

Statement of Benjamin Del Real

My name is Benjamin Del Real Jr. I was involved in the shooting near the White House on May 23rd alongside my sister and father. This incident occurred while walking on Pennsylvania Avenue heading to dinner when an assailant opened fire on the Secret Service in front of us.

I was struck during this engagement on the right side of my abdomen and tore my ACL. I was rushed to George Washington University Hospital where I underwent immediate surgery for the gunshot wound and subsequently a second surgery on May 25. I was discharged on June 1st and was brought to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for follow up care.

I am a U.S. Army Soldier stationed in North Carolina. I'm currently rehabilitating and waiting for my third surgery that will be taking place August 11th at Walter Reed.

The degree of uncertainty that accompanies being seriously wounded presents its own unique challenges because the road to recovery will be long and strenuous. I'd like to thank the U.S. Army for allocating the time and care in the hope that I may return to duty and continue serving our nation.