

5th Wish Helps Wounded Hero Start His Own Business



December 14, 2009 - Specialist Michael Hampton returned home from work Monday evening and was greeted by a small crowd and several large boxes from Sears. Inside those boxes were the tools to help him achieve his dream of starting his own business: a garage to work on cars.

Hampton, of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, was medevac'd from Iraq after sustaining injuries during a rocket attack. He has endured two surgeries since September, replacing both hips with prosthetics, and is facing more surgeries and years of physical therapy. Doctors have told him the arthritis pain he suffers is similar to that of a 90-year old man.

THE WISH

Hampton's wife, Celeste, and friends, contacted *Wish For Our Heroes*, hoping the Foundation could bring him closer to his dreams.

"We quickly obliged. We were very interested in this story because here's a Soldier that is facing adversity - years of medical treatment and medical discharge from the Army - yet he's focused on building a business to provide for his family," said Jeff Wells, President of *Wish For Our Heroes*.

Wells and Spokesman, Bernie Teich, delivered an industrial tool box, air compressor and a \$1,000 gift card to Sears for additional tools. "These tools are everything I need to get started," Michael said, as he struggled to hide his surprise.

Hampton's love of cars is life-long. He said he remembers being in the garage with his dad shortly after he learned to walk, and a passion for cars quickly ensued.

Michael and Celeste were married in November and are purchasing a home soon. Michael plans to open his mechanic shop at their new home as soon as possible.



Celeste, Michael, Jeff, and Bernie stand beside Michael's new tools.