

To all those who have served-thank you from the bottoms of our hearts!

I was recently invited by Vicki Nivens to be her guest at a fundraising event in honor of the Wake for Warriors. I had attended before, so I knew it was going to be more than just a fundraising event. Well, this year did not disappoint. The teams that were sporting their red, white, and blue attire, such as good friends, Laura and Fuzzy Manning, were scattered across the lovely facility to assist with the event. Lots of smiles were on their faces as well as their teams. Many veterans were in attendance as well, most of whom were wounded while protecting us.

This cause is truly special to Granbury because it focuses on getting these veterans, both men and women, on Lake Granbury by using modified wake boards. There were pictures of last year's event used as centerpieces that captured some big smiles on the faces of not only the veterans, but also the sponsors!

Live music, both live and silent auctions, the infamous heads or tails playoff, as well as delicious food provided by Hard 8 BBQ (thank you Vicki!) made the event delightful.

But the very best part of my evening was to have the opportunity to listen to U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Kyle Carpenter, the featured speaker for the evening. Kyle's story is incredible. He shared his background of loving sports, being a good kid, then wanting to do more after the attack on the twin towers in New York city.

He finally mentioned his book, [You Are Worth It!](#) was for sale in the back of the room. I am so thankful that I stopped and not only bought a copy but was honored to have the book signed by Kyle. Such a humble servant that at a very young age of 20, went to battle for all of us, and encountered a grenade that resulted in significant injuries to this Marine. His story is too long for this article, but I will attempt to share the highlights of his story.

In 2014, Kyle was awarded the nation's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor, for his singular act of courage on that rooftop in Afghanistan. He became the youngest living recipient of the award. Throughout his book, we are reminded that 'Life is worth everything we've got'. Countless surgeries over the next three years of his young life, loss of his right eye, as well as most of his jaw, many painful skin grafts to save his right arm, Kyle has risen to be an even stronger advocate for other wounded warriors.

Reading his words humbles me to remember that all the tiny things that we concern ourselves with are not very important when you have been hit with a grenade and you use your body to protect another Marine on a rooftop in Afghanistan.

Maybe some of you could join us at this remarkable event next Spring. I can tell you to be ready to be inspired as these soldiers are impressive. I salute them for keeping us safe as I get fall into bed at night without a worry about being attacked.

Thank you, U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Kyle Carpenter, for your service and inspiration.

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