



SAN ANTONIO

# CONSTRUCTION NEWS



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## Reservist honors employers' acts of patriotism



L-R: Col. Russell, Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Beyer, Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Beyer, Mom & Dad Beyer, Mr. & Mrs. Perry Beyer, Jr., TSgt. Kevin Davenport & Lt. Col. Elwin Rozyskie.

An unexpected turn of events caught the owners of **Beyer Mechanical** completely off guard as they celebrated the holiday season with their employees on Sun., Dec. 15th, at Pedrotti's North Wind Ranch.

After months of planning, one Beyer Mechanical employee, senior technician **Kevin Davenport**, decided to take matters into his own hands by executing an emotional expression of gratitude and respect for his employers.

The Beyer family's annual Christmas Party was interrupted at 8 pm, when the drama unfolded. At that moment, everyone

was asked to stand as Lackland A.F.B.'s Honor Guard marched into the ballroom with precision cadence to post the U.S. and Texas flags. After the National Anthem was played and the Honor Guard retreated, **Col. John Russell**, commander of the 307th Red Horse Squadron, accepted the microphone and asked brothers **Perry, Jr., Patrick** and **Jeff Beyer** to come forward. **Lt. Col. Elwin Rozyskie**, Senior Air Reserve Technician (ART), assisted him in his endeavors.

As the three brothers joined Col. Russell, he produced and read a formal

*continued on Page 31*

## Foster kids benefit from your generosity

The *San Antonio Construction News*' offices were transformed into a Construct a Kid's Christmas gift-reception station on Fri., Dec. 6th. The San Antonio area construction industry rallied and rose to the call by raising \$35,000 in donations and gift certificates and over 800 presents! Together, we made a difference in the lives of over 2,000 children who might otherwise have gone without.

When **Schultz Concrete Pumping** and **Capitol Industries** offered the use of their heavy equipment to hold up the Construct a Kid's Christmas banner, they didn't an-

ticipate a scheduling problem. As it became clear their pump trucks would be tied up on jobs, **Mike Schultz** reacted by making arrangements with **Contractors Building Supply** for two boom lifts to do the job, thus saving the day! The bright red banner was stretched out to mark the spot!

**Friends of the Bexar County Child Welfare Board** and representatives from **Child Protective Services** arrived early to start setting up for the 10 am to 2 pm event, the construction industry's fundraiser for

*continued on Page 5*



The \$20,000 check from ASA, ABC, NAWIC & PHCC-SA will fund a happier Christmas for foster kids.

## Better Built Enterprises has recipe for success

With a project portfolio that includes extensive fast food and full service restaurants, **Better Built Enterprises** is nearing completion on **Mama Margie's Mexican Café**, at 9950 IH-10. The project is an adaptive re-use to convert an existing dinner house to its new function as a casual dining facility, complete with double drive-thru lanes. The approximate contract cost is \$500,000.

Established in 1979, Better Built Enterprises is co-owned by president **Jim Srp** and vice president **Robert Rathburn**, who joined the firm in 1981. The owners combine their offices, construction yard and mill shop at one northside San Antonio location.

"We work predominantly with private owners, but we have completed some public work for schools, prisons and TxDOT facilities," Robert explained. "On this particular project, we started with selective demolition of the roof elements, followed by a complete interior demolition."

The project required construction of new restrooms, new kitchen and dining rooms, a separate meeting room and an outdoor patio dining area. Utilizing conventional wood framing, the exterior features stucco, brick and faux stone.

"The interior will have a festive Mexican décor, accented with aged woods, tile, and stucco," Robert continued. "We are working on a four-month schedule, and anytime you remodel a structure there will always be a few surprises. Some, fortunately are pleasant, some, not so

pleasant. Each must be addressed as to balanced design, as well as budget and project timing."

Of superintendent **Arlen Cantu**, Robert said, "Arlen is an excellent craftsman with an ability to adapt architectural design to field implementation."

**Stehling Management, Inc.**, of Taco Cabana fame, owns **Mama Margie's Mexican Café**. **Pat Stehling** selected



Better Built Enterprises based on the contractor's vast experience, previous work history together, and ability to deliver a quality project on time and within budget.

As Pat said, "Jim and Bob have worked with us for about 20 years on restaurant construction projects, and we rely on them for input in design, layout, building materials, finish-out materials and theme development. We have always turned the exterior of the buildings over to them to

create an attractive curbside appeal and get people in the front door. Then, it's our job to serve delicious foods and deliver quality hospitality. The relationship between us, and Better Built, has been a good marriage, a combination of talents to produce a recipe for success."

In the past 24 years, Jim Srp estimated his construction company has built and/or remodeled no less than 500 food service establishments throughout Texas. Taking that into consideration, they have developed an expertise and mastered the learning curve.

