



# PURPLE HEART HOMES CONNECTIONS

2018 FALL EDITION

## PURPLE HEART HOMES LAUNCHES THIRD ANNUAL OPERATION VETERAN HOME RENOVATION CAMPAIGN

Purple Heart Homes officially kicked off the third annual Operation Veteran Home Renovation campaign in partnership with the National League of Cities, mayors and city officials, city financial institutions, Area Agencies on Aging, local contractors, and The Home Depot Foundation.

Participating cities across the nation identify older veterans who need home repairs and collaborate with partners throughout the process to ensure these veterans receive proper assistance. To start, Area Agencies on Aging help the veterans fill out the application. Next, financial partners in each city raise or budget needed funds up to \$5,000. Local Home Builders Association's member contractors then conduct site visits to do a scope of work.

Purple Heart Homes, with support from partners and local volunteers, steps in to provide gift cards to purchase needed materials to build ramps, install grab bars, put on a fresh coat of paint inside or out, and clean up yards.

“As many homeowners know, it is costly to maintain a home. Consider how hard it is for a 68-year-old Vietnam veteran living on a fixed income that had been exposed to Agent Orange and suffers from Parkinson's to get simple ramp installed or a doorway widened. Without money or support, it can be nearly impossible. We are grateful for our collaboration and for our financial partners that are helping make needed home repairs in communities throughout the US,” said John Gallina, Executive Director and Co-founder of Purple Heart Homes.

“City leaders see every day what national data indicates – that veterans are older and more likely to have some form of a disability than non-veterans,” said Clarence Anthony, CEO and Executive Director of the National League of Cities. “Local officials know that building collaborations is a vital step towards more efficiently and effectively meeting the needs of all residents.”

To learn more about Operation Veteran Home Renovation, contact Vicki Thomas at [vthomas@phhusa.org](mailto:vthomas@phhusa.org) or (203) 984-2138.



*Top: Volunteers completed housing renovations for Army Veteran, Jimmie Perkins, in Pensacola, Florida. Middle: Toby Barker, Mayor of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, sits with Navy Veteran, Paul Carpenter. Bottom: Members from Purple Heart Homes, National League of Cities, Team Depot, and the city of Hattiesburg pose with Mr. Carpenter after completing renovations.*

## CO-FOUNDER'S CORNER



**John Gallina**  
Executive Director

Just like many of you, we continue to mourn the loss of our friend and fellow Co-founder, Dale Beatty. The last half of this year has brought on so many new emotions, new meaning, and perspective in our own lives. We all have had times of celebration and times where we have had to dig deep for motivation over the course of 2018. I believe it is in these times, as we are along this journey of life, that we truly identify who we are. The stories I hear from volunteers on project never ceases to amaze me: stories of hurt, pain, sorrow, despair, and loss. Yet each one of these great Americans are out giving their time, treasures, and talents to help others. Each day we continue to find new meaning in our work to serve our nation's finest with support for their housing needs.

As Purple Heart Homes continues to grow to meet the needs of more Service Connected Disabled Veterans, we continue to add new people to our team. Most recently, Matt Stevenson and Christopher Williams, who served with us in the North Carolina National Guard, have joined our team and are working with Brad and the PHH Project Management team. We continue to have more and more veterans calling for assistance and volunteers stepping up willing to help. With the growing needs of our veteran community, we are in continual need for volunteers and supporters. It takes people, citizens, and patriots to make a difference in the lives of our veterans and our communities.

I am excited to tell you about the success of Operation Veteran Home Renovation (OVHR) this year. With the help from some of our amazing partners, The Home Depot Foundation, National League of Cities, Peach State Federal Credit Union, Pen Air Federal Credit Union, Sea Air Federal Credit Union, and The First, we have been able to improve the lives of veterans across the country! We are currently working on projects from Fayetteville, North Carolina all the way to Placentia, California with many

in between. This year's OVHR campaign will complete over 15 projects where communities have stepped up and decided to not leave our veterans behind. Combined with PHH headquarters projects and those completed by PHH Chapters, we are tracking for completion of over 110 projects in 2018! This is an accomplishment we are all quite proud of, as we are about to close out our 10th year of operations.

