

OP FH HOME FRONT

2023 // FALL

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR SUPPORTERS

NOT FORGOTTEN: CELEBRATING OUR VIETNAM VETERANS

Just before U.S. Navy veteran Harold Lincoln and his wife, Mary, walked down the red carpet at the Groundbreaking for their home last year, Mary turned to her husband and said, "This is for you!"

The crowds, the welcome, the celebration—it was a long-awaited welcome home that many Vietnam veterans like Harold never got the chance to have. Harold served in the U.S. Navy from 1955-1957 and has service-connected disabilities including hearing loss, tinnitus, and a skin condition.

Harold became a project foreman after serving in the U.S. Navy, and work eventually landed the family in Waco, Texas, where Harold and Mary raised eight children. In 2021, an electrical fire badly damaged their home of 47 years. That's when Operation Finally Home, along with BAM Builders and sponsor, H-E-B Operation Appreciation, got involved.

At first, the project was considered a modification, but the project team quickly determined a new home was in order. The Lincoln family got the keys to their custom-built home on April 5, 2023.

"We've been away from home almost two years," Mary said. "The home is more than what I imagined. You did a wonderful job. It's beautiful!"

Like Harold, U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Alvin Jackson also served during the Vietnam War. Drafted in 1968, the Tennessee native spent 13 months in Vietnam from May 1969 to June 1970. In addition, he served nearly 20 years as a member of the U.S. Army National Guard.

A cancer survivor twice over himself, Alvin and his wife, Zandra, who is currently battling cancer, live in Cleveland, Tennessee.



Mary and Harold Lincoln at their Surprise.

Credit: H-E-B

In 2018, a tree fell on the Jacksons' home, causing significant damage. Operation Finally Home, along with Lowe's, the Ocoee Region Builders Association and a host of friends, family members and neighbors helped dedicate the Jacksons' new custom-built home on August 5.

"I can't even describe my emotions," Zandra said at the dedication. "It's been a long time."

Operation Finally Home is proud to honor these deserving veterans and their families with a place to call home and make lasting memories with their families, friends and neighbors. Welcome home!



Project sponsors and neighbors join Alvin and Zandra Jackson at their Notes of Love event.



Kevin Brooks, left, mayor of Cleveland, Tennessee, with the Jacksons.

Credit: Ocoee Regional Builders Association

Credit: Ocoee Regional Builders Association



A FEW WORDS FROM DAN

As I see the back-to-school photos from Operation Finally Home families, I am continually amazed at the impact we've had in the lives of America's veterans, first responders and their families. It is a blessing to play a role in providing beautiful, safe places for America's heroes to call home.

In this issue of Homefront, you'll get to get a behind-the-scenes look into what goes into a project from start to finish in our "Behind the Build" article. From celebrating the new school year with our families and their children to honoring Vietnam veterans with the respect they so richly deserve, this issue celebrates everyone who is a part of our Operation Finally Home family.

I hope as you read this issue, you recognize that everything we do at Operation Finally Home is a team effort. We cannot provide mortgage-free homes, home modifications and transitional housing to America's heroes without the continued support of our donors and the dedication and generosity of builders, contractors and project sponsors.

That's what we're celebrating in this issue: our big Operation Finally Home family working together to make a lasting difference in the lives of veterans, first responders and their families. As a family, we celebrate milestones together, support each other in times of need and pray for one another.

We are so thankful for your continued prayers for Rusty Carroll, Operation Finally Home president, and his family as he continues to fight stage 4 colon cancer. Rusty is doing well and has returned to work, but we covet your continued prayers for him and his family. Also, please remember Ruthie Coffman and her family as Ruthie faces her own cancer battle. As always, we place these beloved members of our Operation Finally Home family in God's hands.

I am honored to be a part of the Operation Finally Home family and humbled by the work we are blessed to do. Please join me in celebrating, honoring and praying for each other as we work together to make an impact in the lives of America's heroes.

