



Solomon V. Gore stands in front of his newly finished home on Cameron Street in Winston-Salem on Thursday, March 19, 2015. Thanks to Homes 4 Our Heroes, a permanent housing and grassroots community project of Whole Man Ministries, Gore is no longer a homeless veteran.

**Homes**  
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permanent housing project for homeless veterans, is a grassroots community project of Whole Man Ministries, a local nonprofit faith-based organization. The organization has made it possible for Gore to have the new home by accepting a referral from The Prosperity Center.

"Other places seemed like they were giving me the runaround," he said. "This time I got some help. I was told where to go, who to ask for and who to see."

The project, which has been underway since 2013, has five duplex apartment homes. The five homes, 10 apartments, were deemed uninhabitable and slated to be demolished by the city before the nonprofit pitched the project, expected to cost \$631,000.

"This feels great. It was hard work finishing this project and it feels good to finally see it come to fruition," said Gerald Green, a representative from Homes 4 Our Heroes.

The duplexes, in the 1400 block of Cameron Avenue, had to be completely gutted and rebuilt.

The crew insulated the walls and ceilings of the

apartment, laid down tile, replaced floor joists and even installed new water heaters. Three of the homes, which are two-bedroom duplexes, are designated for homeless veterans. The homes have appliances in each apartment, including a stove, refrigerator and a washer and dryer.

Agencies like Wells Fargo, Home Depot and BB&T pitched in money and manpower to make sure that the homes were completed.

"The community has chipped in so much and to finally see that hard work pay off, they are elated," Green said. "They have worked very hard and diligently to make this happen, and now the first vet has moved in."

Two of the homes are expected to be three-bedroom, two-bath homes available for low-income families. The city is helping to fund the development of those home with loans and grants.

The nonprofit is working with agencies like The Prosperity Center and Veterans Helping Veterans Heal (VHVH) for referrals that assist them with placing clients in housing. They help and support the clients

by providing a case manager who can help with budgeting, job training and anything that's needed.

Those living in the Homes 4 Our Heroes duplexes will have to pay rent based on a sliding scale and would be offered a chance to buy the housing.

The agency is working to find another veteran to place in the other apartment while working to make sure the duplex next door is finished by the summer.

"We are lining up people and going through the intake process so that as soon as the units become available, they can move right in," he said.

A female veteran moved into the other unit Monday.

When asked how he felt about his new home, Gore just looks across the apartment and smiles.

I am the happiest man in the world. It takes a whole lot of stress off of me. I appreciate these guys. It feels like a burden has been lifted off of my chest, he said. "I can't wait to spend the first night in here."

Gore did just that on Friday, March 20.



Members of the audience at The Chronicle's 30th Community Awards Banquet enjoy themselves on Saturday night, March 21.

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said that five state-supported historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in North Carolina might need to close because of the number of them in North Carolina. The state has more state-supported HBCUs than any other state.

Robinson has been on the job less than 90 days. He started as chancellor on Jan. 1.

"I think that we are in a great place. I think that we are in great times," Robinson said. He applauded the people who were honored at the gala, who give their time, talent and "spend days laboring in the vineyard."

Then he addressed the contentious atmosphere surrounding North Carolina's historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) within the UNC Board of Trustees. Members of the UNC Board, which governs the UNC system, have said that the board is looking at possibly eliminating HBCUs in the state.

"But every day I look around and hear people and they get nervous about where we are. People call me and they get frantic about whether, indeed, historically black colleges are going to close and whether they're relevant and all that nonsense," Robinson said.

"I say to you that work is never easy. Someone said you don't do something because it's hard or because it's easy. You do something because it's right. So when you think about where we have to go and what we have to do, I don't get nervous. I simply roll up my sleeves and get back to work," because of the great things happening at WSSU.

"Tell me how you even consider, how it even gets in a conversation, where an individual or anybody or a system would think about closing an institution that has those attributes," Robinson said.

He said WSSU is not telling its story of success.

"We are going to tell the story. We are going to create the narrative, we are going to purchase the reality, and then we are going to sell that reality to others. We're about beginning to train students for the 21st century."