Some other exciting new projects we have been working on and want to share with you:

Over the last year, we have been working with Wheel House Media and Think Broader Foundation on the development of a virtual reality experience for what it's like to be an amputee. The goggles will allow the user to experience what it's like to return home as a disabled veteran and try to navigate a home that is not accessible for them. The video experience will be available for viewing at the PHH Veterans Aging Summit in Indianapolis and at the 2018 Patriot Gala in Charlotte. Then, on November 26th at the Elder Gallery in Charlotte, the video will make its public debut along with our veteran actor and production team. See our website for more details on these events.

Finally, I'm excited to announce that we have contracted and started work on the second book in the Wounded Homecoming series! Book 2 will focus on the caregivers taking care of their Service Connected Disabled Veteran and the struggles they face. Look for it to be released in spring of 2019, and if you haven't had a chance to read the first book, you can order your copy today from our website at [www.phhusa.org](http://www.phhusa.org) or Amazon.

In closing, on behalf of all of our team, board of directors, and myself, thank you all for your support and continued encouragement. Without your support, we could never achieve so much!

**Available now on**  
**[www.phhusa.org](http://www.phhusa.org)**  
**and Amazon!**



## THE CONSTRUCTION ZONE

For the last 16 years, I have served as a Chaplain in the US Army Reserve. I have been mobilized and deployed overseas to Iraq to serve and care for soldiers who raised their right hand and volunteered in defense of this nation. Throughout those years, I have met some amazing people who lived out a selfless calling to something beyond themselves. This idea of selflessness has been in my thoughts over the last few months.

The apostle Paul wrote to the church in Philippi an encouraging letter, “Consider others as more important than yourselves.” Those are earthshattering words to hear in a world that tells us the exact opposite.

If those words were lived out on a daily basis, we’d see much more goodness in the world around us. Being selfless is a daily task for our team here in Program Services, as we take the hundreds of calls and emails from veterans that are suffering from either issues related to aging or service-connected disabilities (or both). Usually, they have nowhere else to turn. Our business is much more than fixing a roof or widening doors – it’s going the extra mile on behalf of another.

I couldn’t be prouder of the selfless team that we have here at Purple Heart Homes. We are in the midst of the fighting season now with multiple projects going on across the nation and a new home build in Denver, North Carolina. From a Veteran Aging In Place project for a Vietnam veteran right here in Statesville, NC, to a Veteran Homeownership opportunity for a Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran and her two young children in Temple, TX, our team has been stretching their reach as far as possible to ensure that all of these veterans’ lives are touched in the ways that are needed most. Your prayers and support are much appreciated as we fulfill this incredible mission of serving America’s most valuable heroes.

However, we here at Purple Heart Homes aren’t the only ones who are able to assist veterans with their housing needs. Selflessness is a trait that all are people are capable of embracing. We see this with the many volunteers and donors who support our mission of proving housing solutions for veterans that are substantial in function, design, and quality. There is an endless amount of ways that you, your friends, your family, and your communities can join us in our vision of ensuring that every veteran has a safe place to call home. Visiting the “Get Connected” page on our website is a great resource for those looking to give back to the ones that gave up so much for us. Every effort, regardless of size, adds to the amount of goodness we long to see in the world.



**Brad Borders**  
Construction Director

## HEARTS OF HONOR

Happy fall!

Are you a Hearts of Honor member yet? If not, now is a great time to join! By now, I am sure you have heard that our Co-founders – John Gallina and the late Dale Beatty – released their first book *Wounded Homecoming: The Uphill Journey of Wounded Veterans from Battlefield to Homefront*. We have decided to give each new Hearts of Honor member a copy of the book as a bonus gift for joining. Additionally, if you are already a member and upgrade by \$10 a month, you will also receive a copy. This promotion will be active until we reach 250 members, so don’t delay!

