



****Media Advisory****

Rebuilding Together to Team with Sears to Provide Critical Home Repairs for Local Veteran

Rebuilding Together Dutchess County to complete renovations for a local Hyde Park veteran homeowner as part of the Sears Heroes at Home program.

WHO/WHAT: Rebuilding Together Dutchess County will provide critical repairs for a 93-year-old widowed WWII veteran who has owned his Hyde Park home for the past 40 years. Approximately 30 volunteers from Rebuilding Together Dutchess County will perform critical home repairs and accessibility modifications to create a safer home environment and increased independence. Thanks to the Sears Heroes at Home grant, Rebuilding Together Dutchess County is also able to install a new shingled roof as part of the Sears Heroes at Home program.

Heroes at Home, created through a partnership between Sears and Rebuilding Together, is a national program designed to assist low-income members of the military, their families and veterans with the home repairs and modifications they need. Since the inception of the program in 2007, more than \$23 million has already been raised for Heroes at Home, and veteran's services; and through over 1,700 projects, nearly 42,000 volunteers have donated 333,000 hours to support veterans and their families through critical repairs to veteran's homes and nonprofit facilities that serve them.

WHEN: Saturday, April 28, 2018
Media invited from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: 43 Cardinal Rd, Hyde Park, NY 12538

VISUALS: It will be an eventful day of volunteers completing critical home repairs, including: exterior stair repair and handrail replacements, weatherization improvements, landscaping, and other major home rehabilitation work.

INTERVIEWS: Rebuilding Together Dutchess County along with a team of approximately 30 community volunteers and elected officials. From Rebuilding Together Dutchess County, Christina Boryk, Executive Director, will be present as well as members of the Rebuilding Together Dutchess County Board of Directors.

Frank, the local recipient to be served on National Rebuilding Day, will be available to interview:

- A 93-year-old widowed WWII veteran who has owned his Hyde Park home for the past 40 years. The repairs on the home are focused on major safety modifications including installing handrails throughout the home, interior and exterior stair repair or replacement, and bathroom accessibility modifications such as lever-handle faucets and grab bars. The repairs done on the home will help to ensure him continued independence in the years to come.

QUICK FACTS: Rebuilding Together, a longtime, charitable partner of Sears, is a leading national nonprofit in safe and healthy housing that provides low-income homeowners with critical home repairs and revitalizes the communities in which they live.



Rebuilding Together's local affiliates and nearly 100,000 volunteers complete about 10,000 rebuild projects each year; including 1,228 veteran households in 2017.

Now through the end of July, Sears is encouraging Shop Your Way members and customers to give back to the men and women who served our country by donating to Heroes at Home at their local Sears store or via online at a link at sears.com/heroesathome.

When we first met Frank at his home we were overwhelmed by his enthusiasm to be getting a visit from Rebuilding Together Dutchess County and be considered for our program: "I'm just so happy and touched that you came to meet me and even consider me and my home. I know there are many good people out there who need help, so to even be considered has helped uplift my spirits. **It's good to see that people and community still care!**"

Rebuilding Together Dutchess County is thrilled to be able to thank Frank for his service in this way. Rebuilding Together Dutchess County Executive Director Christina Boryk adds that "Our veterans have done so much for our country; the Rebuilding Together's Heroes at Home partnership with Sears allows us to say thank you in a unique and critical way – especially for our aging veterans that wish to age-in-place. This work also allows us to help more recent veterans requiring home modifications due to a service-related injury."

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Christina Boryk
Executive Director, Rebuilding Together Dutchess County
845-454-7310 (office)
845-489-0811 (cell)
christina@rebuildingtogetherdutchess.org

Chelsea Estes
Manager, Rebuilding Together
(202) 518-3110
cestes@rebuildingtogether.org