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Transylvania Habitat for Humanity Honors Veterans for Military Appreciation Month

Brevard, NC – Local nonprofit Transylvania Habitat for Humanity joins millions of Americans as we observe Military Appreciation Month, a declaration that honors current and former members of the US Armed Forces, including those who lost their lives while serving their country.

Proposed by Senator John McCain in 1999, Congress unanimously voted the observance into effect in April of that year with a vote of 93-0 to coincide with such other observances as Memorial Day, Month of the Military Caregiver, and Children of Fallen Patriots Day. North Carolina was one of the first states to recognize the month, along with Michigan, Montana, Washington, and McCain's home state of Arizona.

"We owe our freedom, our lives, and our gratitude to those who have fought, died, and are still fighting for our country and way of life," stated Community Outreach Manager Adam DeWitte recently. "Habitat International and our affiliate here in Transylvania County are committed to providing veterans with programs to help improve their lives as a way of giving back to them."

Locally, Transylvania Habitat for Humanity has partnered with two Transylvania County veterans for the Critical Home Repair Program, which afforded them home modifications to allow for better accessibility and comfort. Additionally, Transylvania Habitat staff arranged a Veterans Build program, which provides volunteer and employment opportunities, along with home ownership low-interest mortgages for military service individuals and their families.

New to Transylvania Habitat is a partnership with the AARP Foundation and Council on Aging in Buncombe County to offer veterans a chance to receive property tax relief through the Disabled Veteran Exclusion program, which has no age or income limitation. The collaboration between the two organizations aligns perfectly with both missions in providing relief and comfort to older Transylvania County residents through activity, inclusion, and home ownership.

“This is a perfect opportunity for Transylvania Habitat and the AARP Foundation alike to show our appreciation for our local veterans and to help provide them with a cushion in paying their mortgage,” concluded DeWitte of the joint venture. “We’re so excited to be a part of this process.”

Looking to show your appreciation locally to our resident veterans? Here are a few ideas:

- 1) Display the American flag at your home or business.
- 2) Use the hashtag *#militaryappreciationmonth* on social media.
- 3) Send a care package to an active service member.
- 4) Thank a veteran wearing a uniform, hat, or other article of service clothing.
- 5) Hire a veteran or offer volunteer opportunities.

To learn more about the Tax-Aide program or to apply, please contact Vance Goodman with The Council on Aging at 828-277-8288 ext. 1314.

Founded in 1984, Transylvania Habitat for Humanity is a 501(c)(3) organization with a vision of ensuring that all residents have a decent place in which to live. For more information about Transylvania Habitat for Humanity at-a-glance or to make a donation, please visit the Habitat website at www.transylvaniahabitat.org or call 828-884-3464.