WARRIOR, from page 1

Joel Tavera, flanked by his mother and father, talks to the crowd who gathered Saturday to celebrate Tavera’s arrival at his new home. (Photo by B.C. Manion)

Tavera was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star, and, on Saturday morning, Nov. 19, he was honored in a homecoming celebration at his new four-bedroom home. The home is valued at $456,580. It was built by William Ryan Homes as part of a nationwide project spearheaded by Building Homes for Heroes, an organization that organizes efforts to build new homes for returning wounded veterans. So far, nine homes have been built and others are in the pipeline.

Features in the 4,300-square-foot home include hardwood and ceramic tile floors, granite countertops and stainless appliances.

It also has a water softening system for Tavera’s sensitive skin, a 13- by 26-foot pool and a 12- by 16-foot deck with an outdoor TV and a pergola. There are bagpipe players, dancers, my mother and my father, “Tavera said. "I have spent a lot of time from their busy schedules to make it happen."

"Tavera’s sensitive skin, a 13- by 26-foot pool and a 12- by 16-foot deck with an outdoor TV and a pergola."

The wounded warrior was clearly touched by the generosity shown to him.

"I cannot exactly name every single person who was involved in putting this home together," Tavera said.

"A banner posted near the house reinforced how difficult it would be to thank every supporter by name. It listed hundreds, if not thousands, of names of people who helped in some way on the project."

Some of the biggest contributors were nearly two dozen of the homebuilder’s business partners. They donated products, materials and services, totaling about $150,000.

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Those supporters include:

- Guardian Protection Services, $50,000
- John Madison Landscape, $24,000
- Masco Cabinetry, $14,000
- Jefco Constructions, $9,000
- Aquascape Pools, $8,500
- Seagull Lighting, $5,000
- Seagull Lighting, $5,600
- Prestige Electric, $5,200
- Guardian Protection Services, $50,000
- Hartshorn Custom, $5,200
- William Ryan Homes, a family-owned company, owners of the company, built in three Tampa Bay locations."

For more information, go to www.BuildingHomesForHeroes.org.

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TRANSITION, from page 1

saying the way the board’s leader is selected has gotten ‘out of control.’

‘Our process is flawed,’ Murman continued. "We need to change it."

Miller’s plan got a 5-2 early approval, with Higginbotham and Victor Crist opposing the motion, meaning it would likely be passed after the required two public hearings to get feedback about the proposed ordinance.

Crist and Higginbotham both said they did not disagree with the plan of taking out the politics of the selection process, but wanted more time to think about the options before supporting the measure. Crist, whose District 2 includes all of Lutz, also wondered why anyone would want to push for certain people to be the chair.

"The chair is the board’s leader in name and guides its meetings, but has no additional powers."

If officially adopted, the new system would go into place for 2012. Sharpe is the one in line to be chairman, with Kevin Beckner serving as vice-chairman. Beckner would take over in 2013, with Murman serving as vice-chairwoman.

After those two years, the position would be rotated sequentially through the districts, starting with District 1 in 2014 and moving to District 2 in 2015. Murman currently represents District 1, which includes all of Odessa/Keystone.

Commissioners will have the first of two public hearings on the proposal on Wednesday, Dec. 7. For additional information on the proposal, call (813) 272-5900 or visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org.

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