

# Perrysburg veteran receives new roof through Owens Corning program

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BY KATE SNYDER / THE BLADE



Workers from Seagate Roofing and Foundation Services begin to install a new roof for a U.S. Air Force veteran Donald Bylow as part of the Owens Corning National Roof Deployment Project in Perrysburg on Jan. 21.

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When Perrysburg resident Donald Bylow's roof started leaking, he didn't know what he was going to do.

"We thought we were going to have to try to pay for it, and that's almost impossible, right now," he said.

But the 87-year-old U.S. Air Force veteran qualified for a national program that provides veterans with free roof installations. The Owens Corning National Roof Deployment Project is a partnership between Owens Corning and its platinum preferred contractors to provide the service free of charge for former service members.

Since the program started in 2016, more than 325 military members across the country have received new roofs.

On Friday, Mr. Bylow received his.

"I was excited," he said. "I really appreciate all that everyone's doing for us."

Habitat for Humanity is also a partner in the program, and Mark Ohashi, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Wood County, said the local organization connected Mr. Bylow with Owens Corning for a replacement roof.

A lack of decent housing can have a detrimental effect on physical health as well as mental health, Mr. Ohashi said.

“There’s no bigger need than to have a solid roof over your head,” he said.

At Mr. Bylow’s home Friday, workers conducted a complete tear-off, said Steve Naylor, vice president of Seagate Roofing and Foundation Services. There was some rotting wood as a result of water leakage, he said, which can lead to mold, so the plan was to replace all the bad wood.

“We’re going to do this job to code and above to make certain it never leaks again,” Mr. Naylor said.

The project Friday was Seagate’s third roof installation as part of the veterans program. Mr. Naylor said the work would be a one-day project.

“We are humbled and honored to be able to help out,” he said.

Matt Schroder, spokesman for Owens Corning, said the program is a natural fit for Owens Corning’s roofing services. And while the contractor donates all the labor for the free roof installation, Owens Corning donates all the material.

Mr. Schroder said the program started with the contractors coming to Owens Corning about wanting to do something for the community and give back to veterans in some way.

“We worked together with them,” he said. “These few years later, it’s grown into something that we’re all very proud of.”