



MISSOURI CREDIT UNION ASSOCIATION

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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SSG Canine Receives Keys to Specially Adapted Home from Missouri Credit Unions and Homes for Our Troops

Columbia – Missouri credit unions and Homes for Our Troops (HFOT) will hand over the keys to a specially adapted home to Army Staff Sergeant (SSG) Robert Canine and his family at a Key Ceremony on Saturday, June 26. This is the first home built by Homes for Our Troops in Missouri. The ceremony follows nearly two years of fundraising efforts by Missouri credit unions and months of work on the home.

Missouri credit unions sponsored the project for Homes for Our Troops, a non-profit group that has built more than 60 specially adapted homes for severely injured service men and women across the country. Credit unions raised \$100,000 to help build the home for SSG Canine and his family. A native of Mexico, Missouri, Canine lost both of his legs below the knee while serving in Iraq. The home is specially adapted to his needs.

“Robert has given so much and we all appreciate his sacrifice in our behalf,” says Rosie Holub, MCUA president/CEO. “This home will give Robert and his family much deserved comfort and stability. We look forward to presenting the keys to Robert on the 26th of June!”

Key Ceremony

Date: Saturday, June 26

Time: 11 a.m.

Location: 5500 Saddle Ridge Dr., Columbia, MO, 63205

Interview Opportunities:

SSG Robert Canine – HFOT recipient

John Gonsalves – Founder and President, Homes for Our Troops

Rosie Holub – President/CEO, Missouri Credit Union Association

Credit union and community volunteers and legislators will also be available for comment.

Background: The Missouri HFOT effort began in late 2008 when the Missouri Credit Union Association (MCUA) pledged to raise \$100,000, which covers the cost of one HFOT home. MCUA rallied Missouri credit unions to get involved and demonstrate the “people helping people” credit union philosophy. When SSG Canine was injured, United Credit Union in Mexico notified his family about Homes for Our Troops. Canine was selected to receive a home in September 2009. Construction began on April 9, 2010, with nearly 500 volunteers working at a three-day “Build Brigade” to bring the home from a concrete foundation to a weather-tight structure.

Credit unions have committed to building a second home in Missouri, and fundraising efforts continue across the state.

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The Missouri Credit Union Association is the trade association that represents 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. For more information about the Columbia project and SSG Canine’s story, visit www.homesforourtroops.org/site/PageServer?pagename=RobertCanine.

Your Best Resource!

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