

Senator hosts Army 'wounded warrior' family for much needed beach break

By Judy Corley

Ken and Patty Katter of Fort Bragg, N.C. needed a break and so did their three children. A weekend at the beach was the one thing all five family members agreed would be the perfect vacation.

Last week Sen. Dick Elliott and the local CIAO organization made their wish come true.

Sgt. Ken Patter is recovering from injuries received from an IED explosion in Iraq in 2007 and is now facing a medical retirement from the Army.

For almost two years his wife and children have been by his side as he underwent extensive treatment and rehabilitation. Ken is now left with vision and short term memory problems

but his attitude is one of optimism and hope.

Before his injuries he was a Calvary Scout with 12 years military experience. Ken was a Marine in his 20s and after his discharge he went home to Michigan and became a police officer. After 10 years on the force he felt called to serve his country again in the military.

He was too old for the Marines but the Army wanted his experience.

In spite of his injuries he says serving his country was and remains the best decision he has ever made.

Patty says the trip could not have come at a better time for her family.

See SENATOR, Page 20



Photo by Judy Corley

Last week Sen. Dick Elliott and the local CIAO organization surprised a military family with a beach vacation, gifts and a Senate resolution. Pictured are, left to right, CIAO president Vito DeBartolo, Elliott, Ken Katter, Ashlay Katter, Savannah Katter, Patty Katter, Hunter Katter and CIAO past president Nick Lanza. Ken Katter was seriously wounded by an IED in Iraq.