



**400<sup>TH</sup> HOME**  
**HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS**

## HFOT Celebrates 400th Home!

## A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Dear HFOT Supporters,

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Homes For Our Troops. Over the past two decades, we've worked tirelessly to build and donate specially adapted custom homes to our nation's severely injured post-9/11 Veterans. Because of your generous support, over 400 Veterans and their families are now rebuilding their lives in HFOT homes, with another 63 home-build projects in various stages of construction underway nationwide.

As we observe Veterans Day this month, I want to thank you for honoring the service and sacrifice of our men and women who answered the call to defend our nation in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. We owe a significant debt to these American patriots, and your commitment to our mission helps us repay a small portion of that debt that will never be completely repaid.

This newsletter highlights how your support is life-changing. You'll meet future home recipient Army Sergeant Chris Short, a dedicated single father looking forward to raising his daughter in a barrier-free environment. In September, we donated our 400th home to the Flores family in New Braunfels, Texas—a tremendous milestone we celebrate with you on page 6. In addition to our many individual donors and fundraisers, our corporate partners continue to go above and beyond in their commitment to our mission. Texas Roadhouse, a national HFOT corporate partner for over two decades, fully funded the 400th home. Learn more about their long-standing support of severely injured post-9/11 Veterans on page 7.

While this issue celebrates and reflects on the impact of 20 years of Rebuilding Lives, we must continue our efforts. There are still nearly 1,000 more severely injured post-9/11 Veterans nationwide in need of adapted housing. Homes For Our Troops is committed to ensuring that every Veteran who qualifies for one of our homes receives one. Because of the support of great Americans like you, I know we will fulfill this mission.

Thank you for the difference you are making in the lives of our nation's severely injured Veterans and their families this Veterans Day and every day. I look forward to what we can accomplish together as we Build Homes and Rebuild Lives.

Sincerely,

General Richard A. Cody, USA (Ret.)  
Chairman, Homes For Our Troops



## November 2024

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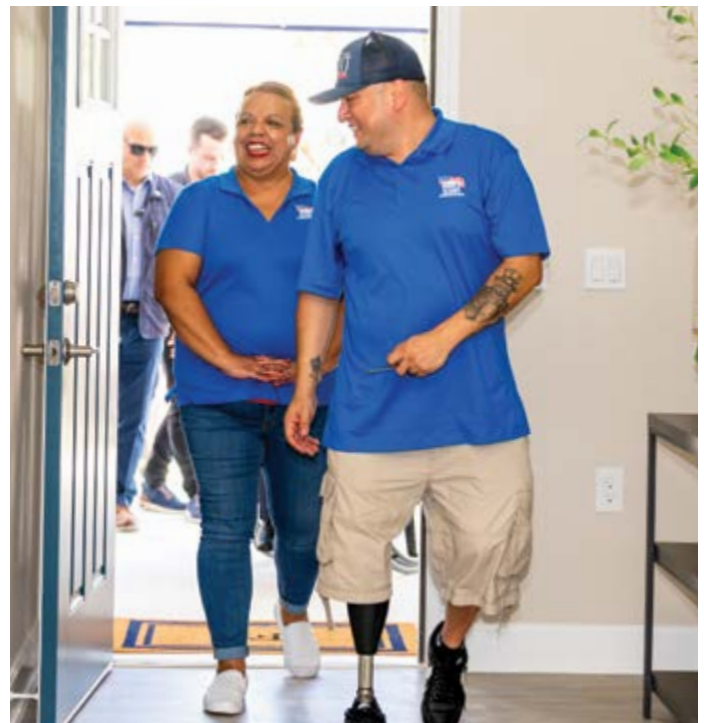
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HFOT 400th home recipients Marine LCpl Alberto and Elvira Flores received the keys to their home on September 21, 2024.



give.org



## A History of Excellence

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



# Looking Forward

Army SGT Chris Short



Chris Short was a college student considering law school as a potential next step when he watched his country come under attack on September 11, a day that changed the trajectory of his future. He enlisted in the Army with two of his friends and deployed to Afghanistan in 2004 with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. "I loved the fraternity, the brotherhood. It was a family," he says.

On March 29, 2005, Sergeant Short was on a patrol when his vehicle drove over two anti-tank mines in Oruzgan, Afghanistan. He lost his right leg and sustained multiple severe injuries in the blast. "The worst issue was the traumatic brain injury," he recalls. "I couldn't take care of myself at all. I had to have the nurses help me, and I spent a lot of time in occupational therapy. I had to learn how to read and write again."

After years of hard work and extensive rehabilitation, his resolve and determination paid off. "I forget how many surgeries, but close to 30 total with 13 surgeries on my right arm because my elbow was fused. I don't have a full range of motion, but I've got most of it back. I can still shoot a compound bow," he says proudly.

Recently retired from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs where he worked as a peer support specialist in the suicide prevention, homeless, and PTSD programs, Chris is a single father who is busy raising his teenage daughter Caroline. The pair are watersports enthusiasts and share a passion for wakesurfing, often competing in events together for Wake for Warriors.

