



ALERT

WEATHER: 85 NC COUNTIES AND 2 VA COUNTIES ARE UNDER ALERT, INCLUDING WAKE, CUMBERLAND, DURHAM, JOHNSTON, AND ORANGE COUNTIES. → VIEW DETAILS

Posted: 5:27 a.m. yesterday
Updated: 6:42 p.m. yesterday

First lady helps unveil Fayetteville home for homeless vets

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FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — A crew working on a boarding house for homeless women veterans got a hand Thursday from a prominent volunteer: first lady Michelle Obama.

Decked out in a sleeveless, Navy-blue top, Army-green capris and green sneakers, the first lady joined the crew of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" Thursday afternoon to the cheers of a crowd that had been waiting for hours in the nearly 100-degree heat to catch a glimpse.

Obama wanted to visit a greenhouse and playhouse as part of the effort to construct a new home for the women of the Steps N Stages Jubilee House, according to a spokeswoman for the ABC network. The episode is scheduled to air in October.

The effort is being led by Barbara Marshall, a 15-year Navy veteran who runs the project as a shelter for women veterans. Her own home was demolished to make room for the new building.

Chip Smith, owner of Blue Ridge Log Cabins, the primary contractor on the project, said as many as 150 volunteers have worked as late as 2 a.m. some nights to tear down the old house and build the new one.

A crowd of at least several hundred cheered after seeing Obama in the greenhouse Thursday afternoon, a few hours before the finished house was unveiled.

But the heat and excitement may have proved too much in some cases, as a handful of people had fainted by the early afternoon and were being cared for by emergency medical crews.

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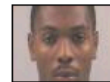
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