



VFW Department of Delaware Connects Dads with Families

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“Hearing my kids and joy in their voices was wonderful. My wife was so surprised and happy,” said Robert Cushman, a member of the United States Air Force.

Thanks to **VFW Operation Uplink™** and the VFW Department of Delaware, dads were able to connect to their families for free this past Father’s Day.

Connections totaled 105,665 this year—an increase from last year’s Father’s Day “Free Call Day” when 95,769 connections were made. This is the third year the Department of Delaware has sponsored the event.

“We started it because we wanted more service members to be able to call home. A member of Delaware’s [VFW Ladies] Auxiliary, Kathy Farmer, wanted to do something that would make a difference. Not the usual stuff like sending money to the Red Cross or USO,” said Jesse Kitson, Department of Delaware quartermaster.

Delaware has raised more than \$300,000 for **VFW Operation Uplink** since they started their Red, White, and Blue fundraising gala back in 2001.

“By using the ‘Free Call Days’ we feel that more troops in the War on Terror can make the connection home and feel a little better. Most of us in the leadership of the Department of Delaware are Vietnam vets and we wish that we had had this program when we were serving,” said Kitson.

Here is a list of the remaining 2009 Free Call Day dates:

- July 4th, Independence Day—Sponsored by VFW Ohio Charities
- August 16th, VFW Salutes the Armed Forces—Sponsored by Burger King
- September 29th, VFW Day—Sponsored by LifeLock
- October 18th, VFW Salutes the Armed Forces—Sponsored by VFW
- November 26th, Thanksgiving Day—Sponsored by Harleysville Insurance
- December 25th, Christmas Day—Sponsored by Sport Clips

*“Anytime you
get to call
home from
Iraq is a good
day!”*

*-Spc. James
Edaar*