

# Tribune Star

## Brotherly love

Best man teleconferenced in from Iraq

**By Whitney L. Allen**

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BROWNSBURG, Ind. — What began as a wedding ceremony evolved into a family reunion of sorts for the Leathers' family at Connection Pointe Christian Church over the weekend.

When Daniel Leathers and Sara Caldwell began planning their wedding, they considered pushing the date back so that Leathers' brother, Jeffery Everman, could be the best man.

Everman, a sergeant first class in the U.S. Army, is currently serving in Iraq.

As it turned out, however, he was able to attend — thanks to modern technology.



U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery A. Everman spends time talking with his daughters prior to his brother's wedding.

Daniel and Sara teamed up with Freedom Calls Foundation and were able to have Everman at the wedding via teleconference.

Carla Leathers, the boys' mother, said the whole affair was "kind of surreal."

"It's kind of unreal that technology has gone that far," she said. "He still sort of acted as best man. If he would have been there, he would have been the best man."

She said watching her son get married and seeing her other son in Iraq, even on a television screen, combined for a very emotional day.

"When I first saw Jeffrey, I broke down," she said. "I'm glad I got to talk to him before the ceremony, so I could calm down for the wedding."

Everman has been deployed since December, and he shared a few moments of brotherly advice with Daniel before the ceremony.

"It was very uplifting to Jeffrey," Carla said. "I could tell he was stressed. He just looked really tired. I can tell that being over there has taken a toll on him. He got to share a few moments with everyone in the family and was smiling by the end of the ceremony."

More than anything else, Carla said, she wants to get the word out about Freedom Calls Foundation, [www.freedomcalls.org](http://www.freedomcalls.org), so that other families can spend special moments together.

"We didn't have to take care of anything," she said. "We told them when the wedding would be and they took care of all of it. When you're experiencing an event like a wedding, it's nice to have those things taken care of for you."

The wedding went off without a hitch and, following a honeymoon to Orlando, Fla., Daniel and Sara (Caldwell) Leathers are residing in Lizton.

Whitney L. Allen writes for the Hendricks Co. Flyer in Avon, Ind.