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Senate

RECOGNIZING JOHN GONSALVES UPON RECEIVING THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION MEDAL OF HONOR AWARD

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the winner of the Daughters of the American Revolution Medal of Honor Award, Mr. John Gonsalves of Taunton, MA. Mr. Gonsalves was nominated by the members of the Molly Stark Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in Manchester, New Hampshire, to receive this national award.

In the wake of September 11th, Mr. Gonsalves was left, like many Americans, with the insatiable desire to do something to help those intimately affected by the tragedy. He was particularly struck by those who have made extraordinary sacrifices on the front lines in the military operations that have followed the September 11th attacks, our wounded soldiers.

Upon seeing these injured soldiers in news reports, Mr. Gonsalves was determined to use his lifelong trade to help these wounded heroes. Having worked extensively in the construction field throughout the last 20 years, he gained expertise in all phases of the construction process, business management and OSHA safety standards. He started "Homes For Our Troops" - a nonprofit organiza-

tion that builds and refits homes across the country for veterans wounded while serving in the Middle East. Mr. Gonsalves has pledged to build these specially adapted residences for our wounded soldiers so long as the need exists at no cost to them.

The brave men and women who put their lives at risk everyday to protect our country need to know that their fellow citizens appreciate their sacrifices and will support them long after they return home from the front lines. Mr. Gonsalves' work promotes an extremely noble cause which ensures that our wounded troops, who have worked extraordinarily hard to protect our nation, have the opportunity to find suitable housing when they return home.

Mr. Gonsalves has shown tremendous qualities of leadership, service and patriotism by selflessly dedicating himself to a cause that serves a greater purpose and aids those who have sacrificed for our country, and he is certainly deserving of the DAR Medal of Honor Award. I congratulate him on his recognition and commend him for his service to the military community and the positive effects his organization has for our country, and especially on our wounded soldiers.