



MEDIA RELEASE

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Medal of Honor Recipient to Skydive into 39th Marine Corps Marathon

William Kyle Carpenter joins parachutists to deliver American flag into Arlington, VA

QUANTICO, VA (Oct. 1, 2014) – Medal of Honor recipient and retired U.S. Marine Cpl. William Kyle Carpenter will accompany 11 parachutists in the skies over Arlington, VA on Sunday, Oct. 26 to deliver a 7,800 square-foot American flag at the start of the 39th Marine Corps Marathon (MCM). Carpenter, who received the Medal of Honor for saving a fellow Marine during the Global War on Terrorism, will skydive in tandem. After skydiving, Carpenter will embark on his second consecutive MCM, joining hundreds of marathoners participating with the Semper Fi Fund, a [MCM Charity Partner](#) dedicated to assisting wounded service members.

“I can’t express how excited and appreciative I am to represent wounded warriors, the Marine Corps and this great nation by skydiving into the incredible Marine Corps Marathon,” says Carpenter.



Photo by Cpl. Michael Guinto, Marine Corps Combat Camera

Carpenter sustained several injuries while saving Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas Eufazio during a grenade attack on Nov. 21, 2010 in Afghanistan. He received the Medal of Honor for heroism from President Barack Obama in June. Now retired from the Marine Corps, Carpenter is attending the University of South Carolina in Columbia.

Accompanying Carpenter on the jump into the [MCM Start](#) is the professional skydiving team FASTRAX, made up of former Marines and Soldiers including Carpenter’s tandem parachute partner, Paul Stanford, who served seven years in the Corps and has completed over 2,500 jumps. Also parachuting is retired Sgt. 1ST Class Dana Bowman, former member of the elite U.S. Army Golden Knights and Ret. Marine Col. John Bates, a decorated Vietnam veteran and Purple Heart recipient. Together, they will deliver the largest American flag carried on a performance jump. During the skydive, the enormous American flag can be seen from a 20-mile distance.

As a precise performance team and part of the Marine-organized event, the skydivers will land in the jump zone located near the MCM start line on Route 110 in Arlington at 7:34 a.m. on Oct. 26. The MCM skydive will coincide with the performance of the National Anthem. A flyover of U.S. Marine military aircraft will occur at 7:40 a.m., with the official start of the 39th MCM at 7:55 a.m.

The skydive will be filmed in free-fall via a helmet camera worn by Bates and then delivered to Comcast SportsNet during its live television broadcast from the MCM start line. Comcast SportsNet will broadcast [“Live at the Marine Corps Marathon”](#) from 7 to 8:30 a.m. and provide continued coverage throughout Marathon day.

Carpenter will be available to media during the [MCM Press Conference](#) on Friday, Oct 24 at the National Press Club at 529 14th Street NW in Washington, D.C. The Press Conference will be held from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

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*Marine Corps Marathon skydive
2-2-2-2*

All Media interested in covering the MCM Weekend of events from Oct. 23-26 must complete the [request for credentials](#). Credentials will be made available at the Press Conference and at other locations during MCM Weekend.

The 39th MCM will include nearly 30,000 participants from every state and 59 countries. Participants will run the MCM course from Arlington and throughout the nation's capital to the finish at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Rosslyn, VA.

Media inquiries should be directed to Tami Faram, Marine Corps Marathon Public Relations Coordinator at 703-432-1840 or tami.faram@usmc.mil.

More information about the 39th MCM is available at www.marinemarathon.com.

Voted the "Best Marathon in the Mid Atlantic" and "Best Marathon for Spectators," the Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) honors the dedication, sportsmanship and patriotism of its participants. Also known as "The People's Marathon," runners from all walks of life participate in the MCM, which is the largest marathon not to offer prize money. The 39th MCM sponsored by Arlington, Brooks, Hyundai and GE will be hosted in Arlington, VA on Sunday, Oct. 26, 2014. No federal or Marine Corps endorsement is implied. #RunWithTheMarines.

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