

In a first-of-its-kind project, a local contractor will donate the proceeds from the sale of a cottage home in Ballybunion Park in Pinehurst No. 9 to the Patriot Foundation. A groundbreaking ceremony took place this fall for the "Patriot House."

"We are so appreciative to Will Huntley and his group for their commitment and enthusiasm," said Chuck Deleot, president and chairman of the Patriot Foundation. "We're all tremendously grateful for what Huntley Design Build is doing to push the concept of taking care of the children of soldiers that are giving everything. Their families are giving everything."

Deleot said that because of this unique fundraising project, the Patriot Foundation will be able to provide 100 scholarships to children of soldiers who have been killed, wounded or injured since 9/11 in the Global War on Terrorism.

"These family's lives have profoundly changed," he said. "The Patriot Foundation exists to help these soldiers' families. Additionally, we provide a small percentage of funding for child care for the families of fallen and disabled soldiers whose surviving spouses need to obtain additional job training and development."

Deleot pointed out that in 2016, the Veterans Administration reported that there were more than one million service-connected disabilities that have been approved. He said about 70 percent of the casualties are from the Army, and neighboring Fort Bragg accounts for about 12 percent to 13 percent of its soldiers.

"Since 9/11, it is plausible Fort Bragg could have had over 50,000 service-connected disabilities," he said.

Deleot said that is what makes the work of the Patriot Foundation so important in helping soldiers and their families.

Huntley said during the ceremony that "This project is a way for our family and company to give back to the community," he said. "It is difficult for small businesses to make large financial contributions. Pooling our time, expertise and resources with our partners allows us to come together and make a sizable contribution that will truly make a difference for the Gold Star families who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. We're excited to be a part of it. Through the efforts of many and generosity of our suppliers, we will be presenting a check to the Patriot Foundation with the proceeds from the sale of the home."

Huntley along with his vendors and subcontractors will be heavily discounting their costs for all components of the house. He estimated that the 3,200-square-foot home would be valued at about \$700,000.

The Patriot House will overlook the 14th hole of the famed No. 9 course designed by Jack Nicklaus. The Patriot House purchase includes a Pinehurst Country Club Full No. 7 and No. 9 golf membership. The first year's dues have also been waived. Full golf members have access to nine courses plus all the other amenities the world-renowned club offers.

Huntley and Deleot joined Spike Smith, founder of the Patriot Foundation, retired Army Brig. Gen. Ferd Irizarry, executive vice president of the foundation, and Jean Bradshaw of Bradshaw Capital Management, for the groundbreaking ceremony.

"The golden shovels represent a golden opportunity to provide an education," Smith said.

Irizarry told guests that as a soldier, there is "great comfort knowing the Patriot Foundation is there to help their family if something should happen to them while defending our freedom."

After the ceremony, the attendees enjoyed social time and visit with Ballybunion Neighborhood representatives.

"What Will Huntley is doing with Patriot House is a magnificent act of generosity and patriotism," Deleot said. "We are very grateful to Will and his coalition of patriots."