

Business

Diedrich Agency is honored with flag from combat

A flag flown over a base in Afghanistan and on a military aircraft has found a new home at Ripon's Diedrich Agency.

Ripon High School 2001 graduate Douglas Kessler Jr. returned from Afghanistan Sept. 15. His mother and Diedrich Agency employee, Christi-

na Erdmann of Ripon, went to Florida to welcome him home. Douglas currently is a senior airman for the U.S. Air Force. When he was deployed May 4 to the Bagram Airfield, 2006 he was in the 455th Expeditionary Mission Support

Squadron at Camp Cunningham, Afghanistan. Working with Erdmann, employees of The Diedrich Agency sent Kessler and his fellow troops four boxes filled with requested items during the four and a half-month period of serving our country. Employees did it to show

how proud of Kessler they were and to show their support to him, the troops and Erdmann. On Aug. 20, Kessler had a flag flown during Operation Enduring Freedom for The Diedrich Agency over Camp Cunningham in Bagram Airfield. The next day, the flag was flown in combat on an A-10 Thunderbolt, Aircraft No. 78-0631 Mission 4454, Call sign "Jusk 14 by Capt. Jason "Shady" Shemchuk. Kessler returned with two certificates and the flag and presented them to his mother for The Diedrich Agency.

The quote on one certificate states, "Let it be known that this flag represents American resolve following the attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, and bears witness to the destruction of terrorist forces threatening the United States of America and the world."

As a member of the Honor Guard, Kessler volunteered to perform 23 fallen soldier ceremonies at Camp Cunningham. "We sleep safe in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do



CHRISTINA ERDMANN OF Ripon kneels behind the American flag flown in Afghanistan and on a military plane. A pair of certificates prove the authenticity. Ian Stepleton photo

us harm," was quoted under a picture of Kessler flying the

A PAIR OF certificates tell how the flag was flown for the Diedrich Agency in Afghanistan and on a military plane. Ian Stepleton photo