

Democratic National Convention Committee, Supporting Groups Break Ground For Wounded Iraq Vet's Home

Credit Unions, *National Journal*, Convention Officials & Homes For Our Troops Hold Ceremony Launching Project Supporting Wounded Veterans

DENVER, CO (*April 10, 2008*) – Homes for Our Troops, a non-profit organization committed to building specially adapted homes across the United States for severely wounded American troops, today broke ground on a Denver-area home for wounded Iraq-war veteran Staff Sergeant Travis Strong and his family. The home in Golden, a joint project of the Democratic National Convention Committee (DNCC), the credit union movement, and National Journal Group, will be presented to SSG Strong and his family around this summer's Democratic National Convention.

"This is an incredible gesture of generosity on the part of many organizations and many individuals to assist this brave soldier," said Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, Jr. "Thousands of men and women like Staff Sgt. Travis Strong have sacrificed so much to serve their country. It's vital that we act as a national community and take steps to repay a debt that can never fully be repaid to Sgt. Strong, his wife and their two children."

John Dill, President and CEO of the Credit Union Associations of Colorado and Wyoming, added, "Credit unions here in Colorado are excited to take part in this project. We look forward to working closely with Homes For Our Troops and the Convention staff to make this dream a reality for SSG Strong and his family."

The groundbreaking on the home site in Golden starts a construction process that will culminate with the presentation of the home to SSG Strong at an event around the Democratic National Convention in August. SSG Strong, 30, is a double amputee, the result of injuries sustained during a rocket-propelled grenade attack on his Stryker vehicle in November 2006. He was on his second tour of duty in Iraq for the U.S. Army. The home will be specially adapted for SSG Strong, his wife Misty, and their two children. The house is being built at no cost to the Strong family.

"We are honored to be joined by the DNCC, its staff and volunteers, the people of the credit union movement and National Journal to build this home for a true American hero," said John Gonsalves, President and Founder of Homes For Our Troops.

Leah D. Daughtry, CEO of the DNCC, said: "Now, the real work begins. My staff and I are looking forward to hammering some nails, hanging some dry wall and laying some sod, as this will be a labor of love for a true American hero. It's a tremendous honor to be here alongside Staff Sergeant Strong and his family as we break ground and see this project really begin to move forward."

Tom Dorety, CEO of Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union of Tampa, Florida and Chairman of the Credit Union National Association (CUNA), the nation's largest advocacy group for the not-for-profit, cooperatively owned financial institutions, said:

“Credit unions operate under a ‘*People Helping People*’ philosophy, and this project is one way we can live out that philosophy. We are honored to participate in this special effort on behalf of a very deserving soldier and his family.”

“We too appreciate the opportunity to be part of these efforts,” said Suzanne Clark, President of the National Journal Group. “We can never make-up for the sacrifice of these deserving men and women, but we hope to make a difference for one family that has given so much.”

The undertaking marks the latest effort in a year-long series of service projects the DNCC has organized to give back to the community hosting the 2008 Democratic National Convention. Since July, the DNCC has centered its monthly “Service Days” outings around three areas of importance to the Denver-area community: youth, environmental projects and the combined issues of homelessness and hunger. Given its strong commitment to organized labor, the DNCC is proud to work closely in this latest service effort with the Colorado Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO, which will provide skilled labor for the project in Denver.

The Credit Union National Association (CUNA) and its affiliated Credit Union Associations of Colorado and Wyoming will work to raise funds, provide donated materials and volunteer labor, and coordinate activities closely with Homes For Our Troops. CUNA, the Minnesota Credit Union Network, and National Journal are also working with Homes for Our Troops and the Republican National Committee on a companion project for a veteran’s home in conjunction with the Republican National Convention. Groundbreaking for that project is planned for April 28th in St. Paul, Minn.

About the Credit Union Associations of Colorado and Wyoming

The Credit Union Associations of Colorado and Wyoming are the statewide trade associations representing 144 Colorado credit unions, 33 Wyoming credit unions, and more than 1.7 million credit union members in both states – one in three Colorado and Wyoming citizens. Each credit union, operated under state or federal regulation, is a member-owned, not-for-profit institution that returns its proceeds to each of its members in the form of better interest rates and lower fees. Based in Arvada, the associations serve and support credit unions and their members through legislative advocacy, media advocacy, education and training, and operational information. For additional information, visit www.colocu.com or www.cuawyoming.com, or call 1-800-477-1697.

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