Why join Hearts of Honor? Put simply, we have hundreds of Service Connected Disabled Veterans waiting for much needed repairs to their homes that we just do not have the money to complete. They may need something as simple as a ramp to give them the freedom to go in and out of their homes or something as complex as a roof repair to keep their home dry. By joining Hearts of Honor, you give us the ability to forecast how many projects we can afford to complete each quarter, moving veterans from the “waitlist” to “active project”. You can improve their quality of life in a way that truly thanks them for their service to you and all of our great nation.

Becoming a member of Hearts of Honor is so easy! Simply go to our website [www.PurpleHeartHomesUSA.org](http://www.PurpleHeartHomesUSA.org) and fill out your information. If you have any questions about membership in Hearts of Honor, or would like to join over the phone or by mail, please contact Kerry Burdick at [kburdick@phhusa.org](mailto:kburdick@phhusa.org) or (704) 818-3424.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

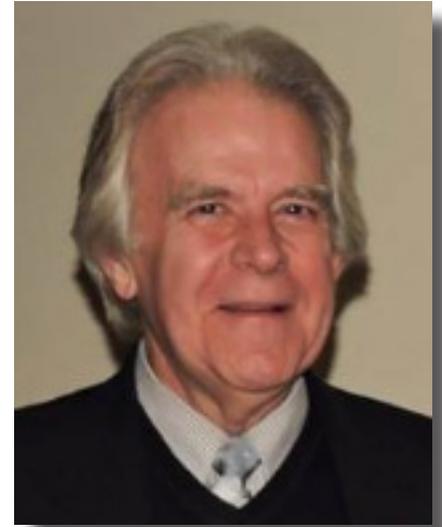
Recently, I watched Hacksaw Ridge, the true story of Pfc. Desmond T. Doss, who was a Medal of Honor Recipient after he risked his life -- without firing a shot -- to save 75 men in the Battle of Okinawa in WWII. As a combat medic, again and again he went back into the battlefield to search, find, carry, and drag the wounded to safety. One thing stood out for me in the movie: when exhaustion overcame Pfc. Doss, and enemy soldiers were near, he would just pray, "Lord, help me get one more," and he would continue his work.

John and Dale's recent book, *Wounded Homecoming, The Uphill Journey of Wounded Veterans from Battlefield to Homefront*, gives their backstory and insights into several disabled veteran stories from different conflicts. You will not read this book and not be moved. Here is an excerpt:

*It's a paradox. The more Purple Heart Homes does, the more veterans who seem to surface. We know they're out there. The statistics from Veterans Affairs tell us that there are 3.4 million service connected disabled veterans out there. Many of those veterans are not coming forward, whether it's due to shyness, pride, meekness, shame, or uncertainty. It's not until they see other veterans around them who are receiving help and respect that they're ready to come out and say, "Yes, I need some help, too. Yes, I've fallen on hard times. I'm ashamed of it, but I can't do it alone, I need some help."*

...  
*It's not Purple Heart Homes that makes a difference. It's the people within the community who rally together that make a difference. Knowing that a neighbor cares -- that's what makes a difference.*

We are always looking for good neighbors. Join us in our mission, sign up for the Hearts of Honor Club, volunteer for one of our projects, help start a Chapter in your area, or buy our book. Be a part of providing housing solutions for Service Connected Disabled Veterans. Thank you for your support to help us get one more....



**Charles Page**  
Chairman of the Board



## LAKE NORMAN CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM



*Lake Norman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram dealership with the 2019 Ram 1500*

Lake Norman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, a car dealership located in Cornelius, North Carolina, partnered up with the Charlotte-based radio station 106.5 THE END to raise funds for the Purple Heart Homes mission. The dealership donated \$100 for every 2019 Ram 1500 they sold from Memorial Day to Labor Day. During that time period, Lake Norman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram sold 113 new Ram 1500 trucks, which totaled their donation to \$11,300!

