

# From death's sorrow, a new beginning

## Newborn renews hope for Marine's family

By **SCOTT WILLIAMS**

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**Waukesha** — Before he was killed fighting in Iraq, Bobby Warns left his family and friends a special gift.

Her name is Payton, and she arrived Thursday as a black-haired bundle who bears a strong resemblance to a father she will never know.

As devastating as the Waukesha man's death was for those who loved him, the birth of his daughter has been a joyful turn of events, with a strong sense of rebirth.

For Bobby Warns' mother, Bridget Warns, it helps make some sense out of the horrific loss of her 23-year-old son.

"We are just delighted that she is in our lives," Bridget Warns said of the family's first



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**Erin Nielsen** holds her newborn daughter, Payton, whose father, Bobby Warns, was killed in Iraq in November. Payton was born Thursday.

grandchild. "It's like Bobby took care of everything before he left."

Known as Bobby, Robert P. Warns II, a corporal in the U.S. Marines, was killed Nov. 8 when his vehicle struck a landmine south of Baghdad less than two months after he arrived in Iraq.

He and his longtime girlfriend, Erin Nielsen, knew they were expecting their first child before he headed over-



**Bobby Warns,**  
killed in Iraq

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**Bridget Warns,**  
of her  
granddaughter

Please see **WARNS, 2B**