



SHREVEPORT, LA

Family Reunites Via Satellite

Willie Mae Clinton brought almost everyone in the family to a Shreveport bank, over an hour away from their hometown of Monroe. But it was a short driving distance for the chance to see her daughter, serving in Iraq thousands of miles away.

A link via a satellite phone gave the mother and daughter a chance for the reunion.

Clinton's daughter's been gone a year to the Middle East. At the moment of truth, the family scrambled to the technological uplink letting them "reach out and touch" the daughter Clinton affectionately calls "Leesa."

"It's hard to imagine what you really want to talk about, because when you get there all you are is spellbound," says Clinton.

Clinton credits the bank workers for letting her see and hear her daughter, calling them angels. She says when they told her Friday night they'd soon be connected, it seemed unreal. "I said it was impossible, I said it was impossible," says Clinton.

During the 30 minute satellite call the family could hardly hold back their emotions, crying the most when Clinton's son Stanley sang a favorite song. "It's like if she's gone then we've said our goodbye, that's what the song basically means," he said.

Clinton says there's one thing she leaves with after Saturday's conversation. "I leave here today and I feel like I'm a new person."

Clinton says her daughter has spent 11 years in the armed services, and says that serving her country was always her daughter's dream