

Veterans Home Run-A memory maker for all participants!

By Jack Anthony

I hope you all marked your calendars and SAVED THE DATE (JULY 1ST) for the second tour of the Veterans' Home Run 5K Run/1K Walk at Falcon Stadium. Last month's Long Run introduced plans for this year's Veterans' Home Run. How grateful Pikes Peak Road Runners and the Crawford House staff and residents are to the Air Force Academy for allowing us to hold our event to help Colorado Veterans Coalition's Crawford House. Stop by your favorite running store or hop on line and register for VHR07!

Last year's first ever VHR was a true memory maker for me personally. I recall as the sun rose upon Memorial Park the PPRR volunteers were out in force setting things up. The staff and residents of Crawford House were also present and wondering just what the heck is a fun run. Soon folks started to show up, a few pre-registered athletes and then a wonderful line of registrants grew. We got them all squared away swiftly and before we knew it 300 participants took the starting line and awaited Eileen Crawford's (bride of World War II hero and Medal of Honor winner Bill Crawford) command to GO! I also recall a young man whom I would soon learn was a New Orleans's Katrina evacuee who somehow ended up in Colorado Springs. He was one of the first to show up and had pre-registered. I recall him working diligently to get his number pinned on. I chatted with this young man who had a look of sincerity yet also one of nervousness as he told me of his journey to Colorado and how he earned a job as a security guard at a local business. I soon learned this was his first race ever and he recently took up running. Off my new friend and rookie 5K-er went with determination. Then by golly, soon he returned with the same look of dedication and perseverance as he crossed the finish line. He looked a bit bushed, but his brilliant smile was still in tact. I would again see him a few months later at the American Discovery event. I hope I get to see him again at VHR07!

So, do you have a friend who recently took up running? Are you one of our awesome military members who are Warfit or Army Proud as you maintain your fitness to be ready to deploy and be fit to fight? Well, why not add the VHR07 to your training or why not encourage your friends or co-workers new to our sport and joy to take part in VHR07 and join the brother/sisterhood of fun runners/walkers. Sure we'll have those speedy guys and gals but last year there were far more who simply like to pin on the number and reach out for a personal best or just a darn fun run. There were many first timers too. Match your enthusiasm to be fit as a fiddle or helping your friends achieve that goal with the fact that you are helping America's heroes and heroines by raising funds to help keep Crawford House the fabulous home and refuge for veterans in need of a helping hand.

Please sign up and spread the word that Veterans' Home Run is a special event and we seek to blast through the 500 participant level. Last year's 300 was quite a joyful turnout and we hope more will step up to the challenge and the cause.

Do you want to learn more about the Crawford House's namesake, Private Bill Crawford? Well, we've posted a wonderful essay by Colonel Jim Moschgat, who "discovered" Bill Crawford's Medal of Honor "secret." It's a great story and is entitled "A Janitor's Ten Lessons on Leadership." We've posted it on our RRCA nationally acclaimed PPRR web site. Simply click on Veterans Home Run and you'll get to the article that Jim wrote. You'll also find registration and race info on the web site. Jim Moschgat will be at the race. Jim recently completed a 30 year career in America's Air Force and has moved back to Colorado Springs. Please join Jim, Mrs. Eileen Crawford and the staff and residents of Crawford House as well as those wild and crazy PPRR race management volunteers on JULY 1ST AT FALCON STADIUM AND RUN/WALK THE VETERANS HOME RUN 2007 SECOND TOUR!