. Every single person we have worked with along the way has been wonderful. We feel as if we have gained a whole new family, and we are so grateful.”*

*As many of you already know, Nate has done great through his recovery. He can be a bit hard-headed and has pushed through obstacles. If someone said he could not do something, Nate has always proved them wrong. He has overcome setbacks and still amazes us all.*

*I know he is looking forward to the roll-in shower because he won’t have to hop around on one leg to get in and out anymore. Many of you see him in his prosthetic leg most days, but that puts a lot of wear on his limb. Nate being able to be more comfortable and able to help with the kids while in his wheelchair is such a blessing. I have seen him struggle mentally on days when his leg hurts, and he cannot do much because he has to use his crutches or sit there. We all know he absolutely hates asking for help.*

*I am so excited for the future. Before, I would constantly worry about how he will be physically in the years to come with having to wear his prosthetic and push through the pain. That worry is now gone. Not only can he relax, but I can too.*

*So again, I want to thank you all. Thank you to every single person who has helped build our home and donated time and energy to make it perfect. I wish I could hug all of you! No matter if your donation was big or small, it is helping give our kids a less stressful environment to grow up in, and it is giving Nate back the independence he so deserves.”*

### Join our 300th Home Celebration Fundraising Campaign!

In light of our 300th home milestone, we are launching our 300th Home Celebration, and we would love for you to join us!

**Here are some of the guidelines:**

- You can walk, bike, run, swim, dance, or use any creative way to honor our Veterans. You pick the course, and you can choose where.
- Bad weather? No problem because a treadmill or stationary bike will work too. 0.3 miles? 3 miles? 30 miles? 300 miles? YOU pick the distance that you want to complete.
- If you would like to be featured on our social media, please email us one of your fun pictures running, biking, walking, swimming, dancing, or conducting any other activity to raise awareness.
- Raise a minimum of \$300 for HFOT and submit by **DECEMBER 31, 2020**. Share with your friends & family and recruit others to join us.

Join the HFOT family by visiting our 300th Home Celebration website where you can register or contact us with questions:

<https://www.myhfotusa.org/300thHomeCelebration>

### Going further, together



After retiring from the Army in 2009, CW3 (USA, Ret.) Robin Boudiette, Jr., started participating in events and running races for military nonprofits. In early 2020, while researching running teams for the Berlin Marathon, Robin came across Homes For Our Troops and knew instantly he wanted to join the organization’s mission

of building and donating specially adapted custom homes for severely injured post-9/11 Veterans.

Robin will be running for Team HFOT in 2021. He and his wife Roberta had the privilege of attending the 300th Home events for Army SGT Nathan Shumaker, and experiencing firsthand the impact of being an HFOT supporter.

*“Seeing the local and national community come together for SGT Shumaker and his family was a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish when we come together as Americans for a common purpose. All the corporate sponsors, first responders, all the volunteers – it was an inspiring community accomplishment. The U.S. Army calls selfless service ‘the commitment of each team member to go a little further, endure a little longer, and look a little closer to see how he or she can add to the effort’ – we equate those ideas directly to how we can all find ways to contribute and give back to those who have sacrificed so much. To continue to go a little further for our Veteran community, I plan to do just that with my HFOT fundraising efforts and on the streets of Berlin in September 2021.”*

Learn more about Team HFOT at [www.hfotusa.org/teamhfot](http://www.hfotusa.org/teamhfot)





Army SPC Jarrod Addison speaks to the audience at his Key Ceremony in July 2020.



SPC Addison and his family cut the ribbon to their new home.

## A New Journey

Army Specialist Jarrod Addison was full of appreciation on the day he received his specially adapted custom home in Jacksonville, Florida, on July 11, 2020. Below is the moving speech he gave.

*Let me thank each of you for taking the time to come and show support for this mission. Seeing this build from start to finish hasn't fully kicked in. I was sitting writing this, thinking of what emotions I would possibly feel heading into this event, and it was a feeling I'm not equipped to put into words. Gratitude is an understatement, thankful doesn't even begin to touch it. I think I was having a hard time putting these feelings into words because this is a new start. This is something I have never truly been given, a fresh start. Obviously, I'm excited, but I'm also grateful for the opportunity that has been given to me. Security, stabilization, a general feeling of "this is a new chapter in life for my family".*

*As I stated at my Community Kickoff, this isn't just a home. This is security and stability so many Veterans struggle to find. That's why I am extremely thankful for those that assisted my family with a fresh start. E Squared Design & Construction [builder] – you killed it! We're in the middle of a pandemic; you did this from scratch in less than six months! Thank you so much for that. Wounded Warrior Project, thank you. Your donations, as well as all of the help you've given, have been extremely helpful and meaningful, not just to me, but my family as well. Budget Blinds, you have been hands on throughout this project, thank you so much! Truly, I am beyond thankful for each and every one of you.*

*Homes For Our Troops helps to rebuild futures and that means my future starts today. I don't know what the future holds, but I know my book has a lot of blank pages and Homes For Our Troops has given me the pen to fill those pages. The security and peace of mind that we are afforded is beyond anything I could have ever expected.*

*Honestly, I'm excited to move forward so I will end by saying thank you again. I don't think I can say thank you enough to everyone involved be it directly or just through support. Thank you again, and God bless.*

## Donor Spotlight: Evelyn Malm and Gail G. Hayes

Evelyn Malm and Gail G. Hayes, both retired teachers from Massachusetts, have been faithful supporters of Homes For Our Troops for the last several years. They learned about the organization from their former student, HFOT's Director of Development Chris Mitchell.

