



Soldier, wife united by birth of baby boy

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Corporal Christopher Redlin talked his wife, Amy, through the birth of their son Wednesday.

He was in Iraq. She was in Hattiesburg.

Amy and Christopher were connected through video conference all day Wednesday, until after their son - Austyn Lee Redlin - was born that afternoon at Wesley Medical Center's Birth Center.

"It was amazing," Christopher said. "I thought I was going to just receive a note from the Red Cross telling me my little man was here, so to actually get to see Amy and to hear my baby cry for the first time was amazing. I can't say how thankful I am to everyone for making this happen."



AMY REDLIN holds up her newborn, Austyn Lee, for her husband, Cpl. Christopher Redlin, to see from his post in Iraq. (Submitted photo)

Also there - in Hattiesburg - for the birth were Amy's mother, Dr. Lin Shannon of Women's Pavilion of South Mississippi and registered nurse Kay Ewing.

"(Christopher) handled it really well," Shannon said. "He got a bit emotional when the baby was delivered but that is natural."

Shannon, who served two years in the Air Force, knew the importance of having the father present for the birth of his first child.

"It's exciting that he can be over there and be a part of this," the doctor said. "We're glad this could be set up for them especially since he is over there fighting for our country."

David Hollis of Wesley's marketing department said the video conference was a team effort.

"Our IT department personnel worked many hours with the Freedom Calls Foundation to work out the details and to coordinate the technology," he said. "Dr. Shannon and the nurses were terrific and very supportive of what we were trying to do for the Redlins. We are just pleased that everything went smoothly and that Wesley could be a part of such an exciting time in the family's life."

Christopher was deployed in February and is hopes to return home in September. The family plans on making its home in the Hattiesburg area.

When asked what he first wanted to do when he returned home, Christopher said, "I really want a Chipotle burrito. Of course, that's after I kiss my wife and son."