

After everything he's been through, he skis, he snowboards, he's jumped from a plane, with a parachute, thankfully. [Laughter] He trudged through a 6-mile Mud Run, completed the Marine Corps Marathon, says he wants to do a triathlon. He's a motivational speaker, an advocate for his fellow wounded warriors. He's thinking about majoring in psychology so he can use his own experiences to help others. He got stellar grades. And by the way, he's only 24 years old and says, "I am just getting started."

In other words, Kyle is a shining example of what our Nation needs to encourage: these veterans who come home and then use their incredible skills and talents to keep our country strong. And we can all learn from Kyle's example.

As we prepare for the reading of the citation, I'd like to close with his own words, a message, I think, for every American: "It took a life-changing event to get me to truly appreciate the precious and amazing life I have been blessed with. Please take it from me, enjoy every day to the fullest, don't take life too seriously, always try to make it count, appreciate the small and simple things, be kind and help others, let the ones you love always know you love them, and when things get hard, trust there is a bigger plan and that you will be stronger for it." Pretty good message.

Corporal William Kyle Carpenter should not be alive today, but the fact that he is gives us reason to trust that there is indeed a bigger plan. So God bless you, Kyle. God bless all who serve and protect the precious and amazing life that we are blessed with. May God continue to

bless and keep strong the United States of America. Semper Fi.

[At this point, Lt. Cmdr. Timothy J. Myers, USN, Navy Aide to the President, read the citation. The President then presented the medal, assisted by Maj. Steven M. Schreiber, USMC, Marine Corps Aide to the President. Following the presentation, Rear Adm. Margaret G. Kibben, USN, Chaplain of the U.S. Marine Corps, said a prayer.]

Well, that brings us to the conclusion of this ceremony, but not the reception and party. And so I want to thank everybody again for being here, especially Kyle's wonderful family and his parents. And I understand that the food here at the White House is pretty good—[laughter]—so I already told Kyle's brothers that they should be chowing down. But that goes for everybody else as well. And I think the drinks are free. I don't know what—although it's still early in the afternoon. All right?

Thank you very much, everybody. Let's big—give one more round of applause to our latest Medal of Honor winner, Kyle Carpenter.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:33 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Col. Debra L. Malone, USAF, trauma research director, and Capt. Lauren T. Greer, general surgeon, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the reading of the citation.

## Statement on the Investiture of King Felipe VI of Spain

June 19, 2014

On behalf of the American people, I congratulate His Majesty King Felipe VI on the occasion of his investiture as King of Spain. We are grateful to King Juan Carlos I for his friendship and leadership in guiding Spain's democracy and deepening the transatlantic relationship.

Spain is a valued ally of the United States, and we share strong ties, steeped in history. I look forward to working closely with King Felipe VI and continuing to strengthen this bond in the years to come. As Spain celebrates this transition and looks ahead to the future, the American people celebrate along with the people of Spain.