



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Rebuilding Together Central Florida Partners with Lockheed Martin to Launch 'Veterans at Home' Initiative**

**ORLANDO, Fla (September 22, 2023)**- Rebuilding Together Central Florida (RTCF), a prominent national community restoration organization, proudly announces its collaboration with Lockheed Martin, the global security and aerospace giant, in launching the 'Veterans at Home' initiative. On Friday, September 22nd at 8:30 in the morning, volunteers will make this goal a reality by showing up at the home of 84-year-old Navy Veteran Paul Sampson.

***Media Opportunity: Interview Navy Veteran Paul Sampson, capture volunteers restoring his home and discuss the "Veterans at Home" initiative with representatives.***

***Time and location details are below.***

Mr. Sampson has more than two decades of service in the Navy which he followed up with a commendable stint as a nurse in a Naval hospital. He epitomizes dedication but he is now in need of help himself. With limited mobility post-retirement and a home that desperately needs repairs, he represents the many veterans this initiative aims to assist. Volunteers will paint the exterior of the home, complete landscaping work, and carpet removal.

"These repairs will really make a difference in my life," said Sampson. "It will give me the relief I need to make my house a home again."

"In every nail we drive, every wall we paint, and every hand we extend, we're not just repairing homes, we're honoring the sacrifices made by heroes like Mr. Sampson," said Jose Garcia, executive director of RTCF. "As we launch the 'Veterans at Home' initiative with Lockheed Martin, it's more than just an act of service - it's a heartfelt 'thank you' to the dedicated souls who've served our nation so valiantly. Let's come together and ensure that those who've given so much are provided with the comfort, safety, and dignity they truly deserve."

Orlando Commissioner Bakari Burns expressed his excitement about the project and the impact on his district.

"I am grateful for the efforts of Rebuilding Together and Lockheed Martin. Their actions echo not just in the walls of Mr. Sampson's home, but throughout this entire district," said Commissioner Bakari Burns. "When we come together as a community to honor and support those who have served us, it reaffirms our values and strengthens our bonds as neighbors."

Rebuilding Together's partnership with Lockheed Martin will provide critical home repairs and modifications for veterans in 13 communities across the country. It directly addresses the dire need to assist the Americans who once wore our nation's uniform, now live in substandard housing, and are at severe risk of homelessness.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau:

- Today, about 18 million Americans are veterans – and most are homeowners (75.6 percent).
- Even though veterans are less likely to experience poverty than the general population, about 1.5 million veterans still live below the federal poverty level—a number that represents an increase from that recorded in 2000. About 61% of the 1.1 million older veterans living below the poverty line have a disability, often connected to their military service.
- Over 38% of post 9/11 veterans return home with a service-connected disability and face housing accessibility challenges as they transition from military to civilian life

### **Media Opportunity:**

**WHEN:** Friday, September 22nd at 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon

**WHERE:** [4629 Zorita St. Orlando, FL 32811](#)

**WHAT:** Volunteers restore the home of a Navy Veteran with more than 20 years of service

**WHO:** Speak with 84-year-old Navy veteran Paul Sampson, dozens of volunteers who came out to help restore the home, and representatives from Rebuilding Together and Lockheed Martin who can discuss the 'Veterans at Home' partnership and initiative.

**About Rebuilding Together Central Florida**

Repairing homes, revitalizing communities and rebuilding lives for over 20 years!

Rebuilding Together Central Florida's programs restore health, safety, security, and independence into the homes of families throughout West and Central Florida. RTCFL is part of a national affiliate network. Together, over 130 Rebuilding Together affiliates across the nation work towards a vision of safe and healthy homes and communities for all.

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