

# Reservist is proud of work she did

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Upon joining the U.S. Army reserves 14 years ago, Marcia Berend never thought she'd see war in her lifetime.

But the Farmington Hills resident was one of dozens of reserve and regular military people from the Farmington area to be called to duty in the recent Persian Gulf War. All were honored Saturday at a special ceremony at Heritage Park.

Like many others, Berend was scared. But she went overseas to serve her country because it was the right thing to do.

"I was really nervous," said the 37-year-old sergeant who had ample warning about her deployment, but only a few days actual notice to pack and leave last November. "Never in a million years — I never thought they'd call us up. I would have bet a million dollars."

"The Saturday we left, that was awful," she added. "It was like somebody taking out my heart."

IN HER CIVILIAN life, Berend is married and works for the city of Farmington Hills' Special Services Department, is part of the Army's Jackson-based 232d Unit — Criminal Investigative Division. The CID units were formed in the 1960s

to supplement the Army's military police. Berend's unit was the first CID to be called to active duty in the Persian Gulf.

She arrived in Saudi Arabia on Christmas Eve, and was stationed in Riyadh for the first three months where she did internal investigations for all sorts of crimes: including larcenies, arsons, any fatality, accidental shootings and even mail fraud. She did similar work her second three months of duty in Dhahran.

Although not on the front lines, the war was right in Berend's back yard. She recalled the night the first Patriot defense missile was fired to shoot down a Soviet-made Scud missile coming from Iraq. "They woke us up at 3 in the morning. All of a sudden I heard 'boom' and the wall shook," she said. "We got used to all the Scud alerts. We had so many of them."

HUNDREDS of units of vacant housing originally built for the Bedouin people were used to house some 40,000 American troops. "It was almost ready-made for war," she added.

Berend said she felt lucky to be housed in a building, and not in the desert, as many other soldiers.

Dwight Berend, Marcia's hus-

band, held things down on the home front by coordinating a family support group for Marcia's unit. He said the couple spent about \$1,500 in phone bills between calling overseas and staying in touch with other spouses and families.

"I was miserable," he said, "but I had good support from my family and here, I had a job to communicate with all those women." In addition to calls, Dwight sent out a regular newsletter to the families.

Marcia Berend is delighted with all the attention returning veterans are getting, but is a bit uncomfortable because veterans of other wars don't receive the same treatment. "I think that a lot of it —

they're trying to make up for Vietnam," she said. "I hope that eventually, things die down. Enough is enough."

Although she expects the impact of the war to fade in time, the experience in the Persian Gulf will never leave her. "I never considered myself to be a big patriot," she said. "But I was so damned proud to be an American and to wear that uniform."

"I accept it, and I really appreciate it," Berend's unit was sent home in June, and she returned to work a few weeks ago. "One of the most wonderful things was sinking into my own bed — I thought I'd died and gone to heaven," she said.

## Cities welcome Gulf vets

Continued from Page 1

House, the U.S. Congress and the state Legislature were all read into the record on behalf of the honorees.

"Mercifully, wars end. And the healing and the reunions and the celebrations begin," said Hills Councilwoman Nancy Bates. "I am convinced that the hometown celebration means the most to the re-

turning soldiers and their families.

"Today, we are here to make memories, and today is a memory. I congratulate them (the veterans) and the families that strengthened them."

Vagnozzi suggested any visitors to the park stop near the picnic shelter and read the plaque to remind them about their freedom, and those who worked to keep it intact.



DAW LIPPITT/Staff photographer

Sgt. Marcia Berend stands with her husband Dwight as she is recognized Saturday as part of the Salute to the Troops program at Heritage Park. Berend serves in the U.S. Army reserve as a criminal investigator, and served six months in Saudi Arabia in both Riyadh and Dhahran. More than 20 soldiers and their families were honored at the Saturday event.

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# Voters to decide on district court expansion

Continued from Page 1

magistrate hearing room and employee lounge to a third courtroom and judicial chambers. It would also pay to renovate existing courtrooms and chambers to match the new area, modify the police holding area to access two courtrooms, and refurbish the exterior of the building.

THE BOND issue would also pay to repair and repave the court parking lot, put in additional parking and

improve the landscaping on site.

Staffing costs for the new judge could be handled by current court fees, according to Harris. Deadman said although the extra costs are a concern, "the court pretty much pays its own way" and that the increased court docket carries more revenue. Although both local units of government pay a portion of the judges' salaries, most is reimbursed by the state so it is little local concern.

Bruce Timmons of the state House

Republican Office said legislation approving the third judgeship would likely not be approved until the spring of 1992, but that once cities note the need they are usually approved without problem. It is possible a third judge could be approved without the voters approving a building addition, he added.

"I guess the worse case scenario is we'll squeeze him (a new judge) in somewhere," Judge Schaefer said. Monday's action by the Farmington City Council was done with little

discussion, except for Mayor Shirley Richardson telling the judges: "You certainly have proven to me there is a need for a third judge."

In Farmington Hills discussion centered on what would happen if voters fail to approve the proposed ballot issue and the need to seek construction bids for any addition to the existing courthouse to make room for a third judge.

"I didn't think it would happen. But here it's happened all over

again," councilman Ben Marks said.

He was upset because he felt the cities should seek bids rather than automatically give the court addition work to John Allen Architects of Farmington, which designed the original courthouse, a former elementary school, as well as recent interior renovations.

The council voted 6-0 to seek bids for the addition. Councilman Jonathan Grant was absent.

## Cop's testimony used in exam

Continued from Page 1

fore he talked about what happened to him. He seemed embarrassed to tell me what happened to him."

Defense attorney David Binkley said that his client did not remember Nebus saying that police would take action on the outstanding warrants that afternoon. The three misdemeanor warrants were for non-support in 1981 and two bench warrants on a drunk driving charge in Garden City and Farmington, Nebus said.

According to Nebus, Florian was concerned that Magon would take off if police did not act quickly.

FLORIAN GAVE Nebus Magon's Social Security number, but Nebus said that wasn't enough to ascertain a criminal history.

At 10 a.m., Nebus's secretary laid Magon's criminal record on Nebus's desk.

Florian, Nebus said, left soon after that, headed for the Meijer Thrifty Acres store in Novi, where he bought the rifle that he allegedly used to kill Magon.

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