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Kearney-Area News

Return mail brought soldier's letter

By KATHERINE THOMAS, Hub Staff Writer 10/04/2006

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Hub photo by Katherine Thomas Seven-year-old Emily Lowe of Shelton sent a care package to Sgt. 1st Class Randy Lowe in Iraq through anysoldier.com, and the soldier wrote her a letter in return.

KEARNEY — Kearney Public Schools Superintendent Ken Anderson wants to take the next step in his career, and he said now is the time to do that.

SHELTON — Emily Lowe wanted to do something to help soldiers. She wasn't expecting anything in return.

Emily, 7, is a second-grader at Shelton Elementary School. While visiting her aunt, Becky Lowe of Omaha, she sent a care package to a soldier through anysoldier.com.

"It felt nice to do something for the soldiers over there," Emily said.

Her aunt had a friend in Iraq, and when he came back she no longer had anybody specific to send packages to. She randomly chose soldiers from the anysoldier.com Web site. While searching she came across U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Randy Lowe of Oklahoma, no relation, and decided to start sending him packages.



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Emily sent a picture she drew, a photo of herself and a teddy bear to Sgt. 1st Class Lowe and received a letter back.

"I was surprised to get a letter," Emily said.

"For him to take a little extra time to send her a letter was pretty sweet," Becky said.

Becky sends a care package once or a twice a month.

"One of the reasons I do this is because on my mom's side of the family, this is the first war since the Civil War that we haven't had a member of our family fighting in," Becky said.

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When Emily received her letter in early September, she took it to school where her teacher read it to the class.

"I feel special he kept my gift," Emily said.

"It's surprising to think she got a letter back. It's such a personal letter. We hope he gets back safe," Emily's great-grandmother Kathleen Lowe said.

According to Becky, Randy Lowe's unit is coming home.

Sgt. Brian Horn from La Plata, Md., a U.S. Army infantryman

with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, was in the Kirkuk area of Iraq when he started the idea of Any Soldier to help care for his soldiers. He agreed to distribute packages that came to him with "Attn: Any Soldier" in the address to soldiers who were not getting mail.

Emily is the daughter of Katie Lowe, the granddaughter of Tom and Nancy Lowe and the great-granddaughter of Kathleen Lowe and Lee Lacey, all of Shelton.

e-mail to:
katherine.thomas@kearneyhub.com

On the Net

To send a package, visit www.anysoldier.com and click on the "Where to Send" link. Then go to contacts. You can search for soldiers through service branch, state, name and other categories. Then click on the soldier's name you would like to select to get his or her full address. You can also search "What to Send" and "How to Send" on the Web site.

The Letter Said ...

The letter from Sgt. 1st Class Randy Lowe:

Dear Emily,
My name is Sergeant First Class Lowe. I am the Platoon Sergeant for about 34 soldiers. I would really love to thank you so much for the picture and especially for the teddy bear.
Whenever I receive a box to "Any Soldier" I give the items inside to all my soldiers, but because I thought the picture and bear were so pretty and came from a special little girl, I decided to keep them to myself. I have placed your bear on my air conditioner where I can see it every time I come in my room and put the picture next to my door where I can see it every time I leave to go to work and it reminds me and makes me proud to be doing what I am doing over here, keeping very nice little girls and boys safe so they can grow up to be nice ladies and gentlemen.
Well, I have to go now. Thank you again for the picture and the bear. Take care.

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Sincerely,
SFC Randy Lowe

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