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Extreme Makeover: Home Edition - Firefighters Honor Designer

Thursday December 06, 2007 6:47pm Reporter: [Leigh Forrester](#) Posted By: [Webteam](#)



Prince Edward Co., VA - Things are constantly changing at the build site for Extreme Makeover: Home Edition. The crew is hard at work in Prince Edward County, building a home for a National Guardsman and his family. Thursday, though, one of the design team members was the focus.

Paul DiMeo got a big thank you from Virginia firefighters. He's got quite a connection with the profession - both his grandfather and brother were both firefighters. It's in his blood to protect others and shield them from harm. And, if you think about it, it's what he does every week on the show, building shelter for those in need.

Thursday, Virginia firefighters thanked him. The Maltese Cross is more than just an emblem for fire fighters across this country, it's a beacon.

Walt Bailey, Lynchburg Fire Dept. - "It's obviously special to us. You know fire service is a big family where ever we go, where ever we travel. When we run into someone in the fire service it's like running into a distant kin."

And every week they see that emblem on Paul DiMeo.

Bailey - "So we're honored that he regularly advertises the fire service for us so we wanted to recognize him for his contribution to the families that they come in and assist."

Walt Bailey, Battalion Chief for the Lynchburg Fire Department ([website](#)) and the Vice President of the State Fire Chief's Association, got to say thanks.

Bailey - "On behalf of the fire chief's association we would like to make you an honorary chief in the state of Virginia and present you with a chief shirt to wear as you help the families across the country."

Paul DiMeo, Designer - "Thank you. You guys support us no matter where we go. Whether it be Rice, whether it be Brooklyn, New York. And I appreciate the help."

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For Bailey and his brothers this is a thank you that will last a lifetime.

Bailey - "It's obviously a memorable moment in my career."

The Rice Volunteer Fire Department is helping secure this build around the clock. They were there to say thank you as well. If you want to volunteer there is still plenty of opportunity to do so. **Click here for more information.** You have to be 18 years old, and willing to work for four hours straight.