



MISSOURI CREDIT UNION ASSOCIATION

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Veteran from Mexico, Missouri to Receive First Home from Missouri Credit Unions and Homes for Our Troops

St. Louis – Army Staff Sergeant Robert Canine, a native of Mexico, Missouri, will receive the first specially adapted home built by Missouri credit unions and Homes for Our Troops (HFOT).



Staff Sergeant Canine lost both legs below the knee in an explosion when insurgents attacked the Humvee he was commanding in Baghdad, Iraq on May 17, 2009. He is currently undergoing a year of physical therapy at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and learning to walk again on prosthetics. Canine, with his wife Jennifer and their eight-year-old son Sebastian, will then return home to Missouri. He says having a specially adapted house to come home to will make a tremendous difference to their family.

"I have stayed in homes that are NOT handicap accessible, and it was a challenge EVERY day to get around," says Canine. "The assistance I will receive from Homes for Our Troops will eliminate those daily challenges and improve my quality of living every day."

The non-profit group HFOT builds specially adapted homes for severely injured veterans, at no cost to the veteran. The Missouri Credit Union Association has joined forces with HFOT to build homes in the Show-Me State.

"Credit unions' purpose is to help people and make a difference," says Missouri Credit Union Association President/CEO Rosie Holub. "We are thrilled to lead the effort in Missouri to build homes for injured veterans that will allow them to focus their attention on recovery and living their lives to the fullest here at home."

Canine and his extended family are long-time members of United Credit Union (Mexico). He found out about the HFOT program from staff members at the credit union shortly after he was injured.

"After Bobby was hurt, I thought about Homes for Our Troops and how it could really help them," says United Credit Union Marketing Manager Heather DeMint. "I explained the program to his family in Mexico to see if they were interested and provided the information he needed to apply."

"We are proud to have Missouri credit unions join us in fulfilling our mission of building specially adapted homes for severely injured veterans," says John Gonsalves, HFOT president and founder.

To learn more about Homes for Our Troops, visit www.homesforourtroops.org.

The Missouri Credit Union Association is the trade association representing the state's credit unions and more than 1.3 million credit union members. Credit unions are not-for-profit financial cooperatives that exist to serve their members, not to make a profit. For more information, visit www.mcua.org.

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