God Bless,

Dan Wallrath
 Founder of Operation Finally Home

OUR FAMILIES ARE READY FOR SCHOOL



Hutcheson Family – Ground Ball, Georgia (Properties and the Southern Living Custom Builder Program)



Poggi Family – Mascoutah, Illinois (Homes By Deesign along with the Home Builders)



Velez Family – Irving, Texas (Dallas Builders Association, Winston Homes, and the City of Irving)



Kadleck Family – The Woodlands, Texas (Beazer Homes, The Woodlands Corporation and the Houston Texans)



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Montavon Family – Clarksville, Tennessee (Tennessee Housing Development Agency)



Cervantes Family – Round Rock, Texas (Wilshire Homes, Henley Homes)



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Barreiro Family – Bartow, Florida (Lennar and HR Baxter and Sons Enterprises LLC)



Bilek Family – Bartow, Florida (Lennar)



Briggs Family – Rincon, Georgia (Lennar)

HONORED TO SERVE



Craig Morgan, U.S. Army veteran and Operation Finally Home ambassador, reenlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve while onstage at the Grand Ole Opry on July 29. Morgan previously served 17 years in the Army and Army Reserve. Thank you for your continued service, Craig!

BEHIND THE BUILD

Not sure how an Operation Finally Home project comes to life? Here's a brief overview of our process.



ENLIST THE BUILDER

Every Operation Finally Home project begins with a builder. Once a builder has committed to the project, they help determine the location and general home plan.

SELECT A FAMILY

We pair each builder with a specific family. Families are selected from applications and fully vetted by caseworkers. Operation Finally Homes provides a family need assessment to help shape the plans to meet the family's specific needs.



FINALIZE PLANS & BUDGET

Operation Finally Home and the builder work to finalize home plans based on the family need assessment and other factors. A town hall meeting helps to finalize the budget and funding needs.

PILLAR EVENTS

After the builder and family are chosen, the project team marks milestone events as the build or home modification continues. These events allow recipients to celebrate every project milestone while also giving them time to absorb the magnitude of the gift of a home. Typically, there are four pillar events for each project.

1. SURPRISE

The selected family—usually thinking they are attending a meeting as part of the application process—is surprised with the news that they've already been selected to receive a mortgage-free home or home modification. This is sometimes held in conjunction with the Groundbreaking.



2. GROUNDBREAKING

The family, along with the builder, contractors and other project sponsors as well as neighbors and community members, gather at the selected home site to break ground on the veteran or first responder's new home.



3. NOTES OF LOVE

Neighbors and community members join Operation Finally Home, the builder and other project sponsors in writing inspirational and encouraging notes on the unfinished studs and framing of the home. Later, the family arrives to read the notes.



4. DEDICATION

When the project is completed, the families receive the keys at a special dedication and ribbon-cutting event. The builder, contractors, and other project sponsors—along with neighbors, community members and community leaders—gather to prayerfully dedicate the home and celebrate with the family.



FOLLOW THE FREWERD FAMILY DURING THEIR BUILD

MENOMONEE FALLS, WI - BELMAN HOMES

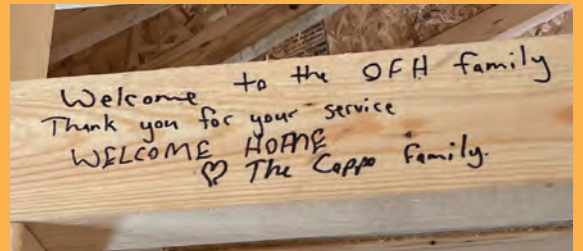
SURPRISE



GROUNDBREAKING



NOTES OF LOVE



DEDICATION





SCAN THIS QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE TO DONATE TO OPERATION FINALLY HOME.





Visit OperationFinallyHome.org or call 615-732-6143 to help a hero!

FOLLOW US!

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Operation Finally Home

This week we welcomed U.S. Army SGM Jose Barreiro and family to their new home with the help of Lennar! Welcome home, Jose! 🇺🇸
Read his story: <https://bit.ly/3Ychpin>



Operation Finally Home

Welcome home, U.S. Army SPC Jesse Freweird and family! On Friday we joined **Balmon Homes** and **Village of Menomonee Falls** in handing over the keys. 🇺🇸
Read their story: <https://www.operationfinallyhome.org/#reward>




Operation Finally Home

Last week we broke ground on the home for U.S. Army SGT Joanna Ellenbeck with the help of the **Greater Houston Builders Association (GHBA)**, the **Houston Texans**, **Century Communities**, **The Howard Hughes Corporation** and **The Woodlands Hills**. 🇺🇸
The Houston Texans



Operation Finally Home

Thank you to the **Patriot Guard Riders** who attend many of our events to support our heroes.



