

# King gets his proper credit

March 30, 2002 - *Herald-Tribune* - Harold Bubil

John King didn't do what he did just to get his name in the paper. He doesn't think it's necessary I write this column.

But you build a house for a family in need for free, you spend a year of your life sticking with a cause despite overwhelming obstacles, and you get your name in the paper. You also get an award from the National Association of Home Builders.

King is the contractor (his company is Rampart Homes) who built a house for the Glenn and Gail **Salter** family of Sarasota after their teen-age son, **Paul**, was paralyzed playing football. But not just any house; it was specially designed with technology to meet **Paul's** needs.

The award, the "Home Builders Care" Community Service Project Award, was presented to King and the Home Builders Association of Sarasota County by the NAHB during its International Builders Show last month in Atlanta. The Sarasota association shared the award because so many members volunteered labor and materials.

King was one of three finalists for the national honor, which included the presentation of a check for \$5,000, since donated to the Success by Six early childhood education program.

"I was really taken aback," said King. "You'd think in the entire United States ... there's a lot of folks out there. People are doing a lot of different projects, but I guess this one really caught people's eyes for having such a dramatic impact on a family and an individual."

King didn't know he had won until the announcement was made at a board meeting during the convention.

"I was sitting in the VIP section with a couple hundred people in it," said King. "I didn't know if I was going to win or not. It was quite something, I was very proud and honored."

King wants the project's legacy to go beyond the \$5,000 and the plaque on his wall. "My hope is that the **Salter** project inspires other folks to do similar kinds of things," he said. "If you believe in it hard enough, you can make it happen."

It took a lot of believing to build the **Salter** house, he said.

"We ran into a lot of obstacles. It took its toll us," he said, referring to his wife, Didi, who spent countless hours on the phone coordinating the project. "There were some very frustrating days when we thought we had it all worked out and it got all jumbled again because this person or that person failed to come through on their commitment. It was just ... whew! But it did finally come together.

"A lot of love and sweat went into that house."

*All content © 2002 Herald-Tribune Corp. and may not be republished without permission.*