



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Department of Housing  
and Community Development

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### Multi-agency Effort Brings New Home to Wounded Veteran

– Mari Richardson served in the U.S. Air Force on two overseas deployments –

**SUFFOLK** – A ribbon cutting ceremony took place today at the new home of Air Force-vet and wounded warrior Mari Richardson and her daughter, all in part to a multi-agency effort including the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS), the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, Suffolk Redevelopment Housing Authority and Sherbco Inc.

Richardson served honorably in the U.S. Air Force for 13 years. During her years of service, Richardson served our country at many bases around the globe and served for two overseas deployments including Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn.

“The men and women of our armed forces stand fast and help to secure the freedoms we as Americans enjoy every day” said Regional 5 Director Carol Berg of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, part of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. “The Virginia Wounded Warrior Program is honored to partner with the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Suffolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority by helping one of our Virginia Veterans realize their dream of home ownership.”

Virginia is focused on improving and increasing affordable and accessible housing options for our veterans. Recognizing this vital need for housing for veterans, DVS appointed a director and associate director of housing development for veterans to focus on proactively pursuing housing opportunities for veterans and their families and making those critical connections. The housing development program is helping communities leverage resources to serve the housing needs of veterans and their families. In addition, DVS operates the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP), which was created by the 2008 Virginia General Assembly to ensure that behavioral health, rehabilitative and supportive services to veterans and their families are readily available in all areas of the state.

“It’s an amazing feeling to own your own home, and as the regional director of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program in Hampton Roads, we are honored to present this home to a Virginia Veteran,” said Berg.

The home was made available by the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. The Virginia NSP received \$38.7 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 2008 to acquire, rehab and resell foreclosed homes in areas hardest hit by the foreclosure crisis, including Hampton Roads.

“DHCD is very pleased to be a part of this collaborative effort,” said Bill Shelton, director of DHCD. “Housing is an important issue for Virginians, and by collaborating with various partners and utilizing our combined resources, we were able to provide a home for this well-deserving veteran.”

The Suffolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority (SRHA) received an NSP grant allocation of funding to pair with other housing programs as a means of providing decent, safe and affordable housing opportunities in communities that face foreclose in the city of Suffolk. Throughout the past two years, SRHA has helped a total of 11 participants in their Homebuyer Program become first time homeowners, including Richardson.

“The Suffolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority is pleased to be a partner in this collaborative effort to provide a homeownership opportunity to a deserving veteran. We welcome Ms. Richardson and her family to Suffolk,” said Clarissa E McAadoo, executive director of SRHA.

SRHA worked with Sherbco Inc. to renovate the home. “We are very excited to be part of such a great effort for a very deserving veteran,” said Jeff Sherbinsky, president of Sherbco Inc.

Richardson is a native of Hampton Roads and has a 10-year-old daughter. Richardson said about the home, “I am so happy. This is such a good spot for us, and my daughter and I both love the house.”

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