



photos by SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Sgt. Jose Herrera cuts a yellow ribbon in his daughter's Montessori class, where students

had hung the ribbons last fall. They awaited his homecoming so he could help take them down.

Daddy's home

Back from Gulf, man visits daughter's class

Three-year-old Halston Herrera brought something special to "show and tell" Tuesday.

The student at Farmington Square Montessori School in downtown Farmington proudly showed off her daddy, Sgt. Jose Herrera of Farmington Hills, who returned home May 8 from service in the Persian Gulf. Herrera visited his daughter's class to share his experiences with the preschoolers and help them cut down the yellow ribbons the children hung up after he went overseas.

He also gave the class a certificate of appreciation from his unit. "I can't believe I'm here, but then I couldn't believe I was in Saudi Arabia either," said the Hills man, who serves in the U.S. Army National Guard.

In Saudi Arabia, he served with the 207th Evacuation Hospital where they treated enemy prisoners.

HERRERA is a benefits coordinator with Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. in Farmington Hills, and wife Stephanie said the local company treated the family well during her husband's time of duty. "They were wonderful," she said. "They supplemented our income and every week someone called to make sure we were OK. At least once a month, they sent him goodies."

Two other Farmington-area residents in the 207th unit are Cpt. Frank Wolfe and Sgt. Paul Fregulman.



Halston Herrera shows her classmates photographs her father, Jose, brought from Saudi Arabia. In this snapshot, he poses in front of a camel.



A rather shy Danielle Variesi, 4, peeks up at Sgt. Herrera during snacktime at the Farmington Square Montessori School in Farmington.



Children at the Farmington Square Montessori school kept yellow ribbons tied to their bookbags until Sgt. Jose Herrera came home to cut them off. Here, he talks with Derek Yee, 3, as

Adam Lark, 5, waits patiently in line. Herrera's 3-year-old daughter, Halston, is in the background, watching her dad.

Party planned for man's return from Middle East

Hey, 1988 North Farmington graduates...

Remember Dave Porter? The Navy petty officer returns home from the Persian Gulf June 1, and his parents, Yvonne and Dave Porter, are planning a festive homecoming.

And you're invited. So are former teachers and other friends, as the family hosts an open house in their Rolling Oaks home 2-8 p.m.

"I'm very proud," said Yvonne. "He's always had such direction and goals."

This is the second time Yvonne has welcomed home a family member from war. She and Dave were

married six months when he was called to serve in Vietnam — she had a happy reunion then and is looking forward to this one too.

YOUNG DAVE "wanted to join the Navy and see the world — I'm sure this wasn't what he had in mind," she added, referring to the Persian Gulf War.

He served on the USS Sacramento, a supply ship, where he saw a lot of action, his mom said.

The Porters live at 31128 Carriage Hill Court, just south of 14 Mile between Farmington and Drake roads. The yellow ribbons on the house await his homecoming.



David R. Porter III returning June 1

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