



Search news:

 

- Website (7 days)
- Archive (1999-)



Thursday, May 12, 2005

[SUBSCRIBE TO THE DAILY JOURNAL](#)

## RIGHT TOOLS FOR THE JOB: Local manufacturer outfits troops

By MILES JACKSON

Staff Writer

mjackson@thedailyjournal.com

John Michael Hawkins became familiar with the tools made for his metal detecting hobby by a small Upper Deerfield Township company.

But Pamela Lesche, president of Predator Tools, and her husband, George Lesche, the man who invents and manufactures the tools, came to know Hawkins under far more serious circumstances.

Hawkins, a member of the Army's 82nd Calvary, may have found out about Predator Tools from magazines he read back home in Oregon while searching for hidden treasures big and small.

But Sgt. 1st Class Hawkins now is stationed in Iraq, where he puts his skills in finding hidden metal objects to use by searching for mortar shells, mines and other buried ordnance scattered throughout the war-torn countryside.

And the inventions of George Lesche are the perfect tools in saving life and limb of those like Hawkins, who find themselves using regular bayonets to probe the desert surface for deadly surprises buried beneath the sand and gravel.

"The guys love the tools!" Hawkins, who was charged with finding ways to improve the digging operation, wrote in an e-mail to Lesche last month. "They're perfect for the job, and these people think a lot about you and how you managed to get these things to the other side of the world."

Lesche, who can be found on weekends scanning the ground with a metal detector in search of 18th and 19th century artifacts, is more than happy to help out the men and women fighting in Iraq.

"I don't like the war, and I wouldn't want my son



Staff photos/Craig Matthews

**Deerfield Township resident George Lesche of Plumbers and Pipefitters' Local 322 made mine detection tools for the troops in Iraq. Lesche invents and manufactures tools for Predator Tools. His wife, Pamela, is president of the company. About 80 mine detection tools will be sent to the troops in Iraq.**



Home

News

Local News

Archives

Local Sports

H.S. Football

Obituaries

Living

Opinion

Photo Gallery

Weather

Nation/World

Technology

Communities

Classifieds

Shopping

Homes

Autos

Jobs

Customer Service

fighting over there," said Lesche, who has a 19-year-old son. "Just like I don't believe the parents of many soldiers don't like their children over there.

"But there's no reason why we shouldn't support our troops any way we can and give them the best equipment for the job they have to do," Lesche added.

At his own expense, Lesche sends Hawkins and the other soldiers a variety of shovels, probes and a small, blade-like digging device used for cutting through concrete-hard soil.

The grim reality of the job done by those soldiers is evident in the e-mails Hawkins sends Lesche.

"We just got hit with a big one," Hawkins wrote in a May 5 e-mail. "So I had to take a minute to col-

lect myself."

A month earlier, Hawkins sent an e-mail with the ultimate bad news.

"One of our soldiers was killed today from the very unit you are donating tools to," Hawkins said in the message. "The mood is very somber."

Lesche knows the importance of what he is doing, and he knows there is a need to get as many of his tools as possible over to the troops.

A union pipefitting welder with the Plumbers and Pipefitters' Local 322, Lesche started sending a few tools to Hawkins and telling his co-workers about the need for the equipment.

Soon, more than a dozen of those co-workers were chipping in \$20 and \$50 bills to help fund Predator Tools' efforts.

When Jim Kehoe, business manager for the union, found out about the effort, he got the union's permission to donate \$500 for tools to be sent to the troops.

Today, more than 100 Predator Tools are in Iraq digging for bombs and booby-traps designed to kill what Kehoe called the nation's treasure -- its servicemen and women.

"We have men and women in harm's way over there," Kehoe said. "Anything we can do to help those who are putting their lives on the line."

And Kehoe has nothing but praise for Lesche, whom he called a true citizen patriot.

"This is coming right from George's heart," Kehoe said. "He's asking nothing for himself."

In fact, Predator Tools is making nothing on the material it sends to Iraq, something that doesn't seem to bother Pam Lesche.

While she handles the orders and promotion of the tools, her husband makes the tools in garages and shops of friends who live near his house in rural Upper Deerfield Township.

She was proud of her husband when union officials and Rep. Frank LoBiondo, R-2, honored him recently for his work in supplying the tools to U.S. troops.

But mostly, Pam Lesche knows it's her husband's nature to help out in a time of need.

"He's got a good heart -- he's got a giving heart," Pam Lesche said with the look of a wife still in love

---

## ADVERTISEMENT



### Action canceled

Internet Explorer was unable to link to the Web page you requested. The page might be temporarily unavailable.

---

Please try the following:

- Click the Refresh button, or try again later.
- If you have visited this page previously and you have what has been stored on your computer, click the **Work Offline** button.
- For information about offline browsing with Internet Explorer, click the **Help** menu, and then click **Contents**.

with her husband after nearly 30 years of marriage.

She then looked up and said something only a wife of 29 years would say.

"If I could only get him to wash the dishes," Pam Lesche said as the couple laughed in unison.

Then it was out to the post office, where George Lesche sent another shipment of tools to Hawkins.

Payment for the postage, \$61 and change, came out of Lesche's pocket, no questions asked.

**Originally published May 12, 2005**



[Print this article](#)



[Email this to a friend](#)



[Subscribe Now](#)

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Communities](#) | [Customer Service](#)  
[Classifieds](#) | [shoppings](#) | [Homes](#) | [Autos](#) | [Jobs](#)



[Contact Us](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Place an ad](#)  
Copyright ©2004 The Daily Journal. All rights reserved.  
Use of this site indicates your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#)  
(Terms updated 12/20/02)

