



the **LONG RUN**

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Huge Turnout Expected at Memorial Park for July 2nd Veterans Home Run

by Jack Anthony

In the May issue of our fabulous *Long Run* newsletter, the Pikes Peak Road Runners Board invited you to take part in the first annual Veterans Home Run on Sunday July 2nd. This special commitment of the Pikes Peak Road Runners will honor and help the men and women of the Colorado Veterans Coalition's Crawford House. This article includes an update on the Veterans Home Run plus gives insight into the Crawford House namesake, Private William J. Crawford who on September 13, 1943 earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for his courage and heroism in action near Altaville, Italy.

We have some wonderful primary sponsors who have stepped forth to provide significant financial help to the Veterans Home Run. Primary sponsors include The Rotary Club of Colorado Springs and the Computer Sciences Corporation. Thank you sponsors to committing your name and resources to this event to honor America's veterans in need. We do have some wonderful folks stepping up to provide individual sponsorships and next issue we'll try to list them all.

The Veterans Home Run entry fee will be \$12.00 and based on the commitment of our sponsors, your entry fee will go directly to helping the staff and residents of the Crawford House! You will get a wonderful commemorative Veterans Home Run T-shirt courtesy of Peak Impressions and owner Joanne Cornick. The Veterans Home Run artwork was kindly prepared by Pat Musick and her artistry symbolizes the veteran's journey home, be it a journey to their own home or to the help and compassion of the Crawford House. You will also get to meet the Crawford House staff and residents. They will be participating as water-stop helpers and some will tackle the event as runners and walkers too! Our honorary race starter is Eileen



Veterans Larry Johnson, Randy Gilbert, Thomas Jackson, and Eddie Palmer (L-R) pose with site manager Vicki Pettis at the Crawford House open house May 12th. The VHR will benefit these and other residents.

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Veterans Home Run

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Crawford, William Crawford's widow, who lives here in Colorado Springs. Many of you have run the Memorial Park/Prospect Lake 5K course; it's a fast one and is definitely a fan friendly course—so ensure your cheering squad attends too!

The Veterans Home Run posters and applications are out and are also posted on the Pikes Peak Road Runners web site. There are also on-line registration options. Please make the Veterans Home Run part of your 4th of July patriotic weekend and also encourage others to come and participate. The Veterans Home Run is part of the Summer Series, a series of races that are designed to introduce folks to the fun and fellowship of Pikes Peak Road Runners events. We are publicizing the Veterans Home Run at the four major military bases; Fort Carson, Peterson Complex, Schriever and the Air Force Academy. These military bases have very active physical fitness programs that help keep freedom's defenders tuned up to protect us all. Come meet them and say thank you to these great Americans! There are also team competitions—so why not



William Crawford, 1984, wearing his Medal of Honor. "No job is beneath a leader."

form a 4 person team!

The Crawford House is named in memorial and honor of Private William Crawford, a Congressional Medal of Honor winner! As a soldier during World War II, William Crawford's skills and courage were put to the test. His heroism is captured the book *Beyond the Medal*, by Peter C. Lemon. "Without orders, on his own initiative as lead scout, when his platoon was pinned down by intensive enemy fire, Crawford crested a hill and single-handedly destroyed three machine gun emplacements...." (see www.homeofheroes.com/moh/citations_living/ii_a_crawford.html for a brief account)

He volunteered to stay behind with a wounded comrade and was captured by the Germans, endured 19 months in a Nazi prison camp, and was later released. The Army presumed he was dead and presented the Medal of Honor posthumously to his father. In 1945, his family rejoiced in his liberation from the German prison camp and he return home to Colorado.

In 1985, Crawford was awarded his Medal of Honor by President Ronald Reagan at the AFA Class of 1985 graduation ceremony. I was there (an AFA teacher at the time) and yes, I cried at this amazing man and his story of courage and dedication to America! I remember well as President Reagan draped America's highest medal on this unassuming brave hero. Come honor William Crawford and meet his bride Eileen on July 2nd at the Veterans Home Run.

The story of this humble hero goes on and after retirement from the Army, he took on a job as a janitor at the Air Force Academy. He assumed the role of a quiet and modest clean up man in a cadet dorm where he also took on a special role of befriending and mentoring the young cadets. His role as a



The Crawford House, at the corner of Weber and Pueblo in downtown Colorado Springs.

janitor and his affect on the cadets, including me, for he worked right down the hall from my dorm area, is captured in Col Jim Moschgat's (AFA Class of 1977) essay entitled "The Janitor's Ten Lessons in Leadership". This "must read" essay can be found on the web (www.homeofheroes.com/profiles/profiles_crawford_10lessons.html).

So, let's make this 4th of July weekend a special event on you running or walking calendar and make the Veterans Home Run part of that patriotic weekend. If you're in town that weekend, come run or walk with us at the Veterans Home Run! See you Sunday July 2nd at Memorial Park/Prospect Lake.

Jack Anthony, along with PPRR members Jim Beckenhaupt, Jon Cornick, and Pat Lockhart have been hard at work in promoting the VHR.