Future recipients of a specially adapted custom HFOT home in Florida, Chris and Caroline are looking forward to moving out of their inaccessible apartment. "To be able to navigate a home, cook for my daughter, do laundry, get in and out of the shower from my wheelchair—it would change

everything," he says. "Going up and down the stairs is taxing. Being able to access every room in my wheelchair when I need to recover will be crucial. I've never been able to do that in a home I've lived in."

Most importantly, Chris would like HFOT donors and supporters to know his HFOT home will relieve stress and allow him to focus on the future. "The home will help reduce stress about getting my basic needs taken care of and recovering when I'm suffering complications from my injuries. The lack of a mortgage will be a huge stress relief financially and allow me to allocate some resources elsewhere, such as college funds, donating to ministries and charities, investing, and enjoying life with my family."

When asked what he's looking forward to most in his future specially adapted custom HFOT home, Chris sums it up in one word. "Everything," he says.



Army SGT Chris Short with his daughter Caroline.

# Building Homes & Rebuilding Lives

**2004**

HFOT ESTABLISHED



FIRST TEXAS ROADHOUSE  
FUNDRAISING EVENT



**2005**

1ST HFOT HOME  
ARMY SGT PETER DAMON



MIDDLEBORO, MA



**2008**

HFOT EARNS A RATING  
FROM CHARITY WATCH



**2019**

1ST DAY OF GIVING

HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS

*Day of Giving*



**2020**

300TH HFOT HOME  
ARMY SGT NATE SHUMAKER  
HILLSBORO, MO



**2022**

1ST INDY 500



**2022**

50TH TEXAS HOME  
ARMY SPC JOHNNY NGUYEN  
SPRING BRANCH, TX





# Rebuilding Lives for 20 years

**2009**

HFOT MOVES  
HEADQUARTERS TO  
TAUNTON, MA



**2010**

HFOT EARNS  
4-STAR RATING FROM  
CHARITY NAVIGATOR



**2011**

1ST HFOT  
GOLF CLASSIC



100TH HFOT HOME  
IN MEMORIAM OF  
MARINE Sgt KENNY LYON



**2018**

1ST BY THE NUMBERS  
*By the Numbers*  
HFOT IMPACT



**2017**

1ST CELEBRITY  
AUCTION



**2016**

200TH HFOT HOME  
MARINE Cpl ZACH NELSON  
NOBLESVILLE, IN



**2024**

**2023**

HFOT EXPANDS TO HOMES  
BUILT IN 45 STATES



50TH CALIFORNIA HOME  
NAVY HM3 RANDELL LEONCIO  
ESCONDIDO, CA



400TH HFOT HOME  
MARINE LCpl ALBERTO FLORES  
NEW BRAUNFELS, TX





# HFOT Celebrates 400th Home!



Marine LCpl Alberto and Elvira Flores and family with Texas Governor Greg Abbott and HFOT President/CEO Tom Landwermeyer at the 400th Home Key Ceremony on Sept. 21, 2024. Back Row (L to R): HFOT Board Director General (USMC, Ret) John Allen, Co-founder and Chairman of ABC Supply Co., Inc. and HFOT Board Director Diane Hendricks, HFOT Board Director SMA (USA, Ret) Kenneth Preston, HFOT Board Director and Texas Roadhouse CEO Jerry Morgan, and Bubba's 33 Field Marketing Director and HFOT Board Ambassador Kirsten Smith.

On September 21, 2024, Homes For Our Troops celebrated a significant milestone by delivering our 400th specially adapted custom home to Marine Lance Corporal Alberto Flores and his family in New Braunfels, Texas.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott joined HFOT President/CEO Tom Landwermeyer, HFOT Board Director and Texas Roadhouse CEO Jerry Morgan, and numerous HFOT Board Directors and military and community leaders to deliver remarks to over three hundred guests. LCpl Flores, who was severely injured in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast in Iraq, spoke at the event about what the home means to him and Elvira, his wife of more than twenty-five years whom he met in the eighth grade.

"This home means so much to me and my family and it's going to change my life; being able to have full access to the home and being able to finally wheel around in my wheelchair when I can't wear my prosthetic will make a world of difference," he said. "My wife has been worried about me for the last nineteen years. Always checking on me when I'm doing things around the house and making sure I'm all right. I'm glad this house is going to finally give us peace of mind."

HFOT Silver National Partner Texas Roadhouse, National Partner Bubba's 33, and their affiliates Jaggers and the TXRH Support Center worked together to generously fund the home, while HFOT Gold National Partner Wayfair fully furnished the home. ABC Supply Co., Inc. showed their continued support by attending the 400th home celebration, as did multiple corporate partner representatives, including Shaw Flooring, Cosentino, MITER Brands, Sherwin Williams, and Populus Financial Group. Additionally, H-E-B stocked the pantry for the Flores family.

While handing over the keys to the 400th home in the year of our 20th anniversary is a tremendous achievement, Homes For Our Troops remains focused on the mission ahead.

