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Illustration courtesy NADRA

COOKOUT HAVEN: This illustration details how Staff Sgt. Marshall Diaz's backyard in Lacey will look once the deck donated to him by the Deck For A Soldier program is built.

Soldier's home set to get all decked out

JBLM staff sergeant to receive new deck as part of nonprofit program

BY MARIE OLSON

Joint Base Lewis-McChord Staff Sgt. Marshall Diaz and his family will be the first recipients from the west coast to benefit from the North American Deck and Railing Association's Deck For A Soldier program.

The nonprofit NADRA's program, which it started in 2007, pairs private builders and vendors who want to make a difference in military families' lives. The local vendors that participate in Washington make up the Western Washington Chapter.

"NADRA's Deck For A Soldier Program is a charitable outreach dedicated to providing decks free of charge to returning men and women of the Armed Forces in appreciation of their service to their country," said Kate Royer, operations manager of Screw Products who also serves as co-chair for the project.

Projects are completed with donated materials, time and labor. The members of the Washington chapter broke ground for the project by starting the Diaz family project in Lacey on March 24. They plan to complete the project in time for a ribbon cutting ceremony on Memorial Day, May 30.

"We had each of our builders design a deck around what the Diaz family wanted and then they got to pick and adjust the final plans."



Courtesy NADRA

BEFORE: This is what the Diaz backyard looks like before the new deck, which is scheduled to be finished by May 30, is built.

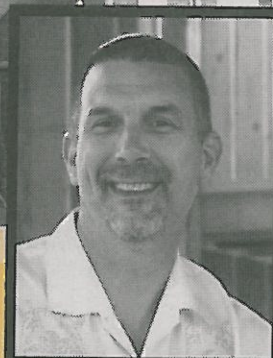
"Although my rehabilitation is an ongoing process, I hold my head up with pride," he said in a release issued by NADRA. "There is no other country in this world that I would rather live in than the United States of America."

The WWC NADRA members called to congratulate applicant Diaz on his selection for the project in November.

Military members interested in applying for the Deck For A Soldier Project can apply

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