

## Marine meets new son via video call

### Freedom Calls Foundation connects Springfield family

By LaToya Thompson

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**SPRINGFIELD** | Aundrea Robinson waved Cody's tiny clenched fist at the camera.

"There's your daddy," she said softly to Cody. "Say hi to daddy."

She turned back to the camera wiping tears from her eyes, "I love you. I wish you were here."

Through a video conference call in a patient room at Community Hospital, the 27-hour-old baby boy could be seen by his father, Lance Cpl. Pete Robinson, who is in Fallujah, Iraq.

"It's a really happy day," the Marine said Friday. "It's strange. I'm seeing my son for the first time."

Cody Allen Lee Robinson was born at 7:07 a.m. Thursday at Community Hospital.

When Robinson departed on duty in June, he and Aundrea were saddened he wouldn't be there for the delivery.

But the couple's wish came true — an up-close view of Robinson's smile and loving gaze after four months away.

Pete was also able to coach his wife through the delivery via telephone.

"It was the greatest thing in the world. I just can't stop smiling," Aundrea said. "I'm just so happy to see him and that he gets to see (Cody)."

Two months ago, Dick Williams, Aundrea's father, worked with the local chapter of the Red Cross to try to connect the two. He came across Freedom Calls Foundation, a nonprofit organization using telephone and video conference calls to help troops and families interact for special occasions.

"It's amazing what technology can do. It means a lot to us," Williams said. "I hope other people can benefit through this."

Several family members and friends filled the hospital room. Sniffles could be heard as they individually visited with Pete for a few moments.

"This kid has more grandmas than you can shake a stick at," said Sue Call, Cody's great-grandmother.

Chris Robinson, Pete's father, overwhelmed with emotion, said he was thrilled to see his son.

"Hurry up and get home so you can hold this baby," he said into the camera. "You have a beautiful son."

Pete's face burst into a bright smile when he heard Cody cry. He anticipates returning to his family in April.

"He's blessed," he said. "Hopefully, we can get this over with and get on with our lives."