WSSU has shown that its students can get jobs, Robinson said. "I'm interested in people creating jobs."

"We must have your support in educating students," Robinson said. He said almost 200 students did not return to WSSU in the spring, not because of grades but because of finances.

"I think we have something special and something unique and dynamic to offer our students," Robinson said.

Woman of the Year, Randon Pender, a WSSU graduate, reiterated what Robinson said about helping the university.

"I heard our chancellor say it's about communication. If we have not inspired anyone, then what is it all for?" she said. Robinson "has made the appeal to us."

She also thanked various organizations and people, including her husband, who has one of her kidneys.

Man of the Year, the Rev. Nathan Scovens, also thanked various people. He paid tribute to his deceased mother and his aunt, who traveled from Virginia to see him get his award.

He entreated the audience: "The only way to serve God is by serving other people."

The program for the event included greetings from area lawmakers: U.S. Rep. Alma Adams, N.C. Sen. Paul Lowe, Winston-Salem Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke and County Commissioner Walter Marshall.

The honorees are:

\*Man of the Year, Scovens, is pastor of Galilee Missionary Baptist and chaplain for the Winston-Salem Police Department. Under Scovens' leadership, Galilee moved onto a new 28-acre campus. He is a member of the NAACP Legal Redress Committee, Communities in Schools Board, Board of Directors for the Bethesda Center and Board of Directors for the United Way. He was also recently selected to receive the Religious Leader Award by the men of the Delta Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.

\*Woman of the year, Pender, is the president of the WSSU Brown Alumni Chapter, a member of Chi Eta Phi Inc.'s Chi-Chi Chapter, the chairwoman of the Forsyth County Democratic Party 81st Precinct, a volunteer and community organizer for the Oak Summit and Country Club Annex Community, a member of the Womens Fund of the Winston Salem Foundation and member of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, where she is a Sunday School Teacher.

\*Minority Business of the Year, Camel City Caravans, was formed by Reid and Kirsten Hinsley. The business uses golf

carts to shuttle downtown patrons between the Arts District, Fourth Street and Burke Street. The ride is free for customers, with advertisers providing the funding.

\*Organization of the Year, the Ministers Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity, is a Christian based nonprofit organization serving as a place for ministers to gather for fellowship and worship. The organization is also open to the public to discuss and find solutions to local issues. The minister's conference has partnered with farmers in Rural Hall and the YMCA to implement a plan that will teach young people about farming and how to build a community garden.

\*Curator of the Arts, Chadwick Cheek, is owner and president of Elephant In The Room, which specializes in brand strategy, product and communication design for local and national clients. He has been a Board trustee of The Arts Council since 2012.

\*Human Relations Award, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Forsyth and Davie Counties, provides children ages 6-18 who are facing adversity with strong and enduring professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.

\*Community Service Awards were given to Claudia Schaefer, Linda Sutton and Patricia Sadler.

\*\*Claudia Schaefer launched CZS Communications LLC in 2010 to help nonprofit organizations strengthen their reputation through strategic communications that inform and inspire their audiences to donate, advocate and volunteer.

\*\*Linda Sutton has been active in the community since the early '70s, working with election boards and issues. She currently works as the Central North Carolina Field Organizer for Democracy North Carolina.

\*\*Patricia Sadler is one of the central figures at the Winston-Salem Urban League, serving as the Workforce Development and Community Relations Director. She provides leadership for the Urban League Senior Community Services Employment Program, serving over 230 unemployed low-income seniors in 18 counties.

\*Lifetime Achievement Awards were given to Lenwood Davis, Nancy Young, Evelyn Terry and Harry Davis, Esq.

\*\*Lenwood Davis is a longtime resident of Winston-Salem and a retired WSSU professor. He is one of the founders of The Society for the Study of Afro-American History in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County and Preserve Historic Forsyth. He has been called "The World's Most Prolific Living Bibliographer."

\*\*Nancy Young has been director of public relations at WSSU since April 2009. She has more than 40 years of experience in media, corporate and nonprofit public relations and administrative leadership roles. She has led several nonprofit organizations' boards.

