



Marine Corps League Room 545, State House Boston, MA.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Construction To Start On Wounded Marine's Home

GRANBY, Mass.—Construction of a specially designed home for Marine Sgt. Joshua Bouchard, who lost his leg when an IED exploded under his Humvee on July 8, 2009 in Afghanistan, will begin Friday, April 27, at 46 Chicopee Street here by Homes For Our Troops, a national non-profit group dedicated to house severely injured veterans.

Work on the Bouchard home will begin at 8:30 a.m. as part of a three-day Build Brigade on the site where the land has been cleared, permits issued and a foundation has already been installed.



Sgt. Joshua Bouchard

“The goal of the three-day build is to frame, side and roof the building and install windows and doors,” according to Doreen Lewis, community outreach coordinator for the Taunton based organization, said. “Interior and finish work will be completed in the following months.”

A general contractor, A. Crane Construction Co. of Chicopee, will oversee the project which calls for community volunteers to assist the skilled workers.

“We hope the home will provide Sgt. Bouchard with maximum freedom of movement and the ability to live more independently,” she said.

The 2004 Amherst Regional High School graduate, on his second deployment, was a passenger in the armored vehicle when the explosion occurred, killing two Marines, wounding Bouchard and two others.

“Corpsmen at the scene saved his life,” Josh’s father, Jim, a Vietnam combat U.S. Navy corpsman himself wounded treating an injured Marine, boasted. After being evacuated to a field hospital facility where was stabilized, he was flown to a U.S. Military Hospital in Germany for

extensive treatment and surgery.

In addition to losing his left leg, Sgt. Bouchard suffered severe shrapnel wounds to his back and a broken arm. Several weeks later he was airlifted from Germany to Walter Reed Army Hospital, Washington, D.C., received further treatment at a Virginia VA Medical Facility and Bethesda Naval Hospital, where he is now a day patient.

The Build Brigade project will open with a Color Guard from Westfield River Valley Detachment 141, Marine Corps League, where Josh and his father are both members; remarks from Bernard Heaney, state Department Commandant, Marine Corps League, and Marine Major William Lee, commander of Marine Wing Support Squadron 472, Marine Wing Support Group 47, 4th Marine Air Wing, that supplies engineering services for Marine Air operations.

A special guest will be Marine Corporal Neil Frustaglio of Marion, Texas, to talk about the house Homes for Our Troops build for him as the result of his being left severely burned and a double amputee after two IED explosions in Ar Ramadi, Iraq in December 2005. Cpl Frustaglio, the vehicle commander, was quick to ready his team to assist the casualties of an IED blast that occurred in the vehicle behind his HUMVEE. When a second IED detonated, he was thrown face down into the dirt with diesel fuel igniting into flames all around him.

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