It's communities, organizations, and companies such as Lake Norman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram who truly make the work that we do at Purple Heart Homes possible. The \$11,300 raised from this campaign will be directed toward our fourth home build in the Lakehaven community of Denver, North Carolina. In the past, Purple Heart Homes built three other homes for veterans in this community through a collaborative effort with Patriot Military Family Foundation. Our Construction Team calculated that the \$11,300 will be able to cover the framing for the house. With completion estimated for November 2018, this contribution from Lake Norman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram allowed us to make significant progress for a home that will be going to a retired Marine Corps veteran and her young daughter.

If your place of work is looking to fulfill philanthropic efforts, Purple Heart Homes partners constantly with corporations and independent businesses alike all across the nation. Contact Samantha Christopher, Community Relations Manager, at [schristopher@phhusa.org](mailto:schristopher@phhusa.org) or (704) 818-3420 to learn how you and your organization can have a positive impact on the lives of Service Connected Disabled Veterans!

# VOLUNTEERING FOR OUR VETERANS

Purple Heart Homes volunteer days are the perfect complement to the services we provide for Service Connected Disabled Veterans. While our Construction Department utilizes contractors and professional tradesmen to complete the more technical components, volunteer groups come in and give the veteran some much needed one-on-one time. Groups of volunteers usually do things such as landscaping, installing wheelchair ramps, painting and staining, and working on any small items that can help our veterans feel safe and comfortable around their own home. And, of course, we always plant an American flag pole outside of the veteran's home at the end of every project.

Volunteer days can be very rewarding for both participants and veterans. The participants often experience an unmatched fulfillment in helping others, and, when our corporate partners are volunteering, they take part in a wonderful team building opportunity. Our corporate partners have played an outstanding role in making sure that the veteran gets everything that they need out of a volunteer day. The veteran is also rewarded on a personal level. Many times, we hear the veteran tell us, "I can't believe that people would take their time to come over and do this for me." A lot of our veterans are very humble and don't like asking for anything. If Purple Heart Homes can come in with volunteers to spruce up the landscaping, plant some flowers and bushes, or possibly provide a little paint job to give the veteran some peace and pride when they see their home, then we have reached out goal.

Awareness in communities is brought back to where it used be after a Purple Heart Homes volunteer day. Many of our veterans were never welcomed back home, especially our Vietnam veterans. If we can be the vehicle that welcomes veterans home the proper way, then we are on the right road. We at Purple Heart Homes always thank our veterans for their service, and we thank our volunteers for their service to our veterans.

If you would like to volunteer with us in assisting our Service Connected Disabled Veterans with their housing needs, contact Rob Harrell at [rharrell@phhusa.org](mailto:rharrell@phhusa.org) or (704) 818-3429.



*Top left: A group of volunteers complete a ramp build for a Korean veteran in Charlotte, NC. Bottom left: Volunteers from Bank of America made renovations to the interior and exterior of the home for an OIF & OEF veteran in Woodbridge, VA, who is seen raising her new flag. Top right: Jason and Leah, husband and wife who both served in the U.S. Army, appreciate the improved burial site of Leah's father, who was also a veteran. Bottom right: Bank of America volunteers provided landscaping for a Vietnam veteran in Largo, FL. Far right: Brian, an OIF veteran in Rockwell, NC, raises his newly installed flag after volunteers completed a ramp for him.*

