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President Obama relays support, love and faith during speech about the recent explosion in West.

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### Speech Story

President Barack Obama gave the community of West a message of hope and faith at a ceremony honoring the 15 killed in an explosion this past Wednesday.

The explosion occurred at the West Fertilizer Company which destroyed buildings, homes and schools in the area.

Obama began his speech with a tribute of faith through the good news of God.

“For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us. We went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance,” Obama said quoting the book of Psalms.

The city of West is a small rural town in central Texas with a population of about 2,500 people.

Obama traveled to Waco to show his support and empathy for the families and neighbors impacted by the explosion.

This explosion occurred only two days after the Boston Marathon bombing. Obama stressed the importance of standing together during this time and knowing that the people of West are not alone.

“We may not all live here in Texas, but we’re neighbors, too,” Obama said. “We are Americans too and we stand with you, and we do not forget.”

Mackenzie Grizzard, Palm Beach, Florida. sophomore, reflected on how America is standing behind the town of West.

“When they have a big loss at that magnitude, they realize that the rest of the country is with them,” Grizzard said. “They have the people that are behind them, and they are not alone.”

The initial fire was called to action from volunteers from the town of West and neighboring towns. Some of these volunteers were on site when the explosion occurred and did not make it out alive.

“We need people who so love their neighbors as themselves that they’re willing to lay down their lives for them,” Obama said.

Although West is a small town its importance and contribution to our country does not go unnoticed. Obama told the people that America needs more towns like West.

“What makes West special, what puts it on the map is what makes it familiar: the people who live here,” Obama said.

America has been tested and so has West. Obama is continuing to guide the people impacted by this incident with his support.

“You have been tested, West,” Obama said. “You have been tried. You have gone through fire. But you are and always will be surrounded by an abundance of love.

As Obama closed out his speech, he gave his best wishes to the families that lost their loved ones, the city of West and the United States of America.