

On the evening of January 20<sup>th</sup>, Congresswoman Mia Love surprised Josiah Ortega with a phone call to congratulate him on earning an appointment to the United States Naval Academy, class of 2020.

As one of the nation's premier institutions of higher learning, Josiah's appointment to the Academy is no small feat. Each year, roughly 17,000 students from across the nation apply to the Naval Academy to compete for one of the coveted 1,200 slots. Applicants are considered based on moral character, academic achievement, extra-curricular activities, demonstrated leadership potential, physical aptitude, medical eligibility and community service. Applicants must also receive a nomination from an eligible source, in most instances a member of Congress. Those selected receive a full 4-year scholarship, which pays 100% of tuition, room and board, medical and dental care costs. In addition students are paid \$1,000 monthly their first year which covers expenses. This amount increases each year thereafter. Naval Academy students are considered midshipmen on active duty in the U.S. Navy.

This tremendous honor Josiah has earned is not completely "free". It does come with a price- a commitment to 5 years of active duty service in the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps upon graduating from the Academy with a Bachelors of Science. This is a price Josiah is more than willing to pay. From early childhood, Josiah's calling has been to give his life in service to his country and the Marine Corps as a leader of Marines. This is evident to all who know Josiah. He understands the commitment, has counted the costs, and is not deterred. In preparation for realizing his dream of being a Marine officer, Josiah sought out academic and extra-curricular opportunities to develop the qualities that would make him an effective servant leader. His quest prepared and positioned him to be competitive for an appointment to the Naval Academy.

Josiah is thrilled at the opportunity he has been given to represent the Westlake community and the state of Utah at the Naval Academy. He is quick to give God the glory and to praise others who have been instrumental in his development and preparation. Josiah knows he is not an island unto himself and is extremely grateful to all who have invested in him and who have made his appointment to the Naval Academy a reality.

The entire Ortega family joins Josiah in his expression of gratitude to all.

Go Navy! Beat Army!

USNA Website address: <http://www.usna.edu/homepage.php>