

**“EXTREME MAKEOVER: HOME EDITION” GIVES AN AMERICAN IRAQI WAR SOLDIER AND HIS FAMILY A SAFE HOME WHERE THEY CAN DEDICATE THEIR WORK TO PRESERVING HISTORICAL VIRGINIA**

On December 3, the Lucas family of Cullen, VA was happy to receive the news that Ty and the designers of “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” will be building them a dream home in a remarkable seven days.

Michael Lucas (37) of Cullen, VA is currently serving in the National Guard overseas in Iraq. He has a deep passion and appreciation for his historically rich home state of Virginia and spent much of his life assisting in the preservation of Virginia’s historical battlefields and historical landmarks. Michael and his wife Jean (33), have two children Michael Henry (11) and Joseph Nathan (7) who has been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Jean, who studies ancestry and genealogy research, works with Joseph’s therapist by writing grants in the hopes of opening a Sensory Playground Facility for autistic children.

Less than a year ago, Michael and his family bought a piece of land located on one of the most famous battlefields of the Civil War. Unfortunately, before Michael could finish building a home for his family, he was deployed overseas to Iraq. Troubled by his family’s unfinished home, Michael constantly worries that his family will not have a safe place to live. He also dreams of one day opening a public museum to showcase Virginia’s notable history so it can be fondly remembered. Michael already has an extensive collection of historical artifacts, photos, letters, clothing, and pistols from the region and would love to put them on display for the public to see. The dedicated soldier is also currently writing a book about the battle of High Bridge, which took place on the recently purchased land for his family’s home.

The Lucas family needs the help of EMHE to not only build them a safe home but also provide Michael with a place to continue to preserve the culture of Virginia that he loves so much. While Ty and the designers, local builder Ken Broadwater Homes LLC and the hundreds of volunteers and workers are rebuilding their home, the Lucas family will go on vacation to Walt Disney World.

The episode “Lucas Family” will air during the 2007–2008 season.

The location address is: The Lucas Family, 272 Bradshaw Road, Rice, VA 23966.

The design team for this episode of “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” will feature team leader Ty Pennington and designers *Michael Moloney, Paul DiMeo, Rib Hills and newcomer Phyllis Bowie.*

The series is produced by Endemol USA, a division of Endemol Holding. It’s executive-produced by Denise Cramsey. David Goldberg is the president of Endemol USA.

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