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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE, SUPPORTING GROUPS  
HOST “VOLUNTEER DAY” TO LANDSCAPE HOME FOR WOUNDED IRAQ VET**

***Credit Unions, Convention Interns, Homes For Our Troops and Volunteers  
Landscape Home to be Presented Around the 2008 Democratic National Convention***

**GOLDEN, CO.** (*August 2, 2008*) – More than one hundred volunteers from local credit unions and interns of the Democratic National Convention Committee (DNCC) join Homes For Our Troops in a “Volunteer Day” to landscape a home built for wounded Iraq war veteran Staff Sergeant Travis Strong and his family. The volunteers, including DNCC staff and interns and credit union staff, spent Saturday laying sod and landscaping the site around the nearly finished home.

The home in Golden, Colorado, a joint project of Homes For Our Troops, the DNCC, America’s Credit Unions, and *National Journal Group*, will be presented to SSG Strong, his wife Misty, and their two children in a key presentation ceremony around this month’s Democratic National Convention.

John Dill, President and CEO of the Credit Union Associations of Colorado and Wyoming said, “Credit unions in Colorado and Wyoming are proud to be a part of this project. From the hundreds of volunteers who showed up in June and again here today, to the tens of thousands of dollars our credit unions have raised, we are honored to help make real the American dream of a home to call one’s own for Travis and his family.”

“We are thrilled to have interns and staff from the DNCC, as well as volunteers from the credit union movement and *National Journal*, help put the finishing touches on this home for Travis and his family,” said John Gonsalves, President and Founder of Homes For Our Troops. “It truly warms the heart to see so many volunteers spending their Saturday giving back to someone who has given so much to us.”

Ground was broken on the home site in Golden in April, and in June, over 350 volunteers and skilled labor came together over a three-day “Build Brigade” to complete much of the home’s exterior construction. Since then volunteers from the Colorado Building and Construction Trades Council have worked on the home’s interior, and today’s effort is focused on turning the construction site into a landscaped yard for the Strong family.

The home’s recipient, SSG Travis Strong, 31, lost both legs above the knee as a result of injuries sustained during a rocket-propelled grenade attack on his Stryker vehicle in November 2006. He was on his second tour of duty in Iraq for the U.S. Army. The home is being specially adapted for SSG Strong and is being built at no cost to his family.

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“We’re honored to help out in this good work to benefit the family of Staff Sergeant Strong, a true American hero who has served our country honorably at great personal sacrifice,” said Leah D. Daughtry, CEO of the DNCC. “Building on our commitment to service and active participation in the local community, my staff and I have really enjoyed being a part of this project in recent months. I’m glad our interns have the opportunity to contribute as well to this extraordinary effort that will result in a beautiful home for SSG Strong and his family.”

Credit unions have also played an integral part in the effort, both through volunteer labor and fundraising to defray costs of this house and a companion project in Minnesota connected to the Republican Convention. Nationally, credit unions to date have raised over \$225,000 for the two houses.

Daniel A. Mica, President and CEO of the Credit Union National Association (CUNA), the nation’s largest advocacy group for the not-for-profit, cooperatively owned credit unions, said, “Credit unions operate every day with a ‘*People Helping People*’ philosophy. That’s why our credit unions and their members have jumped at the opportunity to assist this very deserving soldier and his family, either through fundraising efforts across the country or by volunteering their time in person today.”

The undertaking marks the latest effort in a year-long series of service projects the DNCC has organized to give back to the community hosting the 2008 Democratic National Convention. Since last July, the organization has centered its monthly “DNCC Service Days” outings around three areas of importance to the Denver-area community: youth, environmental projects and the combined issues of homelessness and hunger.

CUNA, the Minnesota Credit Union Network, and National Journal Group are also working with Homes For Our Troops and the Republican National Committee on a similar “Volunteer Day” for the companion veteran’s home being built in conjunction with the Republican National Convention. The Volunteer Day for that project, a home in Woodbury, Minn., is scheduled for August 15<sup>th</sup>.

To learn more and to view the progress of the house in action through EarthCam visit:  
[http://www.homesforourtroops.org/site/PageServer?pagename=SSG\\_Travis\\_Strong](http://www.homesforourtroops.org/site/PageServer?pagename=SSG_Travis_Strong).

### ***About the Credit Union Associations of Colorado and Wyoming***

*The Credit Union Associations of Colorado and Wyoming are the statewide trade associations representing 120 Colorado credit unions, 30 Wyoming credit unions, and more than 1.6 million credit union members in both states – one in three Colorado and Wyoming citizens. Each credit union, operated under state or federal regulation, is a member-owned, not-for-profit institution that returns its proceeds to each of its members in the form of better interest rates and lower fees. Based in Denver, the associations serve and support credit unions and their members through legislative advocacy, media advocacy, education and training, and operational information. For additional information, visit [www.colocu.com](http://www.colocu.com) or [www.cuwyoming.com](http://www.cuwyoming.com), or call 1-800-477-1697.*

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