

Dear Members of IBEW Local 269,

Staff Sergeant Andrew A Robinson, USMC, was injured in Al Anbar Province, Iraq on June 20, 2006 while investigating the very insurgent cell that attacked him in his vehicle. Three infantry Marines were killed in the blast. Shortly after this attack the information Andrew had gathered along with the efforts of his team secured the area and resulted in that insurgent cell being eliminated.

Andrew, son of William Robinson, 34 year Journeyman with Local 9 Pipefitters, is a graduate of Northern Burlington County Regional High School and a life-time resident of North Hanover Township. He joined the Marine Corps' early enlistment program in August, 2000 before his senior year of high school and he entered boot-camp July, 2001, immediately upon high school graduation.

While in boot-camp in Parris Island, South Carolina and immediately following the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>, Andrew wrote in a letter home saying:

*"I know that before I was just training to be a Marine, but now I train because the threat of war is closer than we all thought. I have no fear though. I trust God to protect me and the Corps to train me."*

Andrew completed his recruitment training October, 2001.

Following boot-camp graduation and aircraft administration school, Andrew was stationed in Okinawa, Japan. This 12 month deployment extended to 15 when all military orders were frozen in the early days of Operation Iraqi Freedom, March 2003.

Andrew returned to the states in June, 2003 and continued with an air wing unit in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. His first deployment to Iraq being with this unit in 2004, returning in the fall of that year to be married to Sara Hulehan of Roebling and completing his assignment with the air wing.

Feeling his work with the air wing did not contribute enough to the effort, Andrew applied to and was accepted into the Counter Intelligence program in Dam Neck Virginia, graduating in August, 2005 and the couple relocated to Camp Pendleton, California.

As a Counter Intelligence Specialist (interrogator), Andrew was deployed on January 3, 2006.

Since his injury and return to the United States, Andrew received his initial medical care for six weeks at National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. He then rehabilitated at the Poly-Trauma Unit at The James A Haley Veterans' Affairs Hospital in Tampa, Florida for about 3 months and continued at the Veteran's facility in San Diego, California.

Andrew's injury to his spinal cord at the Cervical 4-5-6 level has left him a quadriplegic. He has regained some use of his shoulders, elbows and wrists. The scientific probability of him walking again, at most, is ten percent.

Now over two years since his injury, Andrew is the Team Coordinator for Team Semper Fi and has competed in his first hand-cycle Relay Triathlon. He hopes to cycle in the Marine Corp Marathon in October this year held in Washington DC.

Andrew is very grateful for your generosity and hard work towards the building of his home in Florence NJ. This totally accessible house will make life so much easier for him for years to come.

Thank you for your support to Andrew in response to his service and sacrifice.

Bill & Carole Robinson  
Parents