

A FRIEND IN NEED ...



Photos by Jay Cason

Ed Moore, a major in the Lexington Fire Department who does construction work on the side, leads a contingent of Lexington firemen who volunteered to build a garage for Chris Harrod. All their labor was provided free of charge.

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

BUDDIES BUILD GARAGE FOR SOLDIER WHO'S IN KUWAIT

By Jay Cason
Staff Writer

Anderson County resident Chris Harrod has been out of town since July 2006 and isn't expected home until October.

But while he's in Kuwait, where he and others in his Kentucky National Guard unit are stationed, he can take some measure of comfort knowing that plenty of people are looking out for his wife and family.

And it's not just friends that are lending helping hands. John Rennels of A Plus Mowing Service has never met Harrod, but every week he makes sure that the soldier's 2-acre yard is mowed.

"It's part of a program called Project Evergreen, Green Care For Troops," Rennels said. "We found about it through a professional organization, PLANET (Professional Lawncare Network).

"We decided we wanted to help out and took on five soldier's lawns. It's purely voluntary. We



Missy Harrod and her son, Seth Way, hold 'Flat Daddy,' a cutout likeness of Missy's husband, Chris Harrod, who is serving in Kuwait.

do it until the soldiers return."

Missy Harrod, Chris's wife, said Rennels is reliable, even though he's mowing her lawn free of charge.

"He comes down once a week," she said. "He has been doing it since spring. He treats it just

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Photo by Jay Cason

Chris Harrod's fellow Lexington firefighters construct a garage for him while he is deployed to Kuwait. From left, Brian Singleton, Ed Murner, Ashley Womack (also an Anderson County firefighter), Ed Moore, Clay Brown, Christian Studler (a fireman's son), Jamie Cropper, Nate Settles, Lucas Moore, Sean Studler, and Glenn Phillips, who is also Mercer County fire chief.

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like we are paying customers. It has been great."

Rennels said his company is ready to take on one more soldier's lawn.

"We were doing five yards, but one of the families just moved to Scott County and we have an opening," he explained.

According to information provided on the Project Evergreen website, A Plus Mowing is the only company in Anderson, Franklin and Mercer counties that is currently part of the program. Rennels wishes that would change.

"We hope to get more contractors involved," he said.

Chris Harrod is employed as a Lexington firefighter, and his firefighting buddies are also assisting his family while he is deployed.

Last weekend they built him a new

garage.

"It's awesome," Missy Harrod said. "I don't know what to say. They were just going to do the concrete, but said, 'Hey, why don't we just go ahead and do the garage?'"

"Six weeks ago, one of our guys found out that some people that were supposed to build the garage hadn't shown up," said Ed Moore, a major in the Lexington Fire Department.

"I do construction on weekends, so we went to Missy and volunteered to help out."

Missy Harrod said the kindness left her husband speechless.

"My husband found out about it and didn't know what to say," she said, "and that doesn't happen very often with him."

Moore said Chris Harrod has more than earned his friends' generosity.

"Chris is over there fighting for our freedom," he said, "it's the least we can do."

On the web

Additional information about Project Evergreen is available online at www.projectevergreen.com.

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