

For Immediate Release
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Appraisal Institute Builds Houses and Hope for Former Marine Through Habitat for Humanity

The Maryland Chapter of the Appraisal Institute decided to celebrate Memorial Day a little differently this year. Instead of donning cook out aprons or softball mitts, more than 20 real estate appraisers choose to pull on the work gloves to help build houses for the Anne Arundel Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. And who was the recipient of the appraisers' hard work? A former Marine named Ronnie.

"It's important to know we're making a difference, especially in the life of a Marine on Memorial Day weekend," said Katherine Engleman, secretary for the Maryland Chapter of the Appraisal Institute. "Ronnie worked side by side with us all day long, and every volunteer was thrilled to be part of a program helping a Marine buy his first home!"

The appraiser volunteers started work at 8 a.m., breaking into two teams and completing various work associated with the rehab of the row-home in Brooklyn Park. And no job was too big or small for the appraisers, as together with Ronnie they did everything from sweeping floors to painting to building porch overhangs to making temporary load bearing walls.

"The fact that Ronnie was so grateful and made a point to thank everyone on our team made all of us helping out feel special," noted Engleman. "It's wonderful to know that thanks to our contribution, he'll be in his new home by June."

Arundel Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry, builds decent and affordable houses and sells them at no profit and no interest to low-income families currently living in substandard or inadequate housing. Habitat families work alongside Habitat volunteers to build their own home and work on other families' homes. Their mortgage payments help provide funding for future construction. Habitat families receive training to develop in their new roles as homeowners.

The Maryland Chapter is part of Region VI of the Appraisal Institute along with Washington D.C., New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

The Appraisal Institute is a global membership association of professional real estate appraisers, with nearly 23,000 members and 92 chapters throughout the world. Organized in 1932, its mission is to support and advance its members as the choice for real estate solutions and uphold professional credentials, standards of professional practice and ethics consistent with the public good. The Appraisal Institute advocates equal opportunity and nondiscrimination in the appraisal profession and conducts its activities in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws. Members of the Appraisal Institute benefit from an array of professional education and advocacy programs, and may hold the prestigious MAI, SRPA and SRA designations. For more information regarding the Appraisal Institute, please visit www.appraisalinstitute.org or www.midhudsonai.org.

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