

Army vet and family get new home in The Woodlands Hills

By Meagan Ellsworth, Staff writer Updated 3:51 pm CDT, Thursday, March 21, 2019



IMAGE 1 OF 14

U.S. Army Sgt. Roland Sengstock shares a laugh as he and his family pose for the photo in front of an artist rendering of the future home his family received as part of Operation Finally Home, which provides mortgage-free homes for veterans, Thursday, March 21, 2019, in Willis.

Dozens of people lined a street of The Woodlands Hills waving small American flags as they welcomed U.S. Army Sgt. Roland Sengstock and his family to the site of the family's future custom-built, mortgage-free home.

Operation Finally Home, Century Communities, The Howard Hughes Corp., the Houston Texans and the Greater Houston Builders Association, city officials, and community members joined Sengstock and his family to celebrate the special groundbreaking ceremony.

"When we turned that corner and saw so many people standing out here and hearing all of the community come together – it's just a blessing," Sengstock, filled with joy, said. "Last year, I was in a dark place and I was praying every day – I think my prayers were answered."



Today, Sengstock endures Post-Traumatic Stress, Traumatic Brain Injury, degenerative disc disease, facial disfigurement, allergies and migraines. For his service, Sengstock received awards including a Combat Infantry Badge, two Navy and Marine Achievement Medals, NATO Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal and more, Operation Finally Home stated. When stationed in Hawaii, he met and married his wife, Anne, who helped him transition to civilian life. Together, they have three children, and they are looking forward to being closer to family in Houston.

In December, family learned that they were receiving a home during “The Last Fan Standing” contest at the Houston Texans game, where everyone in the stadium was asked to stand in order to win prizes. By the end of the game, Roland – the last one standing – was invited down to the field during the third quarter with his family, where the mystery prize was revealed. The Houston Texans have been a part of at least eight home builds in the last decade to deserving families of veterans as well as given \$185,000 to the cause as well, Former Texans wide receiver Cecil Shorts III said on site Thursday morning, excited to be able to provide the gift to The Sengstocks.

SCHOOL TRADITION: Tough Elementary students plan annual Race for Awareness

Once the foundation of the home is in place, the community will be invited to write inspirational “Notes of Love” on the studs before they are wrapped in drywall to allow the family to feel the support of their community each time they enter their home. Upon completion, which is anticipated for June or July, a special dedication ceremony will be held for the family to receive their keys and view their home for the first time in The Woodlands Hills.

“Today symbolizes what lies ahead, a bright future to be enjoyed, immersed in a neighborly culture, giving back and honoring our heroes,” said Heath Melton, vice president, master planned communities, residential for The Howard Hughes Corp. “We believe new beginnings are shaped with the culture that we create together. We believe that together, The Woodlands Hills is a place where we envision wholesome community being planted and grown.”

mellsworth@hcnonline.com