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About 10 years ago, I had the opportunity to see a Civil War re-enactment and see first hand what the soldiers of the civil war went through to help keep America the greatest nation in the world. Five years ago, I ment a civil war re-enactor, who was a member of the Army of The Southwest the reenactors name was Ed Brea. Ed was the re-enactor that introduced me to the army of The

Southwest . Since that time I have had the opportunity to take part in re enactments all over Iowa. I have had the honor and privilege to help students from different schools, such as the school in Johnston Iowa, and schools in Missouri to learn about history of the civil war.

This brings me to the year 2007. America has more heros than any other country. And I had the privilege and honor to be the, coordinator, for the civil war reenactment in july ,for the third largest veteran Home in the United States. Marshalltown Iowa Veterans' home has 750 resident veterans. Marshalltown Iowa Veterans' home was built in 1887. The first resident, a Civil War veteran was Mr. Fox. The first woman veteran was Mary Worthington in 1889. The Veterans' home has a 165 acres. It has a huge cemetery. The first buried was a Civil War veterans .And all the veteran of today, who are buried here .

April 2007 myself and Roger and Carol Shannon, Cedric Ruby and Kevin Burke had the opportunity to meet and visit the veterans of the veterans home. Shortly after our visit I received a call from the resident veterans, asking if they could have a small re-enactment. As it turned out, when I talked with the Army of The Southwest and many other re enactors. These re enactors were told of the veterans Their response to the request for a re-enactment at the Veterans' home was so great, reactors from Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin came to honor the veteran at the Marshalltown veterans home. The 28th and 29th of July was probably the greatest day in the hearts of all the re enactors . The re enactors visited with the veteran , went to rooms of different veterans. The veteran asked me to tell all of you re enactors they very much appreciate your time spent at the Veterans' home. Three re enactors had the opportunity to visit with Larry Box a veteran suffering from agent orange, other re enactors visited with POWs . other re enactors ate ice cream with the veteran in the canteen.

I think what touched the hearts of many reactors is the story told by the covered wagon driver. Saturday morning as Marvin and his helper and my son Rusty were hitching the 4 horses to the covered wagon. Marvin looked up across the parking lot, said here come somebody in a wheelchair. One of the old veteran came down to the pasture where the covered wagon was. As the veteran came closer, he talked with Marvin. The veteran was telling Marvin that one of the toughs that hooks to the wagon was crossed. Marvin said, yes it was, and straightend it out .The old veteran knew about horses and wagons. Marvin could see that the old veteran was tired from coming down through the parking lot to the wagon. Marvin asked the old veteran if he would like a ride back up the hill. The old veteran said yes. So Marvin and Rusty were ready to help the veteran into the wagon. The old veteran said no, I can make it. Everyone was loaded in the wagon, the old veteran turned to Marvin and said, I have a request ,and you can say no if you want to. Marvin said I don't say no very offen. The old veteran said can I drive the team of horses. I guess you know that was a surprise to Marvin, but he handed the driving rains to, Howard Corey 91 years old. After he drove the wagon, he told Marvin he would like to live one more year to drive the team again.

That brings me up to next year 2008 the Marshalltown veterans would like all of the re enactors to come again in 2008

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Our goal this year is to have more for the shut in veteran. There are many veterans that can't come out side. This year the Veterans' home has agreed to let us use the big recreation room in the Malloy building. We will still have outside events along with the inside events. For one thing our ladies tea and fashion show will be in the Malloy building recreation room. We also will have Bob Welch guitar, banjo, and mandolin. Singing civil war songs. We will have General George Custer and President Abraham Lincoln. And in the evening we will have the military dance, ball and give door prizes we will have the usual outside events. The officers call, flag ceremony, Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, battle between the North and South, civil war doctors operating, and many vendors and of course the covered wagon for Howard Corey to drive.

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