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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Purple Heart Veteran Has a Home to Call His Own

KINGSTON, RI-May 16, 2015

South County Habitat for Humanity hosted a Home Dedication for its “Home for a Hero” for the Gleason family, whom is a Purple Heart Veteran. The event was held on Saturday, May 16, at 11am. The family couldn’t hide their excitement over their new blue two story house on 22 Franziska Noring Lane, Kingston, Rhode Island. South County Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions. National Grid played an important role for the project by providing financial support and volunteers for the project.

“National Grid congratulates South County Habitat for Humanity for the tremendous job done in completing the Kingston Home for Heroes project,” said Timothy F. Horan, president of National Grid in Rhode Island. “Our involvement was a gratifying experience for our employee volunteers who worked on the home and for our entire company.”

Along with National Grid many other other local companies and civic organizations participated in the project, including Sodco, Gutter Helmet/Moonworks, Ninigret Quilters, Lions Club of Narragansett, Rotary Club of Wakefield, South County Women’s Club, Indian Run Garden Club, South Kingstown Elks, Electric Boat, and CertainTeed

The ceremony started with an opening prayer and home blessing from Rev. Jared Costanza. After a few guest speakers spoke Lou Raymond was honored to present the home to the Gleason

family. The family was also presented with a quilt made by The Ninigret Quilters. Taylor Gleason will be living in the Kingston home with wife Allison and two sons Jackson & Kiernan. The celebrations continue for the Gleason family as Taylor Gleason graduates from University of Rhode Island on May 17th.

"It was amazing. We learned a lot," said Alison Gleason. "It's really great to be a part of building your own home. Not a lot of people get that opportunity. We're just very grateful and we can't wait to continue working with habitat for years helping other families get the same opportunity we did."

The construction of the house started approximately 1 ½ years ago and will ready for occupancy shortly after the dedication ceremony. Labor was provided by Habitat volunteer construction crews, National Grid employees, U.R.I. Habitat Chapter students, area military veterans and Veteran's groups, corporate partner employees and volunteers from local supporting organizations. The home is adaptable as needed to accommodate any physical limitations of the Purple Heart Veteran Mr. Gleason. The home was constructed to meet ADA standards for accessibility of course, and to meet Energy Star and various standards for energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.

"Decent, affordable housing in South County continues to be an issue for many families that work and live in the area," said Lou Raymond, Executive Director, South County Habitat for Humanity. "With the dedication of this 'Home for a Hero' we will be able to help another South County family, especially one that has provided service for his country, find a place to call home. The dream of homeownership is still possible and the Gleason family is our latest family to realize that dream."

This home, along with all houses built by Habitat, is built by community volunteers and other veterans from across Rhode Island, along with the support of various local and national organizations. Anyone interested in volunteering or learning more about SCHH can visit their website at www.southcountyhabitat.org

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