"We know which subcontractors perform best while working together within a relatively small footprint," Jim said. "It's very fast paced and requires some good choreography. Our experience enables us to foresee problems before they become problems. As a contractor my focus is not limited to putting nails in boards, rather in understanding how the other side of the counter functions and what we can do to make their job easier. Working with people like the Stehling's is a delight, and every time we finish a restaurant for them I know I'm on the right side of the counter. I understand how much work those people go through to be successful. The recipe for success is in building a more maintenance-free building that will endure, for a reasonable price."

Professionals participating on the project included:

*continued on Page 31*

**This month in Focus**  
*Engineering*

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continued from Page 1 - Reservist honors employers' acts of patriotism

U.S.A.F. certificate, which he presented to Patrick Beyer, officially recognizing him and Beyer Mechanical as a "Patriotic Employer."

In his comments, Col. Russell thanked Patrick and his brothers for their support of Kevin Davenport, "over the many years that he has been a member of our Red Horse heavy construction squadron. Kevin is a stellar member of our HV/AC team, and has received much of his training for the jobs he does for the Reserves, here at Beyer Mechanical. Most importantly though, Beyer Mechanical has supported Kevin and the Reserves in the defense of our country by allowing him to go TDY and support the armed services in Kuwait, Central and South America, and all over the world. Without the support of Beyer Mechanical, he could not have been as productive a member of our unit as he is today."

At that moment, Kevin came forward and presented the "Beyer Boys" with three U.S. flags, each folded and mounted in wooden shadow boxes.

"These flags were flown over Afghanistan in U.S.A.F. Predator and 130 Hercules Combat Talon, which are some of the offensive weapons systems that we use for gathering intelligence or supporting troops on the ground," Col. Russell explained. "These are very special flags, and the shadow boxes were built by construction manager **Jim Baker**, Beyer Mechanical."

In response to this tribute, Patrick Beyer asked all of his employees who had served, or currently serve, in the U.S. Armed Forces to stand and be recognized. The crowd hooted and hollered with pride for their brothers who had offered their service and risked their lives for the sake of our country's liberty.

After a decade of active duty service, Kevin, a husband and father of five children, joined the Air Force Reserves in 1992. As a TSgt. in the U.S.A.F. Reserves, Kevin is obligated for duty one weekend each month, two weeks in the summer, and for random deployment as needed.

"As a reservist," Kevin began, "I've been deployed to Panama, Antigua, Guatemala, and Kuwait, as well as duty assignments at various bases in the U.S., and on disaster-relief missions. Beyer Mechanical, with whom I've worked for eight years, has always made special arrangements to accommodate my military obligations by not scheduling me to work on 'Reserve' weekends," Kevin continued. "By

law, they are only obligated to hold my job open, but Beyer goes above and beyond the call of duty to support me and other reservists in many ways. When I was in Kuwait I would always get pick-me-up e-mails from Beyer Mechanical and from some of my customers; the kind you'd pass around to other airmen to lift their spirits."

Any reservist who goes overseas is at risk, whether he's flying airplanes or repairing air conditioning units.

"The family at Beyer Mechanical extends beyond the employees who are named Beyer," Kevin said. "They really take care of their people, especially their reservists and members of the National Guard. When they say 'we bend over backwards', they mean it! During my military absences, Beyer Mechanical has let my wife know that they are there for her if she needs them. A company like Beyer Mechanical is hard to find, and they represent a rare breed of employer. My Christmas present to them was a personal and honorable gesture to show them how much I care about them too, and how much we all appreciate their love, loyalty and support."

Kevin only revealed his Christmas Party surprise to two of his immediate superiors, **Brad Dawson** and **Jimmy Sewell**. Brad helped Kevin put together the nomination forms to recognize Beyer Mechanical for its support of the military man. "Kevin really cares about the details on-the-job," Brad said, "driving his fellow technicians to work at the same level of his performance. He is a leader among the 30 service technicians who work with him."

Jimmy Sewell recalled hiring Kevin. "Kevin said if I would give him an opportunity, he would become the best service technician in our company. True to his word, he's one of the best guys I have today. He has earned the respect of his fellow service technicians and he's very loyal."

Chances are, Kevin will have to go to the Middle East again, unless tensions can be resolved diplomatically.

"If we have to go, I'll probably be one of the first ones called," Kevin admitted. "What I'd like to see is more of the employers out there supporting the men and women in uniform. Deployments always happen at inconvenient times, but the sacrifices made by employers and by their military employees are one of the prices of freedom. I ask all employers to embrace the challenge like Beyer Mechanical has done."

continued from Page 23 - Success Corner

better yet, make an appointment to talk again soon. Most importantly, there has to be regular contact with these folks. Most people don't even know they need your services until you have communicated with them 8 to 10 times. If you go into a networking event knowing what you will do with the contacts you make the next day, your confidence will soar.

