



Hospital Brings a Smile to a Brave Soldier in Iraq through New Technology

Little Company of Mary teamed with the Freedom Calls Foundation to make it possible for a new mother to celebrate the birth of their first born baby with her husband, fighting for our country more than 6,000 miles away.

Freedom Calls Foundation is a not for profit organization that provides state-of-the art technology to transform the experience of soldiers on extended deployments to war zones. Soldiers can attend and participate in milestone family events via video conference over the Freedom Calls Network.



Vanessa Carroll holds her newborn son Michael Patrick Carroll the third while she awaits a video conference from her husband, Army Corporal Michael Patrick Carroll, Jr., who is currently stationed in Iraq. This new technology is now available to Little Company patients/new parents with a loved one stationed abroad.

Co-Founder and the Executive Director of Freedom Calls John Harlow approached the Public Relations and Marketing department about working together to provide this experience for Mrs. Vanessa Carroll, a local resident and expected mother who ironically was scheduled to give birth on September 11. Her husband, Corporal Michael Patrick Carroll, Jr., learned of this opportunity through a friend in the Army.

“One Army General recently observed that our effort represents the single greatest boost in morale for the troops in the past 25 years,” said Harlow. Harlow brings 25 years of experience as a Wall Street lawyer, investment banker and venture capitalist and as the founder of two Internet service provider start-ups prior to his role as Executive Director of the Foundation.

Freedom Calls Foundation receives donated technology and provided the program capability to broadcast this wonderful event, but Little Company of Mary was still missing a few key ingredients to make this special project happen. Michael Michalak,

manager of network support services, invested in a specialized camera to ensure that Corporal Carroll could get a good look at his new baby.

We then called Mrs. Vanessa Carroll to inform her of the good news that her wish was being granted and Little Company of Mary learned of some news in return —Vanessa had delivered two weeks earlier than expected and was in the Hospital. Luckily the camera had been delivered early as well.

Mike and his MIS team worked diligently with the Freedom Calls Foundation to schedule this video conference at a reasonable hour for both mom and dad living in separate time zones. On Wednesday, September 6, Vanessa was joined by her newborn son; parents (baby's grandparents); Corporal Carroll's parents (baby's grandparents) and grandmother (baby's great grandmother) in our maternity services' education room. At 3 p.m. CST, Corporal Carroll was introduced to his first born son, Michael Patrick Carroll the third. Immediately, the room filled with tears of joy.

"It was a wonderful experience," said new mom Vanessa. "Being able to hear his voice and see his face made it all seem more real."

Corporal Carroll's father, Michael Carroll the first, videotaped the entire experience, which he'll play for his new grandson someday.

"I am so thankful to both organizations for making this opportunity possible," said new grandpa Michael Carroll. "I am a proud new grandfather, but I am extremely proud of my son who is fighting for our country in Iraq."

We too are happy for the entire Carroll family. If you know of someone who has a family member faced with extended tours of duty and will miss the birth of their baby here at Little Company of Mary, please contact Kelly Cusack, supervisor of Public Relations of Marketing, at X5049. This is another great example of how we are working together to pursue pain-free health care!