# PURPLE HEART HOMES CHAPTERS

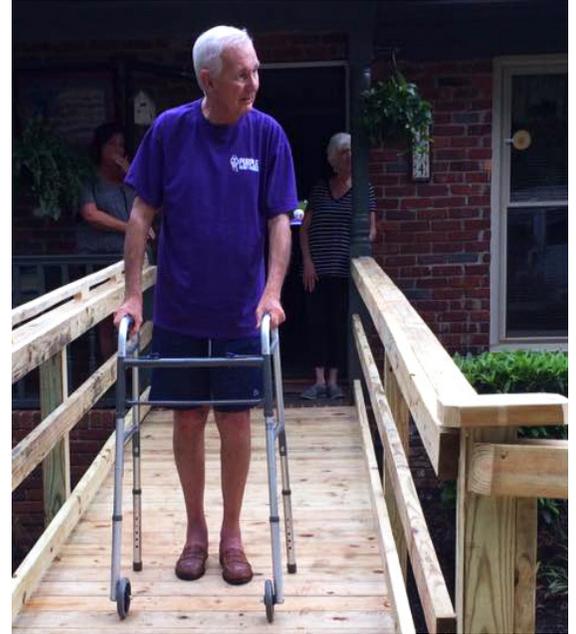
The Purple Heart Homes Chapter Program is growing! Welcome to the new Upstate SC Chapter, serving Greenville, Spartanburg, and Laurens counties in South Carolina! They hit the ground running and have already completed a Dale Beatty Memorial Ramp. This ramp provides safe access to an Army veteran who served during the Korean War and now needs to use a walker or wheelchair due to Parkinson's disease. Now, his wife can't keep him inside, he was able to attend church for the first time in a long time.

We now have eleven Chapters in eight states! Our Chapter projects focus on safety and accessibility. Examples of projects going on right now around the country include: repairing porches, installing railings, renovating bathrooms, and, of course, building ramps. Over 25 projects have been completed in 2018 by Purple Heart Homes Chapters and over 20 more are in different stages of development.

Would you like to help Service Connected Disabled Veterans in your community? Consider starting a local Purple Heart Homes Chapter. A Chapter is a group of people who want to help veterans in their area with needed renovations or repairs to make their home safe and accessible. We have all the framework laid out for starting a Chapter and will guide you through each step of the process. Check out the Chapter section on the "Get Connected" page on our website to learn more. Alternatively, you can contact Cheryl Campbell at [ccampbell@phhusa.org](mailto:ccampbell@phhusa.org) or (704) 818-3428 to request more information.

## WATCH - How to Start a PHH Chapter:

<https://youtu.be/vqQfyXYw688>



*A U.S. Army Veteran living in South Carolina tries out his new Dale Beatty Memorial Ramp built by the PHH Upstate SC Chapter*



# DALE BEATTY MEMORIAL 5K & FUN RUN



*Top: Runners take off at the beginning of the race*

*Bottom: Dale's family members gathered to be recognized at the end of the race*



On September 8, 2018, the inaugural Dale Beatty Memorial 5K & Fun Run took place in Dale's hometown of Statesville, NC. Over 200 people registered to participate as a runner or walker, or as a phantom runner in the event that they could not be physically present. The race started and ended at Mitchell Community College in front of the Montgomery Student Union with the remainder of the course route winding around the surrounding neighborhood. While the local community carried a strong presence at this event, people traveled from as far away as Connecticut to celebrate and honor Dale's family and legacy.

We had fantastic sponsors that supported this event at varying levels, including: Team Depot; National Gypsum; United Federal Credit Union; Air Systems MFG of Lenoir, NC; Bronze Star Homes; Planet Fitness; Iredell Health Systems; M. Neader Management; Iredell County Sheriff's Department; and Iredell County EMS. It is truly amazing to see what can be accomplished when the community comes together over an individual. We are grateful beyond belief that so many people and organizations contributed to the Dale Beatty Memorial 5K & Fun Run. This was a special event that we intend to continue for years to come.

The proceeds raised from the Dale Beatty Memorial 5K & Fun Run will be split equally between the Dale Beatty Family Trust to support the family and Dale's mission of providing safe and accessible housing for Service Connected Disabled Veterans. If you are interested in getting involved next year, contact Paula Collins at [pcollins@phhusa.org](mailto:pcollins@phhusa.org).

