



73°F
Fog
Forecast »



Victory PRATTVILLE, ALABAMA
LET'S REFUEL AMERICA
 2.99 GAS GUARANTEE
 CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS!
 CHRYSLER Jeep

- Homepage
- News**
- ▶ Sports
- ▶ Weddings
- ▶ Obituaries
- ▶ Weather
- ▶ Forums
- Community Info
- Classifieds
- ▶ Cars
- ▶ Apartments
- ▶ Homes
- ▶ Shopping
- ▶ Jobs
- ▶ Place an ad
- Customer Service
- ▶ Contact Us

July 9, 2008

Family of soldiers reunited on special Independence Day
Three members of Titus clan returns home after deployment in Iraq

By Wade Hurst
Progress staff writer

It was an exceptional Independence Day for one family in Titus, as three of their loved ones recently returned home from deployment in Iraq.

But all three are quick to point out that they're just carry-ing on a family tradition.

Lieutenant 1st Class Jamie Benton, along with her brother, Sgt. 1st Class James Law, both members of the Alabama Na-tional Guard, arrived home nearly two weeks ago after hav-ing been deployed to Kuwait.

"Homecoming never gets old," said Benton. "Desert Storm was the last time we de-ployed. The support that we've received from family, communi-ty and the Guard has been great. We are very proud to serve our country."

Benton worked as a human resources officer for the incom-ing and outgoing troops. She

Article tools

-  Post a comment for this story
-  Text alerts to your cell phone
-  E-mail this
-  Print
-  Get breaking news, briefing e-mailed to you
-  Subscribe to the *Montgomery Advertiser*
-  Send an article link via AOL instant messenger
-  Save this page to Del.icio.us

also managed the post office for all the troops, ensuring that they received their much-awaited letters from home.

"We were really the gateway for warfighters to and from the theatre of war and also ran the post office for the soldiers. It is very important that the soldiers get their mail and we always tried to provide that service with a great attitude," she said.

Benton said that her husband, Roger Benton, who is a re-tiree of the military, provided great support throughout the process, as she left in his care four boys ranging in ages from 5 to 18.

"I'm sure it was just as hard on him as it was on me," she said. "It was really a family effort, as my mother-in-law often kept the boys."

Benton and Law's nephew, 1st Lt. Jeremiah Griffin, just arrived home on May 1 after also being deployed in Iraq. His unit provided transportation and logistical support to forward operating bases around the Baghdad area, guarding convoys of trucks against the insurgents. He said his family's previous deployment experience was a plus for him.

"They had deployed in Desert Storm with my mother," Griffin said. "Because of this, I was able to relate to them on what I was doing during my training and deployment."

Griffin said the support from his friends and family has been "amazing." They finished building his home during the 12 months he was deployed. But it was the support he received from strangers across the United States that really overwhelmed him.

"The support was unbelievable from people across the country. They enrolled my name on anysoldier.com, which is a Web site where people can send a soldier in Iraq something from home. There probably wasn't a day that went by that I didn't receive something," he said.

Law also spent his time deployed to Kuwait, working mostly in supply, and has had a total of three nephews and two sisters deploy. He said that it is important to remember the good things that are being accomplished in Iraq.

"I don't think the public here is always aware of the progress being made, such as the schools and hospitals that have benefited from our presence. Most of the time, you just hear about the bad things," he said.

Griffin agreed.

"Every day, relations between the coalition forces and the local population gets better," he said. "There were times when we would take things to a local school -- when they see you helping them out, they trust you more."

Benton agreed with her brother's and nephew's assessment of the war effort and added that whether or not one agrees with the war, everyone wants it to be over, and everyone should support the troops because there are many who will not return.

Advertisement

Want to eliminate
your DEBT?

Saving You
Thousands

GET HELP NOW

The advertisement features a red top section with white text asking 'Want to eliminate your DEBT?'. Below this is a white section with a blue curved border containing a photo of a smiling man and woman. The text 'Saving You Thousands' is written in blue. At the bottom right, there is a green button with white text that says 'GET HELP NOW' and a mouse cursor icon pointing at it.

Advertisement

TOP JOBS
powered by
careerbuilder®

Watch for Top Jobs coming to this space soon.

The advertisement has a white background with a thin black border. It features the 'TOP JOBS' logo in large blue letters, with 'powered by' in smaller blue text and the 'careerbuilder' logo in orange and blue below it. A horizontal line is drawn above and below the text 'Watch for Top Jobs coming to this space soon.'.

Everyone agreed that this was a very special Independence Day.

"This was a special Fourth, because we are all back home," said Griffin. "Being deployed has given me a better perspective on what America and our freedom is all about."

Subscribe to the *Montgomery Advertiser*

Other articles:

- **Local grocer helps city mark the Fourth**
- **Armed robbery suspects remain at large**
- **Huge turnout for Independence Day celebration**
- **Elmore Co. area looks to weather slow housing market**
- **Equipment stolen from Redland school site**
- **Political forum to be held for city races**
- **Water mapping may aid connections**
- **Millbrook police make drug, alcohol arrests**
- **Summer fundraiser will allow Grace Place to help struggling women**
- **Chiropractor inducted into state hall of fame**
- **Funds available to help residents 'weatherize'**
- **Family of soldiers reunited on special Independence Day**
- **Schools teach Wetumpka preschool kids the HIPPIE way**



Talk Alabama Forums

Click here to start or read a forum about this story, politics, sports, food, movies, music, religion or anything that concerns you.

Choose to know
Click here to subscribe.

Montgomery Advertiser
montgomeryadvertiser.com

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Cars](#) | [Homes](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Customer Service](#)

Our Partners:



[Jobs: careerbuilder.com](#) | [Cars: cars.com](#) | [Apartments: apartments.com](#) | [Shopping: shoplocal.com](#)

[Customer Service](#) | [Place a Classified](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Copyright © 1997- 2007 The Advertiser Co. Use of this site signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)

(Updated 6/7/2005)