

Please join us for a special evening with

Homes for our Troops Presentation by Luke Murphy



“Blasted by Adversity”

*To open the George C. Marshall Legacy Series
sequence on Taking Care of the Troops*

Thursday, October 8, 2015

5:30 PM with reception to follow

Pogue Auditorium
George C. Marshall Foundation
VMI Parade, Lexington, Virginia



Reservations required by calling Leigh McFaddin
at 540-463-7103, ext. 138 or by email to
reservations@marshallfoundation.org

Members will be admitted free; non-members will pay \$15 at the door.

You are invited to see the new exhibition, “Give Them What They Need,” that will be on display in the Lower Gallery through December. The doors will open at 4:45 for those who wish to see the exhibition that opens that day.

**Taking Care of the Troops is being presented in partnership with
Homes for our Troops and with sponsorship from L-3.**

taking care of the troops



Taking Care of the Troops

“We are going to take care of the troops, first, last, and all the time.” —George C. Marshall

In this sequence, Taking Care of the Troops, we focus on the soldier. Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall believed men and women in uniform were his greatest asset. Speaking to the American Legion in 1943, he said, “My consideration is for the American soldier, to see that he has every available means with which to make successful war, that he is not limited in ammunition, that he is not limited in equipment, and that he has sufficient training and medical care; in other words, to see that for once in the history of this country he is given a fair break in the terrible business of making war.”

Marshall knew all too well from experience about the difficulties soldiers faced while fighting overseas, and he worked tirelessly to ensure that the soldiers he was leading had everything they would need to defeat the enemy. The concern that the enlightened Marshall had for providing for his soldiers’ needs went well beyond physical items such as uniforms, guns, ammunition and blankets to include entertainment, recreation, and spiritual guidance. Addressing the physical and emotional needs of the soldiers became a priority at all times because Marshall believed, “It is the spirit which we bring to the fight that decides the issue. It is morale that wins the victory.”

Marshall’s roles in forming the USO and expanding the Army Chaplain Corps were significant in addressing morale concerns as he grew the U.S. Army from about 190,000 soldiers in uniform in 1939 to more than 8,000,000 by war’s end in 1945. Again we see General Marshall anticipating what is needed and then taking action to provide for his soldiers.



Homes for Our Troops (HFOT) is a privately funded, nonprofit organization building specially adapted, mortgage-free homes nationwide for the most severely injured veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. Most of these veterans have sustained injuries including multiple limb amputations, partial or full paralysis, and/or severe traumatic brain injury. These homes restore some of the freedom and independence our veterans sacrificed while defending our country, and enable them to focus on their family, recovery, and rebuilding their lives.

Army Staff Sergeant Luke Murphy was the squad leader of an 11-man reconnaissance team with the 187th Infantry Regiment, a component of the 101st Airborne Division, on his second deployment when he lost his right leg above the knee and severely injured his left leg in a blast in Sadr City, Iraq in April 2006.

Transported by truck and saved by measures taken by his men, 18 minutes after the blast SSG Murphy was in a field hospital being prepared for medevac to the Baghdad ER where he received several units of blood. Stabilized for transport to Landstuhl, Germany, SSG Murphy arrived at Walter Reed Army Medical Center within days of his injuries and remained there for a year enduring nearly thirty surgeries.

Since moving into his home in February 2014, Luke has become a partner at Southern Land Realty, coauthored a book *Blasted by Adversity* and joined HFOT's Veterans Action and Advisory Team (VAAT). Luke has also endured three more surgeries and says his home has made the recovery so much more bearable. "My home is truly the only place I can move freely and in total comfort. It has been a wonderful place to heal, grow and move forward. I will always be grateful to HFOT."



The *George C. Marshall Legacy Series* interprets General Marshall's legacy through a multi-year series of exhibitions, speakers and programs centered on key themes or episodes from General Marshall's career. Because Marshall's career touched on nearly every major event of the first half of the 20th century, the landscape for the Legacy Series is rich and vast. We access our own significant resources and collections to create unique activities and events to share with the public. The Legacy Series promises substantial benefits to Foundation members, children and families, scholars and researchers, historians and history buffs, and museum visitors of all ages.

Current and next sequences include:

Taking Care of the Troops (October—December 2015)

November 18: Tom Van Doren, VP, Engineering, HDT Global, discusses equipping military amputees with robotic limbs

December 3: "The Things They Carried" Behind-the-scenes display of unusual objects from the collection

December 12: Marshall Museum Holiday Open House

"All Who Want to Serve" (January—April 2016)

"Speed and Fury" (May—August 2016)

Please see our website for a calendar of events and activities at marshallfoundation.org