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Carrie Konrath, Auction  
Denise Ott, Auction  
Russ Schneider, Auction

The Soldiers Home Foundation Sponsors Reclaiming Our Heritage, a living history and military reenactment event, highlighting the sacrifices and contributions made by veterans throughout America's History. The Foundation's mission is to honor our Nation's veterans, bring history to life and preserve a national and local treasure — The Historic Milwaukee VA District.

The Soldiers Home Foundation, Inc., is a non-government 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

## Reclaiming Our Heritage Walk & Auction

September 23, 2003 — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Covered Wagon Brings Family Back to Milwaukee VA

The family of Robin LeMay hadn't been to the Milwaukee VA since Robin, a WWII veteran of the 101st Airborne, died there at age 47, but a local history enthusiast is helping them reconnect and find a sense of peace and purpose.

Returning to the United States after his tour of duty, Robin LeMay struggled to return to civilian life. Moving from Marquette Michigan to the Milwaukee area, he and his wife raised 12 children. Known by his WWII comrades as "The Preacher" for his ability to console and encourage, this man could not put his own life back together.

Ted Hutton, board member of the Soldiers Home Foundation, engaged LeMay's son Robin in a discussion about the historic covered wagon for sale on Townline Road in Sussex. As the story unfolded, Robin shared his experience of his father's tragic death at the Milwaukee VA and of the death of his grandfather, a WWI veteran, at the same facility. LeMay quickly came to the conclusion that "the wagon belongs at the VA."

The wagon Hutton purchased has a story of its own, having been driven across the state of Wisconsin by Governor Tommy Thompson in 1998 in the State's Sesquicentennial Celebration. Recently fitted by a new canvas top made by Amish craftsmanship in Iowa, the wagon seats 12 people.

Delivered to the VA on September 3, 2003, the LeMay Family Wagon will be used in Reclaiming Our Heritage events sponsored by the Soldiers Home Foundation, for Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades, and other events.

Hutton will introduce the family and make a formal presentation of the Wagon during the October 25, 2003, Reclaiming Our Heritage Walk and Auction, at 9:00 a.m. The Wagon will then carry a family attired in Civil War dress and lead wheelchair participants and walkers through the historic grounds and Wood National Cemetery.

Proceeds from the 3K Walk and Auction will benefit the Soldiers Home Foundation in its efforts to restore and preserve the Milwaukee VA Historic District and to create a lasting memorial for veterans and for the inspiration of future generations.

Milwaukee VA Historic District is located just west of Miller Park, adjacent to the Clement Zablocki VA Medical Center, 5000 W. National Avenue.

For more information on the Foundation and the Reclaiming Our Heritage Walk and Auction, visit [www.soldiershome.org](http://www.soldiershome.org), leave a voice-mail message at (414) 389-4135 or contact Patricia Lynch (414) 427-3776 • [pplynch@hi-time.com](mailto:pplynch@hi-time.com).