

Hardt Construction Services: Pays special tribute to Kern County Veterans

“Our family has been in business in Bakersfield for over 73 years and the community has been very kind to us. Michelle and I feel compelled to give back to our community as well as see the results of our efforts firsthand,” says Tim Hardt, co-owner of family-owned and operated Hardt Construction Services. The Hardts are thoroughly dedicated to giving back to the community, especially to the veteran community.

They understand the commitment military personnel offer to this country, as their son Steven recently served in the Army. This Veteran’s Day Hardt Construction Services would like to pay special tribute to the brave veterans here in Kern County who offered their lives in service to our nation.

The Wounded Heroes Fund and the Portrait of a Warrior Gallery are among some of the local initiatives the Hardts have contributed to—ensuring Kern County Veterans are paid due honor in their community. Hardt Construction Services remodeled the Wounded Heroes Fund Community Center and Tim Hardt also served on its board of directors. This non-profit organization assists Kern County veterans transition to civilian life in our local community.

The grassroots foundation offers therapeutic and family programs as well as financial management assistance to these military veterans and their families. “What an amazing project, to see the years of hard work that Wendy Porter, founder of Wounded Heroes Fund, come to fruition,” says Tim Hardt, regarding the remodel of this facility.

CEO of Hardt Construction Services, Michelle Hardt, is also very involved in giving back to the veteran community. She assisted in designing and constructing the Portrait of a Warrior Gallery—collaborating with its co-founders Lili Marsh and Jason Gies on the project.

The 19th Street memorial features hand-painted portraits of post 9/11 fallen service persons that are showcased throughout the gallery. This memorial gallery is a special commemoration

that pays homage to the Kern County fallen heroes who sacrificed their lives in service to our nation.

“As I walk down the halls of the gallery looking at the young men and women that have died, my heart breaks and tears come to my eyes,” says Michelle Hardt, “so many mothers aren’t as lucky as I was in seeing my son returning from his service.”

To further honor veterans, Hardt Construction Services offers a military discount on services, including a free consultation and 15% off their design and construction services. This discount is also available to first responders and military personnel.

In addition to his work in the construction industry, Tim

Hardt is also a rescue diver and divemaster. With this passion, Hardt was instrumental in the funding of the Aqua-Vets Scuba Heroes Project—an initiative that uniquely supports disabled military veterans by training them how to scuba dive.

Along with Aqua-Vets founder Dr. Todd McBride, Tim Hardt started with the non-profit in 2017 with the mission of providing a transformative experience for disabled military veterans through scuba diving.

The program is offered at no cost to the veterans and offers the opportunity to become certified with the

Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) and the Handicap Scuba Association (HSA). As a divemaster, Tim assists in training and keeping the veterans safe through the Aqua-Vets program.

Every year the program offers dynamic opportunities to new groups and provides additional support to disabled veteran divers from previous classes. “I am humbled when I see the face of a service person that has just completed their ‘Open Water’ certification. The positive motivation that I get to witness during this process is priceless,” says Tim Hardt.

The Hardts’ dedication to honoring and saluting Kern County veterans continues in ongoing projects and initiatives throughout the Bakersfield community.



