

Cory Remsburg Home

GILBERT, AZ

CASE STUDY | RESIDENTIAL

➔ Challenge

Help a wounded Army Rangers veteran strive for recovery and independence as he moves into a home customized to meet his special needs.

➔ Solution

A home automation system based on Crestron Pyng™ that allows him to control the home's temperature, lights, shading and entertainment systems from his mobile devices.



Coming Home to a House That Fits

For chronically injured United States veteran Cory Remsburg, a home automation system offers independence during recovery

“

We have an obligation to serve those who serve us when they come home. If a home doesn't function for a veteran because of injuries he or she has sustained, we need to make that right.”

— **Jared Allen**

Jared Allen's Homes For Wounded Warriors Foundation

After surviving the unimaginable and experiencing the miraculous, Army Ranger 1st Class Cory Remsburg wanted to come home. In 2009, during his 10th deployment to the Middle East, Remsburg's platoon hit a roadside bomb that left him in a coma for over three months. Amazingly, he awoke. Remsburg was honored by President Obama and Congress for his valor, and he bravely handled years of surgery and rehabilitation.

As his recovery continued, Remsburg was determined to regain his independence, but he still faced major obstacles. Shrapnel in his brain had paralyzed his left side and left him blind in one eye, which made the prospect of returning home more than a little daunting.

Word of the difficulties faced by Remsburg reached Dylan Vicha and Jared Allen. The two men are lifelong friends and cofounders of *Jared Allen's Homes For Wounded Warriors Foundation*, as well as partners in technology integrator Clean Media AV. The foundation provides mortgage-free, fully accessible housing to critically injured veterans and strives to go beyond conventional door-widening and ramp building to give the veterans homes that are truly their own. In Remsburg's case, the foundation used a Crestron control system to augment a Phoenix-area home they purchased and remodeled for him, bolstering his efforts as he strives for recovery and independence.



Taking up the cause

When Jared Allen returned home from a USO tour in October, 2009, the outside linebacker for the Chicago Bears felt called to offer support to the men and women of the United States military, but he struggled with the question of how. After talking with a friend about the difficulties many injured veterans face in finding housing that accommodates their new circumstances, Allen felt he had found his niche.

“Jared asked me, ‘Do you support the troops?’” Vicha recalls, “and I said, ‘Of course I do!’ But when he asked me how, I was at a loss. I was regurgitating a bumper sticker.”

Allen and Vicha started the foundation in 2009, and since then, they have worked with over a dozen veterans to realize the dream of a home that fits. “Every project is different,” says Vicha. “When we reach out to a veteran, we don’t know if they have a home, if they have family. The shape of the project is always 100% up to the veteran.”

To meet Remsburg’s needs, the foundation partnered with the *Lead The Way Fund*, which supports disabled Army Rangers. After the two foundations purchased

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a new home for Remsburg, the *Homes For Wounded Warriors* team began tailoring it to his specific needs. Alongside an extensive remodel, that meant installing a control system donated by Crestron that gives Remsburg the tools to enjoy his home and tackle his recovery in a manner that suits his independent spirit.



Going beyond accessibility

Cory Remsburg fights hard to recover. After undergoing dozens of surgeries, he still clocks six hours of rehab seven days a week and rides miles on his recumbent bike. When he gets home, he needs to navigate his space in comfort and safety, and the control system and additional gear donated through the Crestron Eagles program lets him do just that.

The control system in Remsburg's home is built around the Crestron Pyng home automation system. Pyng automates lighting, shading, audiovisual and temperature settings in Remsburg's home from a central hub. Most importantly, Pyng can be controlled from mobile phones and tablets, which means Remsburg can control his home from his wheelchair.

Take, for example, lighting. Conventional light switches often require the user to enter the room before the lights can be turned on, but bumping around in the dark is a dangerous prospect for Remsburg. The Crestron Cameo® light dimmers in the home are synced to Pyng and Remsburg's phone, so when Remsburg comes home, he can light the whole house before he comes in the door. When he's ready to go to bed, he doesn't have to worry about checking individual switches.

Remsburg's injuries have also left him sensitive to sunlight, which is plentiful in Arizona. Crestron motorized shades allow Remsburg to keep the house at whatever level of light is comfortable for him.

The Pyng system also regulates temperature and current in the pool, one of the most impressive features of the house. With his access ramp and a waterproof controller, Remsburg can use the pool to complete his rehab exercises at home. "Cory has a 45 minute commute to his rehab facility, and so making sure he could do his exercises at home was a crucial step to making this home work for him," says Alex Karalexis, the project manager for *Jared Allen's Homes For Wounded Warriors*.

Making the home work for Cory also meant making it easy to entertain and relax. Remsburg's television and Crestron speakers are linked to Pyng, and he's got lighting presets for entertaining and movie-watching. There's even a poolside Tiki Bar. "There was so much support for Cory's project that we were able to give him some things just for fun, like the Tiki Bar, on top of what he needed," says Vicha.

The Remsburg home is a great example of the way the foundation develops partnerships in order to fully customize the homes they give to veterans. "Working with Crestron on this project was fantastic," says Karalexis. "We put together a Crestron wish list for the home - nothing but the best for Cory. They said, 'Great. When do you need it?'"

Beyond luxury

Home automation components might be considered a luxury by some, but the Crestron products in



Remsburg's home are vital elements of his road to recovery. "All of the fun things about Crestron systems are things that Cory needs," says Vicha. From the temperature-regulated therapy pool to lights and shades that can be commanded from wherever Remsburg might be, Crestron's automation system puts him in full control of his new home.

The foundation's attention to detail on the Remsburg home drew attention of its own. President Obama attended the ribbon cutting, met the team, and caught up with Remsburg as he took ownership of his new home. "There are two great days on every project," says Karalexis. "The day Jared makes the call and tells the veteran they're getting a home, and the day we hand over the keys."

As the foundation continues to grow, *Jared Allen's Homes For Wounded Warriors* remains committed to putting the veteran at the center of the project. "We have an obligation to serve those who serve us when they come home," says Allen. "If a home doesn't function for a veteran because of injuries he or she has sustained, we need to make that right."



Integrator

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