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Cal Poly ROTC Cadet Named 'Finish Line Hero' at Boston Marathon

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Noah Falck, a first-year Cal Poly ROTC cadet and aerospace engineering major who ran the Boston Marathon on Monday, completed the race in just over three hours, 10 minutes. But his legacy will be in what he did in the moments after two explosions rocked the race.

Falck, 18, was recognized in the Boston Herald as a “Finish Line Hero” for actions he took after the explosions went off. He was about a block away when he heard the blasts, and he immediately went to the finish line and worked with the fire department, police and race officials to transport suspicious bags out of the area.

“He even identified a bag he thought potentially could have been a threat and turned it over to the first responders,” said Lt. Col. Joel Newsom, head of the Cal Poly Military Science Department (ROTC). “He comforted some of the people who had seen the worst of the carnage. He engaged with the people; he engaged with the authorities.

“He stayed on and volunteered for seven or eight hours,” Newsom said. “His leadership training kicked in, and he was inclined to automatically take action and help, as opposed to running the other way.”

When asked why he ran back to the marathon finish line, instead of toward safety, Cadet Falck responded, “It’s part of who I am, and my time in ROTC really reinforced the Army values of selfless service, duty, and honor. I was okay, but I knew that there were people out there who needed help, so I went to see if I could help out.”

The Boston Globe article can be seen at http://bostonherald.com/news_opinion/local_coverage/2013/04/finish_line_heroes_noah_falck_rotc_student_and_runner.
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NOTE TO EDITORS: To schedule an interview with Noah Falck, contact Matt Lazier at 805-756-7109 or mlazier@calpoly.edu.

