A deadly day recalled as Marine receives Medal of Honor

BY DYLAN LOVAN
The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Dakota Meyer saved 36 lives from an ambush in Afghanistan. For that, Meyer was awarded the Medal of Honor on Monday by President Barack Obama.

During the force’s treacherous and historic fight, Meyer risked his life to rescue fellow soldiers. Two years ago, on the morning of Sept. 8, 2009, in far-off Kunar province, Afghanistan, Meyer was part of a forward patrol with his Marine friends. That day, his hero’s moment was his darkest day.

"I can tell by his actions, not only the memory of his fallen comrades as he collected the Medal of Honor, Meyer's family will remember him," said Branina Rodriguez-Chavez, Meyer’s sister. "Tough times are ahead, but we are grateful for his heroism and will continue to hold him accountable for his valor, Rodriguez-Chavez said.

Meyer's brother, Dwight Meyer, Dakota Meyer's 81-year-old grandfather, a former Marine who served in the Vietnam War, was also present at the ceremony.

"He died a hero and lived a hero," said Dwight Meyer. "I'm proud of him, and I'm proud of his family."

At the White House ceremony, Meyer received a phone call from President Obama, who congratulated him on his valor.

"We are in an era in which we will have to do more with less — and the military is the prime example of that," Obama said. "We are in an era in which we will have to do more with less — and the military is the prime example of that."

Obama added that Meyer's actions were a reminder of the importance of the military.

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