*"After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, we both felt we owed thanks to those Veterans who served in harm's way and made great sacrifices to protect all of us at home. We learned that Homes For Our Troops (HFOT), a top-rated charity, is unlike other Veteran organizations. Rather than just building homes, HFOT continues to provide assistance and financial advice to the Veterans and their family long after the key is turned."*

**Evie Malm and Gail Hayes**



Evelyn Malm and Gail G. Hayes

## Board Member *Spotlight*

**Richard A. Cody  
General USA, Ret.**



General USA, Ret. Richard A. Cody was born in Montpelier, Vermont. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point on 6 June 1972 with a B.S. degree, and during his 36+ years on active duty, became a Master Army Aviator, rated in over 19 helicopters and has over 5000 hours of flight time.

During his years of service, General Cody served in six of the Army's combat divisions, commanding at every level including serving as the Commander of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, and as the Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell, KY. He also held numerous key staff positions, culminating his distinguished career as the 31st Vice Chief of Staff, Army from June 2004 to August 2008.

Following retirement from the Army, he served as an SVP for L3 Technologies for ten years, and in addition to presiding as National Chairman of the Board for Homes For Our Troops for almost 11 years, he is a Board Trustee of the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, the George C. Marshall Foundation, on the Advisory Board for Hope for the Warriors and he is the founder and lead pilot for Operation Flying Heroes, which provides flights for wounded Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans. He is a 2009 inductee to the Army Aviation Hall of Fame, and a 2016 inductee as a Distinguished Graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point.

General Cody is married to the former Vicki Lyn Heavner and they have two sons, Clint and Tyler, who are active duty helicopter pilots and have both commanded Attack Helicopter Battalions. Each has served several combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. General Cody and his wife Vicki were recently selected by the Association of the United States Army, to receive the General Creighton W. Abrams Medal for a lifetime of exceptional service to the U.S. Army.

***What motivated you to become a member of the organization's Board of Directors?*** From Day 1 of being on the HFOT Team, I realized we were much more than simply a charity with a mission. I have always felt it is our duty to assist these severely injured Veterans and their Families. The Veterans voluntarily served, and they and their Families have sacrificed greatly so the rest of us can continue to enjoy our daily freedoms. I personally don't feel we could ever do enough for these Veterans and their Families.

***Why is HFOT's mission important to you?*** These Veterans and their Families have given their all for this country. HFOT just happens to be the vehicle through which the citizens of the United States can support in order to repay a very small portion of a debt that can never be fully repaid. And we need to get these Veterans into these adapted homes quickly, as every minute they spend in an unsafe and not fully accessible home only increases the likelihood of further injury, and continues to increase the burden and stress on the spouse/caregiver and the entire Family.

***What would you say to encourage others to get involved with HFOT's mission?*** As we present the ceremonial key to a Veteran and Family at their Key Ceremony, I always begin it by saying "On behalf of the American people..." And we need the support of our citizens now more than ever. If you want to support a highly rated non-profit that keeps their overhead low, and you want to help enable life changing impact on our Nation's severely injured Veterans and their Families, then getting involved with Homes For Our Troops is what you need to do. You can support us as a donor, volunteer, advocate or fundraiser. I guarantee you won't regret it.

***What has been your most memorable moment with the organization?*** Anytime I'm around the HFOT Team, and especially around the Veterans and Families we support, it's always memorable. We don't pay our folks a lot, but we try and care for them in other ways, and it really has become a family. To think we've now built and donated more than 300 specially adapted custom homes....Well, that is truly a significant milestone, and we're very proud of it. But we've celebrated it, and I know our Team is now focused on the more than 60 projects currently underway across the country, and the more than 100 Veterans in the application process of our program. We've got a lot of work to do!

***What's the biggest challenge for HFOT- and what steps is the Board taking to meet / accomplish its mission despite that challenge?*** Our biggest challenge remains awareness on a National level. That challenge has always been rooted in our desire to keep our overhead low. It's hard to maintain almost 90 cents of every dollar going to our program consistently year after year. Because of that, we don't pay for a lot of advertising, and rely more on "word of mouth" for awareness. In the past few years, we have hired a Digital Marketer, as well as another staffer focused entirely on our social media accounts. We are actually making great strides at improving awareness of HFOT and our mission, and that includes Board Directors working contacts to get into national level media organizations. It's difficult to break out at the National level, but I've got great confidence in our Staff and Board that we're going to crack that nut eventually.





As we near the end of 2020, it is a good time to consider the ways in which you can support HFOT. Did you know that you can donate stocks, bonds, or other securities? This is a great way to support *HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS* and the Veterans we serve, with the added bonus of potential tax savings!\*

For more information about donating stock, or including HFOT in your estate, please contact

**Suzanne Shaheen at: 508-823-3300 ext. 241  
or [sshaheen@hfotusa.org](mailto:sshaheen@hfotusa.org)**

\*HFOT recommends you consult a tax professional about your personal giving strategy.



Help us reach our goal of **\$750,000**  
to Build Homes and Rebuild Lives



**GI**  **ING TUESDAY**

**12.1.20**

Your support will provide life-changing home features to severely injured Veterans.

**DOUBLE YOUR DONATION! The Andresen Family Foundation will match all donations up to \$250,000!**