



Major General Ayala Attends Carpenter's Medal of Honor Ceremony

Participating in the June 19 White House Medal of Honor Ceremony for Marine Corps Corporal William "Kyle" Carpenter was MCICOM's Commander, Major General Juan Ayala. Additionally, MajGen Ayala was part of a Marine Corps welcoming reception for Cpl Carpenter and his family the night before the White House ceremony. The reception included remarks by General James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps and other honors.

"I was lucky enough to have witnessed this young warrior receive the Medal of Honor from the President," said MajGen Ayala. "Kyle jumped on a grenade to save another Marine's life."

In the now, well-documented story, then Lance Corporal Carpenter positioned himself between a grenade and Lance Corporal Nicholas Eufrazio while on patrol in Helmand Province, Afghanistan on the morning of November 21, 2010, saving Eufrazio's life. Lance Corporal Carpenter was severely wounded and immediately evacuated suffering from a depressed skull fracture requiring brain surgery, multiple facial fractures including part of his lower jaw was missing, a collapsed right lung and multiple fragment injuries. His extensive two and a half year recovery process resulted in his being medically retired from the Corps as a corporal in July 2013. He is currently a full-time student at the University of South Carolina.

In addition to Corporal Carpenter's Medal of Honor, he is a recipient of a Purple Heart Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Unity Commendation, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with one bronze star, and North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal ISAF for Afghanistan.

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