



VFW NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES

VFW OPERATION UPLINK™ • VFW UNMET NEEDS • VFW MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

UPDATE

December 15, 2008 • VFW National Military Services Update

“Fist Full of Phone Cards” Sparked Record-Setting Event Thanksgiving Day

Ted Majewski was waiting in line to purchase what he described as a “fist full of phone cards” for his son, Jeff, who is currently serving in the Marine Corps. As he pulled out his wallet, he thought not only about his son, but also of all the brave servicemembers who are currently serving our country and found himself wondering what he could do to support them too. Little did he know the answer was right in front of him.



Majewski, Senior Vice President of personal lines at Harleysville Insurance, rallied his coworkers and after researching various troop support programs, they selected the **VFW Operation Uplink™** program.



“It’s a humbling feeling when people you don’t even know raise money for something like a Free Call Day and allow us to call home for no charge. It reminds us that America still supports her warriors.”

**- Sgt. Erik Smith
Stationed in Iraq with the
2nd Battalion, 24th Marines
of Fox Co.**

In early 2008, the company decided to sponsor a “Free Call Day” on Thanksgiving. To fund the event, Harleysville pledged \$2 of every automobile and homeowners policy sold by their independent insurance agents to be donated directly to **VFW Operation Uplink**, and by Thanksgiving, they had raised nearly \$50,000.

The story has the happiest of endings, too. Because of the efforts of Harleysville agents, servicemembers stationed in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait, made a record, **116,822** calls home to the United States, totaling **1,397,548** minutes. **This is the most free minutes used on a “Free Call Day” since Operation Uplink began providing them in May of 2006.**

“Operation Uplink is a much-needed life line to our armed forces overseas. As everyone knows, serving our country on foreign soil is a daunting task,” said Majewski. “Not only is there the inherent danger lurking around the next corner, but there’s the physical and emotional separation caused by being thousands of miles away from family and friends”

