

HELPING MAKE A HOUSE A HOME



WISH #21

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2009 was a year of both bliss and heartache for Kacie Cole. She graduated from Indiana University and soon married her soul mate, Staff Sergeant Jake Cole, of the United States Marine Corps. To an outsider, it appeared Kacie had everything going for her. Sadly, Kacie was faced with two painful goodbye's – one to her new husband scheduled to deploy on his 3rd tour to Iraq, and a second to her father, who lost the battle of his life.

Kacie and Jake met in 2008 at a bowling alley in Bloomington, IN. Kacie's friends had talked her into getting a night out of the house, as she had been extremely worried about her father, who was in the hospital. Jake and Kacie immediately hit it off and began dating. By early 2009, they were discussing a fall wedding. Devastated by the news that Jake would be deployed shortly after Kacie's graduation, the wheels were put in motion to marry before he left. On May 29th, after only 13 days of planning, Kacie and Jake were married on Indiana University's campus. It was an intimate gathering with family and close friends – exactly what the couple wanted for their special day. They had the weekend to celebrate, and then Jake reported to duty in Indianapolis that Monday. Jake went to California for training, where Kacie was able to visit him just once before deploying to Iraq on October 7th.



Kacie with her father on her wedding day

Kacie's father passed away on November 10, 2009. It was undoubtedly the hardest time of Kacie's life, and also Jake's, because he was so far away and could do nothing for her and her family. Luckily, with a lot of help from some social workers in the hospital, they were able to get Jake home the following week.

"I think that God had a plan for Jake and I from the very beginning," Kacie told us. "Although everything did not go according to our plan, God had a greater one. My father was able to meet the man that I love so much. He was really proud of Jake for his service and commitment, as my father was a Vietnam veteran. He was also able to walk me down the aisle and there is no better feeling in the world for me than to have those pictures and memories with me forever."

Jake plans to continue on with the Marines for the remainder of his 20 years. When he returns from Iraq, he plans to go back to school at Indiana University and finish his bachelor's degree. Kacie plans to continue working and pursue graduate school in counseling, with hopes of eventually becoming an Eating Disorder Therapist.

Though it is unclear when Jake may return, Kacie is hoping it will be sometime in the next month. She is excited for him to see their new condo that the couple worked so hard to get. With the help of friends, family, and donations from visitors on our website, Kacie has been decorating and getting their new home ready for Jake's return.

The final room to finish was Jake and Kacie's master bedroom, so Wish For Our Heroes purchased a California King bedding set and Euro shams from Pottery Barn, along with a \$100 gift card to purchase remaining items for their new home. In addition, Wish For Our Heroes has partnered with Holiday Inn/Staybridge, to provide Kacie and Jake with a honeymoon suite at one of their facilities when Jake returns home from Iraq.

