

Brookhaven Officials Welcome USMC Lance Cpl. Ventura to his Newly Renovated Home Provided by Building Homes for Heroes

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Farmingville, NY – On November 16, Town Councilmembers Kevin LaValle, Neil Foley, Valerie Cartright and Highway Superintendent Dan Losquadro welcomed United States Marine Corporal Billy Ventura to his family's newly renovated handicap accessible home in Selden. Corporal Ventura was paralyzed from the waist down three years ago after being involved in a hit and run motorcycle crash. In 2011, the Ventura's son Jerome passed away while also serving in the Marines.

The home was renovated by Building Homes for Heroes, which was established in 2006 in order to make a difference in the lives of the severely wounded men and women of the military. They build homes from the ground up or modify existing homes to meet the needs of the brave men and women who selflessly served our country. These mortgage-free homes help to remove the family's financial burden, restore the individual's freedom, and enable the veteran to lead a more independent and productive civilian life.

Councilman LaValle said, "It was a great day for everyone who donated their time, talent and money to renovate this house and I was extremely proud to be part of the welcome home ceremony. The Ventura family has sacrificed so much for their country and it is only fitting that we pay it forward. I wish them all the best of luck in their new home."

Councilman Foley said, "What an honor it was to stand among so many American heroes and welcome the Ventura family into their new home. Lance Corporal Ventura's courage and determination under such difficult circumstances is an inspiration to me and so many others who know him. Today he begins a new chapter in his life and the start of a brighter future for him and his family."

Councilwoman Cartright said, "When the call came, Lance Corporal Ventura served bravely, and like other American heroes, made extraordinary sacrifices. I am humbled to share in this beautiful ceremony because this home helps the Ventura family rebuild a future defined by accomplishments, with security and comfort."

Highway Superintendent Losquadro said, "I was proud to be a part of the Welcome Home celebration for USMC Lance

Cpl. Ventura and his family. Billy is the epitome of an American hero and, thanks to Building Homes for Heroes and the generosity of so many local businesses and community members, he can enjoy more independence in his newly renovated home.”

Pictured at left with Billy Ventura and his dog Molly are William’s brother Dylan; parents Cyndi and Billy; Building Homes for Heroes president and founder Andrew Pujol and Councilman LaValle

Pictured at right with Billy Ventura and Molly Assemblyman Al Graf, Councilman Kevin Lavallo, Councilwoman Valerie Cartright, Councilman Neil Foley and Assemblyman Steve Englebright.

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One Independence Hill • Farmingville • NY 11738 • Phone 631-451-6595