

An excerpt from The Providence Journal:



The people who remind us of what matters

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The holidays have begun, and I'm picking the best of them as occasion to look back over a very full year and single out some of the people who have done good and caring things because that's what they do.

Builders Helping Heroes: This is supporting the troops. These builders, part of the Rhode Island Builders Association, have stepped up to respond to a heartbreaking loss with a reaffirming sense of community. They got together to help create better homes for wounded veterans or families of those killed in combat since Sept. 11, 2001. Their first project is on East Beardsworth Road in Tiverton. That's where Christopher and Terri Potts bought a small ranch house with plans to deal with much needed repairs and improvements as their son, Jackson, grew up. But Chris Potts was killed in a gun battle while serving with the Rhode Island National Guard in Iraq. So Builders Helping Heroes stepped in on the home front. Enlisting the help of almost 50 local companies and with donations of almost \$200,000, the builders built a new kitchen and deck, installed hardwood floors, did a lot of painting and rebuilt the drainage system. Now, a woman and her young son live in a good place that honors a fallen soldier.