



The Journal: News to Help You Select Your New Home



OPERATION FOREVER FREE www.operationforeverfree.org

Operation Forever Free is our way of contributing to the enrichment of lifestyles for injured servicemen and women. Donations of time and resources go toward fulfilling specific lifestyle needs of these local heroes through this generous community service project.



The Directors of Operation Forever Free are involved in the land development and home building industry. Our role allows us the unique opportunity to help these men and women by providing financial support. The sacrifices of these young people make a huge impact on their lives when they return home wounded. Collectively, a decision was made to form an organization that would express gratitude to our men and women in the United States armed services. Centurion organized Operation Forever Free in an attempt to help servicemen and women adjust to civilian life with the aid of several resources.

Why should the building industry give back to their communities?

Operation Forever Free believes that giving back to our community is important. Great personal satisfaction comes from knowing that members of our communities with special needs might have the opportunity to afford a lifestyle that accommodates them through Centurion's network of giving organizations.

After all, the sacrifices of these hometown heroes protect the very freedoms we enjoy every day. More often, these men and women have endured life-changing injuries; which require modifications and adaptations in their living environments. Operation Forever Free's goal is to improve the quality of life through various means. These include assistance with transportation

needs, modifying/re-modeling homes, and in some cases, providing a new home at no cost to these families. The organization's efforts include these items, but are not limited to these items

What motivated you all to do this project?

Several Business men and women wanted to give back to the community that has blessed them and their business. Helping the military has been the primary focus in determining how they wanted to help. Because it is these men and women that make it possible for you and I to have the liberties we have in this country.

Operation Forever Free reviews the needs of injured service men and women, as they are brought to the attention of the organization. Operation Forever Free will then evaluate and assess the organization's ability to meet such needs.

What has been the most memorable moment so far?

Operation Forever Free has several memorable moments to share as the organization has assisted several families throughout the North Texas region.



The Late Wilford "Crazy Ray" Jones-Dallas, TX
Dallas Morning News
September 2006

In 2006, the late Crazy Ray's plight came to the attention of Operation Forever Free. Mr. Jones served in the Army during the Korean War.

Crazy Ray got crowds going for more than 40 years as an unofficial mascot for the Dallas Cowboys football team and other teams as well. Even after losing a leg, Ray was on the sidelines in 1997 for a game against the Oakland Raiders, entertaining fans on an artificial limb.

Wayne Walker, a neighbor, helped coordinate efforts to aid the Jones' for several years. After meeting with Mr. Walker, Operation Forever Free authorized a complete renovation of Mr. Jones' house, using time and materials donated by contractors and other benefactors.

"Ray needed help, and Operation Forever Free wanted to utilize their resources to assist him," said Brad Biber, Operation Forever Free Director. At the time, Mr. Walker had seen previous offers of help withdrawn and was initially skeptical. But seeing the construction take place, changed their mindset and gave them a feeling of security that people do deliver on promises.

The renovation began late August and was completed in early Fall after a year of false starts and broken promises that began after The Dallas Morning News chronicled Mr. Jones' problems and neighbors' efforts to raise money for his plight. Operation Forever Free was honored to assist in the project and delivered a home to Ray and his beloved wife, Mattie Jones.

Mr. Jones, 76, died of congestive heart failure March 17 at an Irving hospice. Operation Forever Free was privileged to assist the Jones family as donors making their home livable again. For more information on how you can help your fellow servicemen and women, please feel free to contact Brad Biber at 817.391.2500 or visit Operation Forever Free at operationforeverfree.org.



The Richardson Family-Saginaw, TX

In 2005, Operation Forever Free was able to quickly step in and coordinate the construction of a new home in Saginaw for the Richardson Family. Mr. Richardsons call to duty came after the attacks on September 11, 2001. Eric was honored to serve his country along side his fellow Air Force unit members (610th Security Forces) in Iraq. When Eric's story was brought to our attention, it was determined that better living conditions were needed for Eric and his family. Working with several of our partners and contributors, Operation Forever Free was able to quickly step in and coordinate the construction of a new house for Eric, Shelia, Rebecca and Ronnie. The Richardson's new home was dedicated in November, 2005