

## Local 15 Workers Donate Labor to Help Injured Iraq War Veteran

Some generous Local 15 members spent Saturday September 11, their day off, doing line work for no pay. The Village of Hillside asked ComEd to relocate a pole thirty feet to allow room for a driveway at a disabled veteran's "yet to be built" home. Normally this "above-standard" service work is paid for by the customer. The Illinois rate making structure does not allow ComEd to pass the costs along to the ratepayers.

A call went in to Local 15 and volunteers were solicited at Maywood Overhead. Local 15 brothers Mike Vanco, Walter Moore, Scott Hockememyer, Erik Carlson, Richard Mikel, Javier Figueroa, Ken Pozesky and Mike Watkins met in Maywood H.Q. before heading to the job site at Harrison and Oak in Hillside.



Vice President Terry McGoldrick and Business Representative Terry Sheridan met the crew and attempted to keep up with their enthusiastic pace. Despite intermittent drizzles, they set a new 35 foot pole six and a half feet down into bedrock. The site was a quarry over thirty-five years ago. A guy anchor and ground rod were also driven into the bedrock. A strut guy wire and street light were installed, the secondary triplex cable and 12,000 volt primary wires were attached and surge arresters connected.

FLS (first line supervisor) Terry Miller had arranged an outage so the work could be done in the safest manner possible.

The Hillside Disabled Veterans Home Project (HDVHP) is building the home for the Iraq War veteran. Plote Companies donated the 6500 square foot plot. Sergio Lopez was an Army Specialist in Iraq

driving a translator to interrogate an insurgent when a roadside bomb exploded on January 4, 2006. He lost both of his legs below the knees. Lopez was the only person injured; three other soldiers and the translator were unhurt.

Lopez likes the location, near Mannheim and the Eisenhower Expressway because it is close to Hines V.A. Hospital in Maywood and his in-laws in Downers Grove. He and his wife Maria, and their daughters Sofia, 4, and Sasha, 7, presently live in Joliet.

The foundation for the three bedroom home is scheduled to be set before the winter frost and construction is planned to be completed by spring. The house will be built according to U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs



standards for specially adapted housing. Lopez's only special request has been for an attached garage to make unloading groceries or carrying his daughters from the car in the winter easier.

John Flood, economic director for Hillside called the Local 15 office to thank the workers for donating their time and skills. Mr. Flood is optimistic and pleased with the response from all the donors. No tax dollars will be spent on the construction, the HDVHP will rely on donated building material, labor and money.

Checks or money orders are tax deductible and can be made out to "HDVHP" and sent to John Flood, Hillside Village Hall, 425 Hillside Ave. Hillside IL 60162. His number is 708-202-4324.

