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**INTERNATIONAL WAR HERO RECEIVES THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME IN COLORADO**

*Building Homes for Heroes welcomes U.S. Marine Corp Sergeant Kirstie Ennis to Glenwood Springs*

**VALLEY STREAM, NEW YORK (SEPTEMBER 16, 2017)** – [Building Homes for Heroes](#), a national nonprofit organization that builds and modifies homes for United States veterans, will be presenting war hero U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Kirstie Ennis with the gift of a mortgage-free home on September 16, 2017 at 4 p.m.

At 17, Sergeant Ennis enlisted in the military out of her home state of Florida in 2008. In 2012, she was serving in Afghanistan when she almost lost her life. While piloting a CH-53D as an aerial gunner, Sergeant Ennis crash-landed in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. This accident broke her left ankle, tore her rotator cuff and labrum, injured the cervical discs of her spine, shattered her jaw, and caused severe facial lacerations and a traumatic brain injury. Sergeant Ennis also suffers from posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) from her time in service.

"Receiving a home from BHH opens the door to my future," says Sergeant Kirstie Ennis, mortgage-free home recipient. "It will provide me the platform to be able to continue serving people, the foundation to have a family, and the opportunity to grow past my injuries."

This intense accident was the start of many rounds of surgery for Sergeant Ennis. After undergoing over 30 surgeries and learning to walk and talk again, Sergeant Ennis' left leg was amputated under the knee in 2015. Within a couple months of her amputation surgery, Sergeant Ennis faced further complications when her knee became infected and forced an above-knee amputation.

Despite these trying times for Sergeant Ennis, she did not become defined by her injuries; instead she challenged them. She completed a 72-day trek across mainland Britain for Prince Harry's Walking with the Wounded charity event, she's currently training for the 2018 Winter Paralympics and she's the first war veteran and amputee to grace the pages of ESPN's "Body Issue," among many other inspiring accomplishments.

"We started this organization to restore hope in our veterans that return from serving our country," says Andy Pujol, Founder of Building Homes for Heroes. "Sergeant Ennis embodies that mission wholeheartedly with her accomplishments that inspire veterans everywhere. Our organization is absolutely thrilled to present her with a mortgage-free home."

Those interested in capturing Sergeant Ennis taking that first look at her home are welcome to attend the home-gifting ceremony in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. To date, Building Homes for Heroes has donated more than 100 homes, mortgage-free to military veterans across the United States. For more information about Building Homes for Heroes and how to donate, please visit [www.buildinghomesforheroes.org](http://www.buildinghomesforheroes.org).

## **Building Homes for Heroes**

Counting 10 consecutive years of record-setting growth, Building Homes for Heroes® builds and gifts mortgage-free homes, and completes home modifications, for veterans and their families, and provides further services along their road to recovery to help them live a promising and fulfilling life ahead. The organization is strongly committed to rebuilding lives and supporting the brave men and women who were injured while serving the country after September 11, 2001, during the time of the wars in Iraq or Afghanistan. After gifting 28 homes in 2015, Building Homes for Heroes® gifted 29 homes in 2016, including its milestone 100th overall home in November. The organization has its sights set on gifting as many as 36 homes in 2017, equal to one mortgage-free home every 10 days. It's our honor to support the men and women who have loyally and courageously served our country. To learn more about the organization, visit [www.buildinghomesforheroes.org](http://www.buildinghomesforheroes.org).

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