



BABY BIRTHED VIA SATELLITE

Daniel Brantley
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Though Lance Corporal Joshua Chandler was thousands of miles away, he was right by his wife's side during the birth of their child.

From SkyRidge Medical Center

With the efforts of SkyRidge Medical Center and the Freedom Calls Foundation, which built a satellite network to keep families connected despite no Internet infrastructure in Iraq, Lance Corporal Joshua Chandler was able to participate in the birth of his daughter from the front lines of Iraq.

Almost Like Being There

L.Cpl. Chandler talked his wife through the labor and delivery right at his wife's bedside and the couple marveled over the miracle of life at SkyRidge Medical Center via an enterprise class videoconference.

"I'm so thankful that SkyRidge Medical Center stepped up to help us in our time of need," said new mother Laura. "I thought I'd be having this baby alone and could never have imagined that my husband could be here for the birth when he is 8,000 miles away fighting a war. This means the world to me and my family."

Going forward, Freedom Calls has arranged from LCpl. Chandler to see his wife and baby weekly at their home via video conference.

A Caring Partnership

"SkyRidge Medical Center greatly appreciates the work of the Freedom Calls Foundation and we are honored to take part in the very special moment," said Ann Marie Brewer, Director of Community Relations at SkyRidge Medical Center. "We believe the birth of a child to be a uniquely special and significant event in the lives of the parents, and so we are delighted to make these arrangements so they may be together on this occasion. All of the staff and administrators of SkyRidge Medical Center hope this videoconference will help provide these new parents with an additional boost of emotional and mental support."

John Harlow, Executive Director of the Freedom Calls Foundation, stated, "the foundation is transforming a long-standing family communication paradigm in time of war by enabling soldiers in the war zone to attend and participate in milestone events like weddings, first communions and new births. Soldiers may now keep their commitments to their families at the same time they keep their commitment to their country. The long-term vision of the Freedom Calls Foundation is that our war fighters will be able to come home from a day on the battlefield and spend virtual time with their families every night using state-of-the-art



technology. The contribution of resources by community citizens like SkyRidge Medical Center enables the **foundation to fulfill its mission.**”

The Chandler family video conferences are being conducted over the satellite network that Freedom Calls has built in cooperation with the army and Marines to serve U.S. deployed military personnel and their families 24 hours per day, free of charge. It is funded 100 percent by donations from the American public. The Foundation receives no financial support from the government or military.

For more information on Freedom Calls, visit www.freedomcalls.org