



## Habitat Partner Family

### Harold Allen

United States Veterans make the ultimate contribution to society. They put their lives on the line for our country, insuring that our freedom to live the American Dream is guaranteed. Harold Allen has done just that, having served in active combat during two tours of duty to Vietnam. He was also stationed in Germany; Fort Lee, VA.; Fort Campbell, KY; and Fort Riley, KS.



It is with great pleasure that Habitat for Humanity of Williamson County welcomes U.S. Army Veteran Harold Allen to our homeownership program.

Mr. Allen, a native of Franklin, graduated with the last segregated senior class from Natchez High School, now known as Franklin High. He was raised by his grandmother along with his three sisters and one brother. Neither his parents, nor his grandparents were homeowners. However, Mr. Allen has always held onto the

American Dream of homeownership. "Thank you for fulfilling my dream of owning a home. I thank God for sending an angel. You have really touched my heart. Not only for sponsoring my home, but for all of the other families that are blessed with the homes that you build."

Mr. Allen's desire has always been to serve others, and he is known in the community for always lending a helping hand. "I have always helped others in need, even when I had very little myself." Harold struggles everyday with injuries sustained while in active combat, yet has never let it affect his efforts to give back. He and his live-in aide, Toni, enjoy helping local charities. Toni knits and crochets hats and scarfs, and they collect donated gloves for the Nashville Rescue Mission and Bridges. He is also active at Limestone Missionary Baptist Church in Franklin.

Life after active duty has been difficult for Harold. He has two artificial hips, has had three strokes, and suffers from post traumatic stress disorder. Ironically, this gentlemen, that fought for our freedom, experiences great distress on Independence Day. The sound of fireworks reminds him of his years in combat and the childhood friends he went to war with and lost, while serving in combat in Vietnam. Nonetheless, he focuses on the blessings that have been given to him. He wants his sponsors to know that his home will be a haven of peace and a place where friends and family can share in his joy. He envisions planting flowers and vegetables in his future garden and spending time with his adult children.

Mr. Allen will be partnering with Habitat Williamson's first ever Veteran Build, which commences on September 27, 2014 at 112 Bradford Drive in Franklin, TN. This build also holds the high distinction of being the 4,000th Habitat build in the state of Tennessee and will be celebrated with a ground breaking ceremony and dedication, which is projected for Veterans Day, November 11, 2014.