

One Family's Sacrifices

From the Minutemen who stood watch over Lexington and Concord to the service members who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, American veterans have taken up arms to boldly confront those who would do our nation harm and destroy our freedoms.



Kim Colbaugh, accounts payable specialist

Families have watched their sons and daughters march off to answer their country's call and defend their homeland, on the domestic front or around the world. Spouses, mothers, fathers and grandparents sent their loved ones away with hugs and tears, minds filled with anxiety but hearts overflowing with patriotic pride. These who stay behind share in the sacrifices necessary to preserve our way of life, and they – like our veterans – deserve our heartfelt appreciation on this Veterans Day 2009 celebration.

Earning special recognition is a Life Care associate who has three members of her immediate family on active duty in the Armed Forces. Kim Colbaugh, accounts payable specialist in Life Care's Treasury Department, has:

- **Her husband, Carl Colbaugh**, a member of the National Guard, who is serving with the 252nd Military Police Company in Iraq. He will be coming home for some rest and relaxation during the Christmas holidays, returning to that country on Dec. 26.
- **Her older son, Justin Colbaugh**, who did his tour of duty in Iraq at the close of 2006 and the start of 2007. At this moment, "we do not know if he will be going to Afghanistan," said Colbaugh. "I guess that depends on what President Obama decides to do."
- **Her younger son, Derek Colbaugh**, who arrived at Cherry Point, N.C., on Thursday morning, Nov. 5, from his tour in Iraq. He will be coming home this weekend.



Kim Colbaugh's men in uniform: (from left) Husband, Carl, and sons, Justin and Derek

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“As a wife and mother, I worry about them,” said Colbaugh. “But they are doing what they feel like they need to do. And I’m proud of them serving their country the way they are.”

On this Veterans Day, she added, she would encourage prayers for Americans in uniform wherever they are, including her husband and sons, as well as for family members who stay behind.

In his Veterans Day proclamation, President Barack Obama said: “On Veterans Day, we honor the heroes we have lost, and we rededicate ourselves to the next generation of veterans by supporting our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen as they return home from duty. Our grateful nation must keep our solemn promises to these brave men and women and their families. They have given their unwavering devotion to the American people, and we must keep our covenant with them.”

To which we add: Amen – with special appreciation to Kim Colbaugh and her family.

– Beecher Hunter