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Galva, IL - John David reports

Galva gets ready for guard return on Saturday

Mar 17, 2005, 5:48 PM

By [John David](#)

Galva is getting ready for a welcome home celebration. After nearly 18 months on active duty and in Iraq, some 130 members of the 202nd Air Defense Artillery are coming home.

There's a welcome on the way for Staff Sgt. Derrick Glisan. Family and friends can't wait for his return. Photos on display downtown tell the story.

"They've done a super job," said Wayne Glisan, Derrick's dad. "I'm proud of the whole unit."

With a pick-up truck and ladder on the move, Myron Townsend gives Galva plenty of red, white and blue.

"It'll be a pretty special day," he said.

That special day arrives on Saturday. It's when a brief welcome home reception is set to take place at 1:30 inside the Galva Armory.

The street superintendent is putting up nearly 200 flags. Flags are blending with yellow ribbons and guiding soldiers home for a hero's welcome.

"Their efforts have been appreciated," Townsend said. "Everybody thanks them for what they've done."

Downtown decorations are filling business windows with patriotic pride. Messages that even motivate some special purchases.

"I bought a flag," Jennifer Henry said. "I bought some stickers to put in my window."

Some signs call on religious inspiration. Others are a pat on the back for a job well done. Whatever the case, everybody is breathing a sigh of relief that all of the soldier are coming back alive.

"We're certainly glad that they're coming home safely," said Art Apfel, Galva.

For Derrick Glisan's dad, one scene says it all.

"Just seeing him when he sees the girls again and seeing the the girls when they see him," he said. "They're getting pretty excited."

Excited about a chance to reunite families after being away so long.



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