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VETERAN SURPRISED ON LIVE TV WITH NEWS HE WILL RECEIVE A NEW CENTEX HOME

PulteGroup's Built to Honor Program Gifting Mortgage-Free Home Near Dallas for Purple Heart Recipient and His Family

DALLAS – Dec. 21, 2015 – U.S. Army Specialist Michael Emerick and his wife were surprised on live TV with the news that they will receive a new Centex mortgage-free home thanks to PulteGroup's Built to Honor program. The Purple Heart recipient and his wife Jessica broke into "tears of happiness" with the news as WFAA anchor Shelly Slater reported live from the TV station's studio.



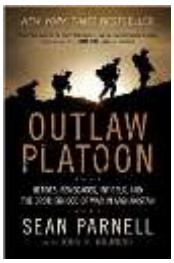
"This is more than I could have ever imagined. I can't tell you what this does for our family," said Jessica, holding the youngest of their four sons. "We appreciate it more than you know."

PulteGroup's Built to Honor program, in collaboration with Military Warriors Support Foundation, planned the surprise for Emerick and his family, who are currently living with extended family in Louisiana. The company's Dallas Division will build the new home along with dozens of local trade partners in the Centex community of Paloma Creek in Little Elm, Texas.

"Michael has served our country with pride and we hope this new home will help ease his struggles and provide his family many future happy memories," said Bryan Swindell, president of PulteGroup's Dallas Division. "We are so thankful for the generosity of the many contractors who will be supporting this effort to build this beautiful new Centex home."

After the surprise announcement, the PulteGroup team showed Emerick and his wife a rendering of their future new home.

"It was just an honor for me to serve the good people of the United States. I never expected anything for serving – nothing," Emerick said. "I just wanted to do the right thing and help people, other soldiers and make a better life for myself and the people around me. I never expected anything like this."



Emerick, 33, was deployed to Afghanistan soon after he joined the Army. During a four-hour firefight where Emerick was manning a weapon mounted on top of a Humvee, his helmet shattered after being struck by enemy fire and slamming him into the vehicle. The battle where he sustained multiple injuries is documented in a book entitled "Outlaw Platoon," which was written by his commenting officer. A highly decorated veteran, Emerick and his wife have four sons ages 9, 4, 2 and 5 months.

About Built to Honor™

PulteGroup's Built to Honor™ program was launched to recognize and thank returning military personnel who have been injured during their term of service by providing mortgage-free homes to veterans and their families. More than 35 new homes have been built under the Built to Honor program for deserving wounded veterans across the nation. Built to Honor works in partnership with nonprofit organizations, such as Operation FINALLY HOME, to identify veteran candidates. Follow Built to Honor on Twitter: @BuiltToHonor.

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