

## **DECK FOR A SOLDIER UPDATE**

As of this writing, the Maryland Chapter of NADRA recently completed their *Deck for a Soldier*® (D4S) 2009 project. This year's recipients were selected through a renewed partnership with the Maryland Army National Guard and are a husband and wife *both* of whom are Staff Sergeants in the 290<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company and Baltimore County Police Officers.

Joseph and Anastasia Robinson are a young couple with an adorable two year old daughter living in Baltimore, Maryland. Mrs. Robinson submitted an application with an attached letter detailing the military service of both her and her husband. Most notably among their sacrifices was the recalling of Joe's deployment immediately following their marriage with their daughter born in his absence. When notified of their selection, they were shocked and elated. Now, with their deck completed they have even *more* reason to celebrate.

The deck they received is almost 500 square feet and built with some of the finest materials the industry has to offer by some of the best deck builders in the country. Ray Steward, NADRA Director and D4S Committee Chair states, "The most amazing thing for me to witness is the eager willingness and partnership from our manufacturers, distributors, dealers, and builders. Here we are, all competing in the same market, yet out of a sense of patriotism, and with a desire to recognize and express our gratitude for the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform; we set aside our relationship as competitors in the industry, and work closely together for one common goal."

A ribbon cutting ceremony and celebration is scheduled for Veteran's Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009, at the Robinson's home – on their new deck! In addition to the festivities of an outdoor barbeque there will be a dedication and blessing of the deck by a contingent from the MDANG and a Color Guard from the VFW. The celebration will also be attended by friends and family members of the Robinsons, as well as the many participants in this year's project.

The New Jersey Chapter of NADRA has also completed their D4S campaign. This year they worked side by side with *Homes for our Troops* in Union Beach, New Jersey to build the deck on a newly constructed, donated home for Army SSG Mike Minard. While on his third tour in Iraq, Sgt. Minard lost both of his legs to a roadside bomb. Local Chapter President, Gustavo de la Cruz, relates, "Our chapter and its members are humbled and grateful to be a part of such a worthy cause." They just recently held a ribbon cutting before Thanksgiving.

The Pennsylvania Chapter is also in the selection process for their D4S 2009 campaign. It is hoped to be completed before the year's end.

Deck for a Soldier® is an inspirational component to NADRA's growing success. Director Dave Lombardo, Membership and Local Chapter Committee Chair states, "We fully expect as our membership grows and new chapters are added, that our D4S program will continue to play an integral part in highlighting the achievements and innovations of our industry."

# MARYLAND CHAPTER 2009 D4S CAMPAIGN

## “THE ENLISTED”

### MATERIALS

Azek “Fawn” Decking.....	Martha S. Delaney, Azek Jerry Bolt, Parksite
Shoreline Vinyl Railings.....	Anthony Casey, Shoreline Vinyl Products
Trex “Trim”.....	Glenn Rempe, Snavelly Forest Products
Treated Framing.....	Hillary Kuker, Culpeper Wood (via Johnson Lumber)
Cortex Hidden Fasteners.....	Mark Guthrie, FastenMaster
Concrete.....	Paul Thompson, Leisure Specialties
Lattice.....	Jerry Bolt, Parksite
Low Voltage Lighting.....	Dave Lombardo, American Deck
Dumpster.....	Bill Hensley, American Deck
Portable Potty.....	JD Abrams, TW Ellis
Joist Hangers.....	Kevin Friday, Simpson Strong Tie
Additional Hardware.....	Ray Steward, RWSDECKS

### LABOR (AFFECTIONATELY REFERRED TO AS THE “DREAM TEAM”)

John Balzano, Tiger Claw \*\*  
Glenn Rempe, Snavelly Forest Products \*\*\*  
Martha S. Delaney, Azek \*  
Dan Isom, Fiber Composites \*  
Dave Finneran, Maryland Deck and Hot Tubs \*  
Greg Leffler, Leffler Construction  
Mike Tennant, Leffler Construction  
“Big Bill” Hensley, American Deck  
Anthony Casey, Shoreline Vinyl Products  
Keith Nevins, American Deck  
Robert Nevins, American Deck  
Hillary Kuker, Culpeper Wood  
Doug Stoerkel, RWSDECKS \*  
Joshua Hildebrand, RWSDECKS \*  
Chad Kuentzler, RWSDECKS \*  
Ray Steward, RWSDECKS \*

\* Involved every single day of the build.

\*\* In addition to participating every single day, John chronicled and photographed the project.

\*\*\* Glenn provided additional catering, at his own expense, in honor of his recently deceased father, who was himself a veteran. This selfless act helped make the ribbon-cutting celebration a wonderful success.