

I am here today to introduce you to my friend, PFC Kristina Peel. She was rushed to Baptist East Emergency Room, Saturday, July 4th 2009. She has now spent "4th of July"; Her Mom's Birthday; her Dad's (the man that raised her) Birthday, her Grandparents Birthday's; and Today, August 11th 2009; her friends and family released balloons with prayers in her honor of her 22nd Birthday. Kristina is a graduate of Central Baptist High School; she was a FED EX employee before she joined the US ARMY. She is an active reservist in the US Army and believe me she has proven herself to be ARMY Strong.

On the 4th of July Kristina fell ill, a mysterious brain infection was attacking her. Since the 4th day of July, she has been on 2 types of respirators, a Special Bed (Iron Lung), to keep her alive until they could kill whatever infection was attacking her body, organ by organ. She was put in a drug induced coma to be able to live through the many procedures being done to her sick body. The infection has attacked her HEART, LIVER, BRAIN, KIDNEYS and most especially her LUNGS! The trauma from the infection has caused A.R.D.S, Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome. This condition has almost killed her many times, over the last thirty nine (39) days, but PRAYERS have saved her (Of course the awesome Doctors and Nurses at Baptist East ICU helped), and we are eternally grateful to them for their dedication to their jobs. In order to help with her everyday care, we are fund raising for her future physical needs. She is young and strong and she can make it with continued prayers and lots of therapy. So to honor her commitment to us and her country, we are raising money for her continued medical expenses. Any unused money will be donated to the American Lung Association in honor of Kristina.

Donations can be made at ANY FIRST TENNESSEE BANK to the KRISTINA PEEL FUND

A.R.D.S. FACTS

- Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) is sudden, life-threatening lung failure.
- ARDS is a syndrome, not a specific disease.
- ARDS usually develops within 24 to 48 hours of the injury or illness.
- The mortality rate from ARDS ranges from 35—50%.
- In patients who survive, normal lung function usually resumes within 6 to 12 months.