Operation Finally Home

May is National Military Appreciation Month! This month we'll be featuring a few veterans who most recently joined the Operation Finally Home family.
Today we're spotlighting U.S. Army SGM Jose Barreiro. We broke ground on his home in March with Lennar! Read his story: <https://bit.ly/40xXFv>



Operation Finally Home

This week we were blessed to welcome U.S. Marine Corps LCpl Cory Hixson and family to their brand new, mortgage-free home with the help of **Blatt Franks Construction, Inc.**, a member of the **Southern Living Custom Builder Program!**
Read his story here: <https://bit.ly/3rQzKt8>
Walter Lyle Photo



Operation Finally Home

Today is a big homeiversary for U.S. Marine Col James Poggi and family! It's official: five years since we welcomed them home with help from the **Home Builders Assoc Greater Southwest Illinois**, **HQD Homes**, and **Helping the Home Front!**
Read their story here: <https://bit.ly/3vWfTne>



Operation Finally Home

Happy four year homeiversary to U.S. Army LT Garrett Spears and his family! Thank you to **Lennar San Antonio** and **Cushman & Wakefield** for making this project possible. 🇺🇸
Read Garrett's story here: <https://bit.ly/3AIObHF>



Operation Finally Home

Rain or shine, our community shows up for our heroes. Thank you for helping us bring them home. 🇺🇸



Operation Finally Home

Welcome home, U.S. Army SGT George Czap! At the end of May we were blessed to hand over the keys to his mortgage-free home with the help of **DBRC**, **Engles View Church**, and **Royal Crest Custom Homes!**
Read his story here: <https://bit.ly/3GybyUD>





U.S. Army Sergeant George Ceja Dedication Ft. Worth, TX

Credit: Eaglesview Church



U.S. Army Sergeant Major Jose Luis Barreiro Dedication Bartow, FL

Credit: Lenmar Orlando



U.S. Marine Corporal Neftali "Nef" Mendoza Surprise/Groundbreaking Celina, TX

Credit: Normany Homes



U.S. Army Sergeant Joanna Ellenbeck Groundbreaking Willis, TX

Credit: Houston Texans

PILLAR EVENTS:
SURPRISES, GROUNDBREAKINGS,
NOTES OF LOVE & DEDICATIONS



May 1	Adam Holbrook	Notes of Love	Fontana, CA
May 16	Big Heroes Tiny Homes	Dedication	Houston, TX
May 17	Big Heroes Tiny Homes	Dedication	Houston, TX
May 17	Jose Barreiro	Notes of Love	Bartow, FL
May 23	John David Roberts	Surprise/Groundbreaking	New Braunfels, TX
May 25	George Ceja	Dedication	Ft. Worth, TX
July 25	Jose Barreiro	Dedication	Bartow, FL
July 25	Cory Hixson	Dedication	Conway, AR
Aug. 4	Neftali Mendoza	Surprise/Groundbreaking	Celina, TX
Aug. 5	Alvin Jackson	Dedication	Cleveland, TN
Aug. 9	J.D. Roberts	Notes of Love	New Braunfels, TX
Aug. 11	Joanna Ellenbeck	Groundbreaking	Willis, TX
Aug. 11	Jesse Frewerd	Dedication	Menomonee Falls, WI
Aug. 16	Adam Holbrook	Dedication	Fontana, CA
Aug. 18	Tony Honda	Dedication	Windsor, WI
Aug. 30	Samsoni Lelea	Surprise/Groundbreaking	Irving, TX
Sept. 22	Neftali Mendoza	Notes of Love	Celina, TX



U.S. Army Specialist Jesse Frewerd Menomonee Falls, WI

Credit: Cine Design



U.S. Marine Corps Lance Corporal Cory Hixson Dedication Conway, AR

Credit: Walter Lyle