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

This edition of Donor Spotlight features Red Classic, a transportation, logistics, and fleet management subsidiary of Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated, located in Charlotte, NC. Red Classic has shown its support of veterans and Purple Heart Homes with donations of a lift-gate truck, a utility van, and an enclosed trailer. These amazing donations filled our need of transporting supplies and staff to work on our Service Connected Disabled Veterans' projects.

Without their generosity, we would have been forced to incur the expense of leasing or buying this equipment, but instead we can put that money towards providing more safe and accessible housing for veterans.



In addition to the aforementioned donations, Red Classic employees have done several volunteer days with us, working to improve the lives of Service Connected Disabled Veterans and bringing communities together. "Red Classic started working with Purple Heart Homes in 2015 and it's been an honor to be a part of their program for the last few years. Their purpose to serve veterans aligns closely with our company's mission to strengthen the communities we live in and serve, and we look forward to continuing our partnership." – Dave Glancy, SVP Strategic Accounts

Tim Parker, COO of Purple Heart Homes, said, "Red Classic's generous donation of 2 vehicles and a trailer has dramatically improved our ability to do construction projects on veterans' homes. We received the vehicles in excellent mechanical condition, painted and logoed, to present a first-class appearance on the road. Red Classic continues to provide maintenance on the vehicles, which greatly reduces our cost of keeping the fleet on the road."

Red Classic is a safety-focused provider of transportation, logistics, and fleet maintenance solutions through a group of five divisions headquartered in Charlotte, NC. Red Classic provides asset-based solutions on over 600 trucks throughout its regional, dedicated, and over-the-road networks and leverages its logistics division to provide nationwide coverage for truckload, less than truckload, and intermodal shipments. The company also provides commercial fleet maintenance services from 72 shops throughout the Southeast and Midwest. Red Classic has been recognized twice as a Top Workplace by the Charlotte Observer.

We would like to extend a huge "Thank You!" to all of the amazing people at Red Classic – we appreciate you! For more information on how your company can get connected to Purple Heart Homes, please send an email to [info@phhusa.org](mailto:info@phhusa.org).



*Volunteers from Red Classic pose in front of the trailer that was donated to Purple Heart Homes.*



I AM A \_\_\_\_\_  
OF A VETERAN

Tag us and tell how  
**YOU'RE** connected  
on our Facebook,  
Twitter, or Instagram  
pages and we'll send  
you a **FREE** prize!

## Credits

**Editor:** Melanie Balousek

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John Gallina  
Vicki Thomas  
Kerry Burdick  
Brad Borders  
Charles Page  
Rob Harrell  
Cheryl Campbell  
Paula Collins

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

## Current Projects

Greg Gerard - U.S. Marine Corps - OIF, OEF - PA  
Richard Hamilton - U.S. Army - OIF, OEF - WA  
Millard Huff - U.S. Army - Vietnam - FL  
Eugene James - U.S. Air Nat'l Guard - Korea - NC  
Nels Madsen - U.S. Navy - Other - IL  
Marvin Palmer - U.S. Army - Gulf War, OIF, OEF - NC  
Al Paquette - U.S. Army - Vietnam - NC  
Thomas Pressley - U.S. Army - Korea - Washington, DC  
Ronald Soloman - U.S. Air Force - Gulf War, Cold War - OH  
Michael Wells - U.S. Army - OIF - GA  
and more...

## Chapter Projects

Daniel Brite  
*Colorado Front Range, Other, Marines*  
Rudolf Brown  
*Piedmont NC, Cold War, Army*  
Kevin Cook  
*NY Downstate, OIF, Army*  
Joe DiBlasi  
*Colorado Front Range, Gulf War, OIF, OEF, Navy*  
Wade Murphy  
*Upstate SC, Vietnam, Army*  
William Ray  
*Golden Corner SC, WWII, Navy*  
Bonnie Walker  
*Northeast Ohio, Vietnam, Navy*

## Application Pipeline

Requested: 487

Active Projects: 302

