

Ocean Reef Military Assistance Fund (fka Wounded Warriors Fund) Completes Home for Florida Sergeant

In honor of Veteran's Day and our own Ocean Reef Club Veterans, this story was submitted by Leonard Wood and Al Mast, who continue their dedication to the Military Assistance Fund they established in 2007 through the Ocean Reef Community Foundation.

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, Stephen Siller, a Brooklyn firefighter, was on his way to play golf with his brothers. He learned that the Twin Towers had been hit and immediately returned to his fire station. The other firefighters had already left, so he loaded his gear and took off for Manhattan, where he found the roads into Manhattan were already closed for security purposes. Stephen left his truck (with the keys in it) at the entrance of the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel, strapped on his 60 lbs. of gear, and raced on foot two miles through the tunnel to the Twin Towers where he was able to join his firefighting group. They were working at the South Tower when it collapsed at 9:59 am, and no trace was ever found of the men. Stephen's family wanted to do something in his honor and started the *Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation* to help firefighters. This effort morphed into a program to build housing for some of our neediest



The first flag raising at Corey's new home to honor 9/11 victims.

veterans thru the Building for Americas Bravest program.

Fast forward to 9:59 am, Sept. 11, 2016 and the *Building for Americas Bravest* program presented Sgt. Corey Kent and his wife, Randi, with the keys to their new home supported by a \$50,000 donation by the *Ocean Reef Military Assistance Fund*. Needless to say, Randi and Corey were overwhelmed by this generous gift of a smart home that makes day-to-day living easier and more enjoyable.

Corey's story is as heartwarming as they get. He had friends in the service and was concerned for them, as the shortage of qualified soldiers required our men and women to have 2, 3 and even 4 tours of duty. Corey understood that, if there were



Corey and Randi Kent, with Leonard Wood, as they enjoy their new home

more soldiers to serve, perhaps less tours would be required, so he joined the service and headed to Iraq. Corey was severely injured by an IED, and he lost both legs and all the fingers and thumb of his left hand. He has now recovered and has a great spirit.

Leonard Wood was happy to attend the dedication ceremony on behalf of the *Ocean Reef Military Assistance Fund* and was impressed with the great small town spirit of Cape Coral. Not only did many of the people who helped build the house turn out, but there was a parade with the local high school marching band, firetrucks, choir and Coast Guard Auxiliary. It was a beautiful day and an event that would make anyone proud to be an American.

Building for America's Bravest is

pursuing an ambitious program to put our neediest veterans into good housing situations, and the *Ocean Reef Military Assistance Fund* would like to help them as much as possible. We would appreciate any support you can give to help us build as many homes as possible for these very deserving service people. **Leonard Wood** and **Al Mast**, co-founders of the *Ocean Reef Military Assistance Fund*, agree that these homes for our heroes are a very worthy cause. To make a donation, please write your check out to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation with "Military Assistance Fund" written in the memo line and forward to ORMA Fund, Ocean Reef Community Foundation, 35 Ocean Reef Drive, Suite 148, Key Largo, FL 33037.