"We could not have reached this incredible milestone without the continued commitment of our patriotic donors, volunteers, and partners like Texas Roadhouse," says HFOT President/CEO, Brigadier General, USA (Ret) Tom Landwermeyer. "We are especially grateful to have Governor Greg Abbott join us in presenting the keys to this home and supporting our critical mission. While we celebrate this achievement, our goal is to build a specially adapted custom home for every post-9/11 Veteran who qualifies. We look forward to continuing our work of Building Homes and Rebuilding Lives."



Marine LCpl Alberto Flores with Texas Governor Greg Abbott and HFOT President/CEO Tom Landwermeyer.





## Legendary Food! Legendary Service!



Texas Roadhouse and Bubba's 33 senior leadership with Marine LCpl Alberto and Elvira Flores at the 400th home Key Ceremony in New Braunfels, Texas.

**L**egendary food and legendary service are just two distinguishing characteristics of every Texas Roadhouse (TXRH) restaurant nationwide. Their legendary reputation precedes them, and now they have taken it on the road to New Braunfels, Texas by fully funding Homes For Our Troops' (HFOT) 400th specially adapted custom home. On September 21, 2024, Marine LCpl Alberto Flores and his family received the keys to their new HFOT home thanks to the generosity and longstanding support of TXRH. HFOT is privileged and honored to be a part of this historic ride because TXRH is more than a Silver National Partner—they are family!

Texas Roadhouse has been a part of Homes For Our Troops since our inception in 2004. From visiting HFOT Veterans at Walter Reed Medical Center to organizing bike runs to holding FUNdraising events in their stores, they have supported HFOT's mission since the beginning. Jerry Morgan, CEO of TXRH, talks about our partnership:

*"Texas Roadhouse is proud to be one of the original partners for Homes For Our Troops. Our restaurants have helped raise money and awareness of this great organization for more than 20 years, and our founder, Kent Taylor, proudly served on the Board of Directors. I am honored to continue his legacy of supporting Homes For Our Troops and the Veterans they serve who have sacrificed so much protecting our country and freedom."*



TXRH founder and HFOT Board Member Kent Taylor opened the first Texas Roadhouse in Clarksville, Indiana, in 1993. Their made-from-scratch, delicious food began with a dream on a cocktail napkin. Their mission includes "taking no shortcuts. We

take great pride in every plate we serve, every time." Therefore, it is no surprise that this renowned company has been invested in our Veterans and our mission since the beginning. "We are beyond grateful for the 20-year partnership with Silver National Partner Texas Roadhouse, who also fully funded our 400th specially adapted custom home," says HFOT President/CEO Brigadier General (USA, Ret) Tom Landwermeyer. "They are the only partner that has been with us since our inception, and their continued support advances our mission of Building Homes and Rebuilding Lives to get more severely injured post-9/11 Veterans into the homes they need and deserve."

TXRH's commitment and dedication to HFOT are evident in everything they do from spreading the word about our mission and raising money with their national campaigns to donating food at our build events across the country. Over the years, we have witnessed countless stories about TXRH teammates going above and beyond by speaking to local organizations about our Veterans and mission. Their tireless support is evident in everything they do.

*"Thank you alone will never be enough for everything TXRH does for Homes For Our Troops and injured Veteran families, like ourselves. They have brought us in unconditionally with their generosity and kindness, and have treated us as part of their family. We will forever be humbled for this selfless gift. They have all our love," says 400th HFOT home recipients Marine LCpl Alberto and Elvira Flores.*

Please show some appreciation and love to our friends at TXRH by visiting any one of their locations nationwide—you will be blown away by their legendary food and legendary service. And don't forget to tell them that HFOT sent you!

Companies, businesses, and corporations, like TXRH, from all over our great nation are helping us make a difference in the lives of our Veterans and their families. And you can too! For more information on how to become a Corporate Partner, please contact our Corporate Philanthropy Team at [partnership@hfotusa.org](mailto:partnership@hfotusa.org).



Texas Roadhouse "Roadies" at the 400th home Volunteer Day on September 6, 2024.



## MAXIMIZE Your Impact!

*Giving to Homes For Our Troops can also be an act of gratitude for yourself.*

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Our **Smart Giving Suite** explains ways to maximize your giving options by donating through giving vehicles such as these:



**Donor-Advised Funds**

*Donate and recommend grants.*



**Qualified Charitable Distribution**

*Transfer from your IRA directly, and optimize your taxable income.*



**Crypto**

*Modernize your giving with cryptocurrencies.*

These gifts offer tax benefits while also supporting our mission of Building Homes and Rebuilding Lives.

By using the Smart Giving Suite, your gift directly supports the mission, ensuring your generosity significantly impacts our Veterans and their families.

Please contact Suzanne Shaheen, Planned Giving Officer, at 508-967-9041 or [sshaheen@hfotusa.org](mailto:sshaheen@hfotusa.org) with any questions.



*Give the Date*

**GIVING  
TUESDAY**

**DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>**

**Help Us Build Homes and  
Rebuild Lives!**

Learn more at  
[www.hfotusa.org/givingtuesday](http://www.hfotusa.org/givingtuesday)