*Paul Montelongo, a nationally recognized speaker and consultant to the construction industry, is the author of 101 Power Strategies; Tools to Promote Yourself as the Contractor of Choice. Visit Paul at [www.ContractorOfChoice.com](http://www.ContractorOfChoice.com) and register for a free E-mail newsletter. Paul has owned and operated his own multi-million dollar construction company for over 23 years.*

continued from Page 2 - QuadTech preps Witte for arrival of National Archives

Browning Construction's project manager, **Tim Bentley**, and his team ran with the fast-track project from start to finish in only two months. Everything had to be in place in order to meet and monitor the precise and mandatory environmental standards prescribed by the National Archives. For several months prior to the arrival of the Archives, constant interior environmental condition readings will be taken to prove the Witte Museum can maintain the conditions before they accept the huge responsibility of housing the delicate Emancipation

Proclamation and other priceless historic exhibits.

Two vestibules were installed at the entrance and exit of the gallery to help maintain the environmental conditions and to provide improved security.

The principals and associates of QuadTech Engineering, Inc. have over 100 years of combined experience. Founded in 1996, the firm employs nine personnel and performs work in San Antonio, Bexar and surrounding counties, and throughout Texas.Ω

## Construction Industry Readers

San Antonio Construction News welcomes your editorial contributions. Contact our Editor, **Jane Day Loter**, to suggest story ideas, news of events, topping out events, human interest article ideas, anniversary news, educational efforts, new business endeavors, photo opportunities, promotions, concerns, charitable events, etc. You are the news! Call: **210-308-5800**

continued from Page 4 - Christmas Gala's unity nets thousands for neglected children

#9 Weekend Quail Hunt for Two, courtesy of **Ben Davis**; #10 Four Spurs Tickets, courtesy of **E.C.S., Inc.**; #11 Ted's Great Escape - fishing package for two, courtesy of **Bob Guinee, Jr.** and **Ted Dunnam**, ECS. Last minute auction items included an expensive woman's leather jacket; a pinball machine, and a fishing trip for three from outdoor writer and fishing guide, **Capt. Steve Schultz**. The auction raised more than \$18,000!



L-R: ABC's Carol Wiatrek, Pauline Valentine and Dana Goodman are winding down after intense party prep.

One of the Christmas Gala's biggest drawing cards was the reverse raffle, offering a chance for one lucky ticket holder to win \$10,000. Throughout the evening numbers were called out, eliminating ticket holders one-by-one from the reverse raffle standings. The last man standing was **Ronnie Urbanczyk**, **Urban Concrete Contractors**. Thanks to one and all for your devotion, generosity, presence, participation and involvement in this year's Christmas Gala. Your acts of kindness will help transform the hearts and hopes of children and teens that were not forgotten on Christmas Day.



Auctioneer Bill Frerichs worked the audience to raise funds for Construct a Kid's Christmas.

continued from Page 30 - Learning to be all you can be

**Vaughn Construction's** vice president, **Matt Daniel**, was manning his booth on the exhibition floor and felt it was important to be there. "All of the agencies are here, and we're part of the San Antonio community. My advice to young entrepreneurs who aspire to do business with our firm would be to call on us and keep the lines of communication open. We go forward with an open bidding process and we talk to anyone who wants to do business with us. Even if they're not selected the first

time, we encourage them to keep trying and not give up. Over time, there's bound to be a good opportunity."

The conference was actively supported by: Alamo Workforce Development; Associated Builders and Contractors; Associated General Contractors; City Public Service; Hispanic Contractors Association de San Antonio; TX Department of Transportation; US Department of Transportation; and hundreds of others.

continued from Page 9 - Fisk refocuses efforts in South Texas

service with Fisk San Antonio.

To go along with the new management changes, the offices have just been upgraded and remodeled. Customers and vendors will have a chance to see the redone facilities and meet Orvil and the others in January when the company holds an open house.



continued from Page 1 - Better Built Enterprises has recipe for success

**Gutierrez & Garwood Architects**; and **Beiker Engineering Inc.**, structural engineers.

Subcontractors who participated in the project include: **Jesse Herrera Construction**, striping; **Niznik Concrete Contractors**; **Lundberg Masonry**; **Vestal Steel**; **Timber Tech**; **Arahd Lath & Plaster**; **Mangold Roofing**; **Hutchison Supply Company**, door and hardware; **Alamo Door Systems**; **Main Glass & Mirror**; **Traugott, Inc.**, painting; **River City Fire & Safety**; **E.L. Smith Plumbing**; **Gary's A.C.**, and **LCE Electric**.

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