\*\*Evelyn Terry is a N.C. state representative for Forsyth County's 71st District. She was influenced by her grandfather George Black, a famous native son who made bricks by hand in Winston-Salem. She has had a professional career of service, including teaching, working at ESR, WSSU and HAWS. She has had a profound impact on the lives of countless youth and those needing a second chance.

\*\*Harry Davis, Esq. is a community icon representing the voiceless, tackling discrimination and degradation as an attorney. In 1967, there was racial unrest in the city after the death of an African-American male who was arrested by the Winston-Salem police. This resulted in many arrests, and Mr. Davis collected several of the cases, winning most of them.

\*Special Recognition was given to Courtney Omega Taylor and Children's Law Center of Central North Carolina.

\*\*Courtney Omega Taylor opened up her own competitive dance studio in 2005 called Positive Image Performing Arts. That first year she had 17 students. Ten years later, she has 112. She provides her award-winning dancers with love, support and guidance outside and inside the studio.

\*\*Children's Law Center of Central North Carolina was founded by Penny Orr Spry and Amy Kuhlman in September 2005. The mission of the Children's Law Center is to provide children with quality legal advocacy focusing on domestic violence issues, high conflict custody cases and ensuring access to education.

Some people who served the community but have died were remembered, also. They are:

\*Rev. Melvin "Rip" Wilkins, Raphael Black, Louis Lowery, George Redd, Apostle John Heath, Edward Hanes, Ernest Hodge, Robert Brown Sr., Al Beatty and Rodney Sumler.



Mayor Allen Joines poses with family members of the "5" Royales, organizers and attendees.

**5 Royales**  
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success, they never found the mainstream stardom of the artists they influenced, such as James Brown and Steve Cropper, who will be inducting the group into the Hall of Fame in Cleveland on April 18.

The group's songs would go on to become hits for other artists as well. One of Brown's earliest R&B hits was a cover of the Royale's Top 10 hit, "Think." Ray Charles and Eric Clapton both did covers of the Royale's "Tell the Truth."

Another of the group's hits include "Dedicated to the One I Love," a tune that later became a hit for the Shirelles and later the Mamas & the Papas.

Members of the band to be inducted are Obadiah Carter, Jimmy Moore, Eugene and John Tanner and Lowman Pauling, who played guitar and wrote most of the group's songs. Pauling's son Darryl said the recognition for the group was a "long time coming."

Though there are no living members left of the group, which disbanded in 1965, there are numerous relatives of the group who still reside locally. Many will travel to Cleveland as guests of the Hall of Fame for next month's induction

**Heading to Cleveland**

There will be a sock hop held on April 10 at 7 p.m. at the National Guard Armory to raise money for a bus to go to the Hall of Fame ceremony. Call Bobby Ray Wilson at 336-406-5138 or email xxxzoolofy55@yahoo.com for tickets. The ceremony will be aired in May on HBO, which will also include the induction of Ringo Starr, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Bill Withers and Lou Reed.

ceremony and spoke during last week's event. They recalled hearing firsthand accounts of the Royales' tours and the excitement when they heard their songs for the first time on local AM radio station WAAA.

Darryl Pauling said some had special meaning, like the 1950 hit,

"Dedicated to the One I love."

"My father wrote that for my mother," he said.

He said before his

mother passed, she asked him to keep the legacy of the "5" Royales alive.

He didn't know how to do that and prayed on it. He said the Hall of Fame induction and proclamation were God's answer.

"He does things in His time and His time is now," said Pauling.

Fred Tanner, whose brothers were vocalists John and Eugene Tanner, said the honors for the group are well deserved.

"We are so proud of the accomplishments of the '5' Royales," he said. "It's awesome that they've been chosen for induction. They not only influenced the performers that followed them, they influenced the top performers, history making performances following them and we're truly proud of that. Really it was history making then, but we just didn't realize it, it led to changes in the direction in rock and roll. It led to the sub-style that they brought, which was a mix of gospel and blues. Before then performers didn't do that."

