



DONNA CAMPBELL, M.D.
TEXAS STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 25

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Contact: Jon Oliver
512-463-0125

SEN. CAMPBELL SPEAKS AT GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR HEROIC VETERAN'S HOME

Campbell joins Homes for Our Troops to Honor Wounded Veteran Perez-Gorda

AUSTIN-- In a neighborhood outside of Dripping Springs, community members came together with banners, flags, and barbecue to honor Army Specialist Justin Perez-Gorda, who was wounded while serving in Afghanistan from an IED explosion which left him paralyzed. The event was put together to commemorate the construction of a new house by Homes for Our Troops, a nonprofit organization which helps build homes for severely injured veterans and their families at no cost, with both state Senator Donna Campbell and state Rep. Jason Isaac in attendance.

"It goes without saying that we are indebted to heroes like Justin Perez-Gorda for fighting so valiantly to defend our freedom. It goes without saying, but it's worth repeating. We are so blessed for his service and sacrifice and it's with great humility that we stand here today to give a little something back. Thank you, Justin. God bless your family and God bless our troops," Senator Donna Campbell told the crowd.

Many of the shovels used for the official groundbreaking were painted with patriotic messages. The shovel Senator Campbell used was designed with red and white stripes with the inscription, "Freedom isn't Free." Command Sergeant Major Christopher Walls, also in attendance, picked up a shovel that proudly proclaimed "Army Strong."

"The dirt we remove from the ground today is a reminder of the sacrifice so many have made to defend this soil and keep us free," Senator Campbell reiterated.

The Dripping Springs home is the seventeenth such project which Homes for Our Troops has provided in Texas since September 11, 2001. According to the Homes for Our Troops website, each home is specially designed with the needs of the injured veteran and their family in mind to provide maximum freedom of movement and the ability to live more independently.

"I've participated in over 100 of these in 37 states, and it never stops being emotional," Veterans Liaison Larry Gill told the crowd. "Our thanks goes out to all the affiliates and volunteers who made this possible."

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Senator Donna Campbell represents Senate District 25 and sits on the Veterans Affairs and Military Installations Committee. She has sponsored several key pieces of legislation to honor our veterans, including a bill to expand parking privileges for World War II vets. That bill was signed into law by Governor Perry on Memorial Day.