



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 22, 2004

## HEIDELBERG GIRL SCOUT BUILDS COLORFUL LASTING TRIBUTE TO SOLDIERS AND FAMILIES

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**HEIDELBERG, Germany** -- If you take a walk on Campbell Barracks here these days, you'll notice construction crews and dump trucks scuttling to and fro, and now, something new – a flowery smell at the front of the V Corps headquarters building.

That scent comes from a Victory Garden unveiled and dedicated there June 17, built as a result of the vision and efforts of Rebekah Welch. Seventeen-year-old Welch, a member of Senior Girl Scout Troop 65 here, has been involved in scouting for 11 years and has achieved many badges and awards.

The garden makes the area in front of the headquarters more pleasant, but Rebekah says it also has a more solemn meaning.



STAFF SGT MANUEL TORRES-CORTES

*A crowd gathers for the dedication of the Victory Garden in front of V Corps headquarters on Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg, Germany June 17. Girl Scout Rebekah Welch, 17 (left), conceived the project and built the garden with the help of family and friends. V Corps Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. Daniel Keefe (second from left) spoke at the brief ceremony, thanking Welch for her efforts and presenting her with a commander's coin.*

"I want everyone to know what I really meant by doing this project," said Rebekah. "It's for the Soldiers who fought but didn't make it back, for those who are still fighting, and for families that take care of them here."

Rebekah is working toward earning the Gold Award, the highest honor bestowed on a Girl Scout. In mid-April, she set out to complete a project for the award that she felt would be hard work and require a lot of dedication. She tackled the garden project with help from her family, friends and fellow Girl Scouts.

Her parents say she learned a lot more than just planting in the process.

"She learned how to coordinate different aspects of the project," said Rebekah's father, Master Sgt. Michael W. Welch of V Corps' Special Troops Battalion. "Also, she continued to work well with other people and actually completed the project."

"I am very proud and satisfied with all the work she has done."

For Rebekah and her friends Jessica Palaschak and Lacey Villa, the hardest and best parts were the same.

"The hardest part of this project was digging out 66 bags full of sod, rock and dirt," said Rebekah. "But the best part was digging out 66 bags full of sod, rock and dirt with my friends."

With family and friends at her side during the dedication, V Corps Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Keefe thanked and applauded the scout's efforts and dedication.

Seeing projects like the garden completed gives people a lot of pride and confidence in the next generation, while adding a touch to the surroundings that people can enjoy, said Keefe. The general presented Rebekah with a commander's coin in appreciation for her work.

"It really says something about today's kids," said Rebekah's mother, Vicki L. Welch, overseas committee chairperson for Heidelberg Girl Scouts.

