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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Port St. Lucie City employees join businesses, residents to help family of fallen soldier

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. (Aug. 3, 2016) – City employees, local businesses and volunteers from across South Florida have teamed up to give back to the family of a Port St. Lucie soldier who died while serving in Afghanistan five years ago.

Donating their time, money and skills, these volunteers will gather all this week at the Cameo Boulevard home of Clay and Linda Schumann, where they will complete several renovations, including installing new floors, new air conditioner, drywall, new bathroom, lawn work, and possibly a new backyard deck. The work has been coordinated and supported by South Florida non-profit organization Believe With Me, which works to help the families of fallen soldiers, known as Gold Star families.

Port St. Lucie Vice Mayor Linda Bartz, who comes from a military family, said volunteers working on the project contacted her and she put them in touch with officials in the City's building department.

"We are a community that honors our veterans and our Gold Star families," Bartz said. "We step up when we are given the opportunity to reach out and help a family that has sacrificed so much for our country. This is who we are as a community."

Lyette Reback, the organization's founder, said the Schumann's were in the process of renovating parts of their home when their son U.S. Army Spc. Jordan C. Schumann was killed on July 5, 2011 in Paktya Province, Afghanistan. The vehicle Jordan Schumann was driving was sent to assist another squad when it was hit by a roadside bomb.

Employees in the City's building department have jumped in to help. Some are personally helping to pay for the new air conditioning system permit fees. A local business is paying for the permit for new windows and a resident donated money for the siding permit. Waste Pro also has stepped in to help out.

Jordan Schumann was a 2006 graduate of St. Lucie West Centennial High School and raised in Port St. Lucie.

“Port St. Lucie has always been a city that supports our veterans and their families. I'm very happy and proud that our community has come together to assist this Gold Star family in their time of need,” said Port St. Lucie City Councilwoman Shannon Martin. “It's so important to give back to those that have made the ultimate sacrifice for our community and country!”

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The City of Port St. Lucie is proud to be a hometown where people live, learn, work and play, and celebrate all of life's opportunities. With over 179,000 residents, Port St. Lucie is Florida's eighth largest city by population (South Florida's 3rd largest city). The City occupies an area of 120 square miles in St. Lucie County on Florida's east coast, about 50 miles north of West Palm Beach, half way between Miami and Orlando. The City provides most traditional municipal services including law enforcement, water and sewer, and public works. For more information, please visit: www.cityofpsl.com

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