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Galva guardsman wounded in Iraq

Staff sergeant earns 2nd Purple Heart

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By CATHERINE THADEN

of Copley News Service

GALVA - Staff Sgt. Derrick E. Glisan was shot in the calf Jan. 18 when his unit was fired upon by insurgents, but it's not the first Purple Heart the Henry County resident has earned - it's his second in as many months. Maj. Michael W. Kessel of the Galva National Guard explained in an e-mail to Glisan's family that Glisan was on patrol about 20 miles from Baghdad when the truck he was driving was ambushed with machine gunfire.

"Two rounds made it through the engine compartment, and one hit SSG Derrick Glisan in the left calf," Kessel wrote. "The bullet went clean through his leg without damaging any bones. He has already been released and is back with us. He is currently recuperating in his room with everyone keeping a check on him, but his spirits are very good."

And the uplifting spirit that Glisan, 27, possesses is one that his parents, Cheryl and Wayne, said will keep him going until he returns to the United States, hopefully around Easter.

"He has never been one to complain," Cheryl said. As a child, Derrick walked around with a broken collar bone for three days before realizing there may be something wrong when he couldn't move his arm.

"He's a good, strong kid. And he thinks he should be back out with the guys patrolling the area. I personally wish he would wait until after the elections to return to the action," she said.