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Capacity crowd welcomes home area troops

Summary: Friends and loved ones, including more than 100 service veterans from the region, packed the P.E. Center gymnasium at UMM to welcome home from Iraq the soldiers of Charlie Company during a ceremony held December 5.

(December 6, 2005)-Nearly 4,000 friends and loved ones, including over 100 service veterans from the region, packed the P.E. Center gymnasium at the University of Minnesota, Morris to welcome home from Iraq the soldiers of Charlie Company during a ceremony held December 5.

Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty and U.S. Rep. Collin Peterson, along with state military dignitaries, attended the formal ceremony. The event was preceded by the dedication of a memorial to fallen soldiers, Jason Timmerman, Jesse Lohtka and David Day, held at the Morris National Guard Armory. Day was a native of Morris.

During their deployment, the soldiers helped to train Iraqi police and provide an escort for dignitaries through the Green Zone and around Baghdad. The troops of first Battalion 151st Field Artillery included those from Morris, for whom a departure ceremony was held in the same gymnasium on September 18, 2004.

[photo by Nicole Herberg]

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