

Veterans Home Run – USA Paralympics Partnership with PPRR!
By Jack Anthony, for the May 2008 PPRR Long Run

Have you marked Saturday 28 June on your calendar and SAVED THE DATE for the 3rd tour of the Veterans' Home Run 5K at Air Academy High School and the AFA Pine Valley? We surely hope you marked this date! The starters command to GO is 7:00 am sharp! A fun and not so hilly 5K course awaits you and it should be glorious as we greet the day with a 5K run and 1 K walk to honor our local veterans in need. The Crawford House is the focus and benefactor of the run and your registration and participation will go a long way in helping the Crawford House staff in their mission of turning homeless veterans toward stable and productive lives.

We have a very special partnership this year with the USA Paralympics track and field. They are pulling out all the stops supporting our Veterans' Home Run 2008. Troy Engle (USA Paralympics Coordinator), Mike Mushett (Director of Outreach and Development) and Roger Neppi (USOC Paralympic Military Program) are fully involved as members of the Pikes Peak Road Runners VHR 08 planning team and ensuring VHR08's success. As Colorado Springs celebrates Team USA's headquarters staying in Colorado Springs, these Olympic leaders are committed to getting the word out to USA world class athletes who may be able to add VHR08 to their preparation for the 2008 summer games. Why not make VHR08 part of your summer fitness program. Who knows, perhaps you'll get to run or push along side an athlete whom you might see on TV coverage of the Beijing Olympics. Take time to checkout USA Paralympics web site at "www.usolympicteam.com/Paralympics". You'll be inspired by these great athletes who let nothing get in their way of enjoying sports and fitness.

The Colorado Veteran's Resource Coalition manages the Crawford House. Crawford House is named in honor of Private Bill Crawford, World War II Medal of Honor recipient. The Crawford House and staff provide a supportive living environment for veterans seeking to improve their lives by undergoing treatment for substance abuse. They also assist homeless veterans to confidently step into the community and find employment. The home provides rooms, meals, employment counseling, mental health services, and medical support. Additionally, Crawford House is augmented with two homes nearby that serve as transition residences. Crawford House is a success story not only because it helps veterans get back on their feet and confident again but it also does this via non-profit means and income.

We challenged you in the last article to make the Veterans' Home Run part of your summer fitness program. We also ask you to invite someone new to running to give a Pikes Peak Road Runners fun run a try. Now is the time to get a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or fellow gym rat to join you on Saturday June 28th. See you soon; and on behalf of the USA Paralympics team Let's Roll (or run, or push, or stroll)...Let's honor our veterans...and Go Team USA!