



PRESS RELEASE

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Coalition to Salute America's Heroes Coordinates Ramp Construction for Wounded Warrior

Volunteers from local companies band together to assist veteran and his family

NASHVILLE (March 28, 2013) – U.S. Army Sgt. Keith Hale was severely wounded in June 2010 while on his second tour of duty in Mosul, Iraq. Upon his release from the Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Campbell, he was rated 90 percent disabled. Though a custom-built house was constructed for Keith, his wife TiAnna and their children, interminable paperwork delays from the Veterans Administration prevented the Hales from closing on their home loan.

Faced with the prospect of homelessness, Keith and his family were forced to move into his mother's house while waiting for a simple letter from the VA qualifying him for a mortgage loan guarantee. Unfortunately, her home was not wheelchair accessible, and Keith needed a ramp to enter and exit. Again, the VA was unable to authorize funds to build the ramp in a timely manner.

Enter the [Coalition to Salute America's Heroes](#).

The leading not-for-profit organization dedicated to rebuilding the lives of severely wounded veterans of the War on Terror stepped in to help the Hales. Alerted to their plight by Franklin residents General and Mrs. Jack Singlaub, the Coalition worked quickly to coalesce a group of volunteers to construct the ramp.

Coalition Regional Vice President Dave Steele coordinated with Bill Evans of Evans Glass, who, in turn, reached out to Jay Brassfield, president of Shaub Construction. Brassfield sent one of his managers, Joel Poole, to meet with Evans and TiAnna Hale to plan the project. Joel designed the ramp and ordered materials, which Elder Building Supply provided at cost. Poole recruited two carpenters – Terry Gilley and Fred Keyes – to the project. They were assisted by Jay Devers and Versie Shannon from Evans Glass.

Together, the volunteers completed in just four days what the Veterans Administration could not accomplish in several months.

“It's an unfortunate reality in today's world that brave men like Keith Hale return home from the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan with severe injuries and our government simply isn't there for them,” said David Walker, President & CEO of the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes. “But thanks to a few generous people and companies in Nashville, Keith and his family got the help they needed, and deserved.”

The crew didn't stop with the primary outdoor entry ramp. They even constructed a smaller ramp inside, as well as another that allows Keith to access the back patio to cook on his beloved grill.

“Those guys really blew my mind,” said TiAnna. “We didn't expect them to build anything near as nice or extensive as they did. There was no way we would have had the financial ability to build these ramps, given all the delays in the VA's payments. The Coalition and the team they pulled together in Nashville are true life savers!”

About the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes

The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, based in Leesburg, VA, has provided an invaluable lifeline to thousands of America's wounded veterans since its establishment in 2004. The Coalition is distinguished from other veteran-focused organizations by its direct financial assistance to America's wounded heroes. Its Emergency Financial Aid program has stopped foreclosure proceedings on veterans' homes and kept their vehicles from being repossessed. The organization regularly provides gift checks to cover meals, medical and utility bills, clothing, car repairs and even baby diapers.

For more information on the Coalition, and to learn how you can support its mission, visit www.saluteheroes.org.

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