

WISH FOR OUR HEROES COOKS UP SURPRISE FOR ARMY FAMILY BEFORE DEPLOYMENT



May 19, 2010

WISH #33

Fort Hood, TX



The Kimbel family with W4OH representative,

Kristen Stonecipher.

Private Ryan Kimbel had one wish before deploying to Iraq in July - to take his family on a vacation during his scheduled block leave. A father of three from southern Indiana, Ryan joined the Army via the Army National Guard, and after two-and-a-half years of service, was preparing for his first deployment, where he would become the third generation military cook in his family.

Ryan and his wife, Cheri, along with children Jacob (15), Philip (12) and Libby (4) live on post at Fort Hood (Fort Hood, TX). Feeding and clothing a family of five is difficult, let alone planning any family activities like vacations. After bills and putting gas in the car, there is little left over for family fun, and we quickly realized that even a trip to the movies would be a luxury the family had not enjoyed in some time.

THE WISH

After hearing of Ryan's upcoming deployment, Wish For Our Heroes arranged a quick get-away to San Antonio, TX. Ryan was asked to bring his family to the Hilton San Antonio Hill Country on Wednesday, May 19th, where he would receive more details for their stay.

Upon arrival, Wish For Our Heroes explained to the family of five that they were guests of the hotel through Saturday, May 22, and in that time, we had arranged for a ghost tour of

San Antonio, dinner at Ruby's Bar-BQ, along with passes to Sea World and a complimentary gas card for their travels.

Knowing the expenses soldier's face before deployment (for personal items such as toiletries, personal items, socks, etc.), Wish For Our Heroes also presented Ryan with a \$300 gift card to Wal-Mart in an effort to alleviate some of those expenses.

We hope the Kimbel family enjoyed their stay in San Antonio, and we wish Ryan a safe and speedy return!

