

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Builders Recognized for Going Green

Two Alachua County home builders, G. W. Robinson Builders, Inc. and Tommy Williams Homes, will be recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for their leadership and commitment in building energy efficient homes in partnership with the DOE Building America program (www.buildingamerica.gov). The public ceremony will be held at the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce office on Wednesday April 25, 2007, which the Alachua County Commission has declared "Building America Day." A meet and greet session will be held at 1:30pm, with the ceremony beginning at 2:00pm.

Mr. Steve Chalk, Acting Program Manager for Building Technologies in the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy as well as Program Manager for Solar Technology, will present the awards. The Building America team working with G.W. Robinson Builders and Tommy Williams Homes is led by the Florida Solar Energy Center, a research institute of the University of Central Florida (www.baihp.org) and includes the local building science consulting firm Florida H.E.R.O. (www.floridahero.com). Representatives from both organizations will be on hand at the recognition ceremony.

G.W. Robinson Builders (www.gwrobinson.com) has been the leader and pioneer for the Building America program in Florida. Mr. Robinson started working with DOE in 2001, and his CobbleField community was the first community in Florida to have all 265 homes meet Building America standards. In total, he has completed over 350 Building America homes including homes in the Turnberry Lake and Garison Way communities.

Tommy Williams Homes (www.tommywilliamshomes.com) has been a Building America builder since 2004, constructing over 180 homes to the Building America standards thus far. A builder for over 25 years, Tommy Williams is currently building his energy efficient product in two Alachua County communities -- Longleaf Village and Belmont.

Residential energy use is a significant contributor to global warming and environmental degradation. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Building America program is a nationwide public-private partnership that brings together teams of energy efficiency experts to work with home builders. The goal is to reduce whole house energy use in thousands of homes by 20% or more while also improving indoor air quality, durability, and comfort - all important elements of green building. Florida H.E.R.O. worked with G.W. Robinson Builders and Tommy Williams Homes to implement a systems engineering process that results in greater buyer satisfaction, improved energy efficiency, and reduced construction waste. For example, by improving the homes' thermal envelope, the builder can reduce the size of the heating cooling equipment. This savings in equipment costs can be invested in higher efficiency heating and cooling equipment, better duct designs, and positive pressure ventilation. These result in lower operating costs as well as improved comfort, durability, and indoor air quality and -- happy homeowners.

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Agenda, directions, and other information: www.baihp.org/buildingamericaday

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