



2024: Building Momentum

For Immediate Release

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Pittsburgh Pa., March 25, 2024 - Rocky Bleier Construction Group (RBCG) Recognized by Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) with Two National Awards

Company Received the AGC in the Community Award for Service to Veterans for *Operation Fighting Back*, and the AGC Construction Safety Excellence Award (CSEA) at AGC Annual Convention in San Diego, Ca.

Operation Fighting Back: In celebration of Veterans Day, Rocky Bleier Construction Group (RBCG) joined forces with Master Builders' Association of Western, Pa. (MBA), and Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh (RTP) to make two physically challenged and low-income veterans homes safer and healthier. This commitment to giving back to fellow veterans earned the company the coveted AGC in the Community Award.

Many veterans are living in poverty, lack support networks and reside in substandard housing. What started as a simple home improvement project for a single veteran grew to major renovations to the homes of two Pittsburgh vets, 75-year-old Vietnam veteran, Aubrey Kirkland, and 96-year-old World War II veteran, Harold Lee.

“When MBA came up with the idea to celebrate Veterans Day by helping veterans who could benefit from the kind of help the construction industry can provide, our first call was to one of our members, Rocky Bleier Construction Group, a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB), headed up by Vietnam War veteran and former Pittsburgh Steeler, Rocky Bleier,” said Bob McCall, director of safety for MBA, and former RTP board member. “Rocky never hesitated to get onboard.”

Bleier, a Purple Heart and Bronze Star recipient, immediately activated the company's *Operation Fighting Back* program. He and his Director-Construction Operations, Jim Kephart, an Iraq War veteran, and a Purple Heart recipient, planned renovations, recruited subcontractors, secured material and labor donations, as well as trade professionals to do the work. Nearly \$40,000 worth of labor and materials were donated and installed that day. Bleier gave all his employees the day off to help with the project. MBA and MBA board members joined forces to contribute \$20,000 to help honor those who served.

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"The men and women who organized this project showed a special kind of leadership – a willingness to donate their time and skills to help others," said Thomas Brown, chairman of AGC Charities and president of Sierra Pacific West, Inc. "In the process, they showed the community what contractors are capable of when it comes to giving back."

"It is an honor to receive this award from AGC," Bleier said, "but more importantly, it shines a spotlight on a critical need, not only in Pennsylvania, but also across the country. We're a veteran-owned and managed business, and giving back to veterans has been part of our mission since the company was founded. So when MBA asked for our help, we had to get involved."

Bleier, who sits on the boards of several organizations supporting veterans, added "nearly 800,000 veterans live in Pennsylvania, making it the fourth largest state in the country for veteran residency, with about 14,500 of those vets living in Pittsburgh. Many veterans lack basic support services, so we are ready to go above and beyond to do anything we can to help them, especially with so many veterans working in our company. Everyone at RBCG is proud to be part of *Operation Fighting Back*, and we are planning even bigger things for the future."

The AGC Construction Safety Excellence Award: This prestigious award recognizes those construction companies that reach the highest level of excellence at safety performance, employee safety participation and training, work site hazard identification and control, and safety program innovation. Each applicant must go through a rigorous judging process, culminating in an oral presentation before a panel of five expert judges. The winner was announced at the Safety Awards Ceremony during the AGC National Convention (<https://www.agc.org/csea>).

"What an outstanding honor to receive the AGC Construction Safety Excellence Award that dovetails with our company's commitment to consistently protecting our employees *and* the public with the highest level of construction safety practices," said Kephart. "Upon receiving this award, RBCG can now claim the title of one of the top ten safest contractors in America."

About AGC in the Community: AGC in the Community is an initiative of AGC Charities Inc., to showcase the community service projects of AGC of America's chapters and members. AGC represents 32,000 members nationwide. AGC provides news, insights and analysis on a wide range of issues including economic trends, and legislation affecting the construction industry. (www.agc.org)

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About Rocky Bleier Construction Group (RBCG): A rapidly growing, diversified general contracting company, RBCG is a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business (SDVOSB). Rocky Bleier, Vietnam Veteran, and former Pittsburgh Steeler Hall of Famer serves as Managing Member of Rocky Bleier Construction Group) founded in 2004, and as Principal of Rocky Bleier, Inc., which provides motivational speaking services to corporate sales teams, student athletes of all ages, charitable organizations, veterans organizations and other groups. RBCG believes in giving back whenever and however it can, dedicating time, staff and resources to community organizations and causes, especially those serving fellow veterans. RBCG is recognized as among the top ten safest contractors in America. (www.rockybleiercg.com)

About MBA: Master Builders' Association of Western Pennsylvania, Inc., is a trade association whose membership includes more than 255 of the top general contractors, construction managers, specialty contractors, and service and supplier companies supporting our region's commercial construction industry. Collectively, MBA membership accounts for more than 80 percent of the commercial construction in the Pittsburgh area. Since 1886, MBA has been a strong, influential, and single voice for the industry. MBA has awarded more than \$800,000 in scholarship support to students interested in a career in the construction industry. MBA is affiliated with (AGC), and its members automatically gain AGC membership. This affiliation affords MBA members with an even stronger industry voice and broader access to services, resources, and activities available on a national level. (mbawpa.org)

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