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Introduction for White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest

Delivery: Tuesday, April 14, 2015

CJ Cregg, White House Spokeswoman on the West Wing once said, that behind the President the Press Secretary is the most recognizable face in the Bartlett Administration. In the age of 140 characters, hashtags, and viral videos that statement is still true. Josh Earnest is the chief point of contact for the White House Press Corps, leads the daily press briefing from the White House Briefing Room, gaggles aboard Air Force One, or from every corner of the world- like Panama just last week. Mr. Earnest is also the voice of the West Wing Week- which just celebrated its 5th anniversary just last week.

This Kansas City native is no stranger to the White House Press Corp or political politics. He has worked on campaigns in Texas and New York and was an aid to Congressman Berry. In 2007, he joined President Obama's campaign as the communications director in the battleground state of Iowa. In the White House, Mr. Earnest served as the deputy Press Secretary prior to assuming his current role in 2014. Mr. Earnest described his role as, "the option of first resort for a lot of reporters." His predecessor Jay Carney called him "indispensable."

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As a communications student at Marymount University- just four miles from here- Mr. Earnest's daily briefings have been part of my collegiate career and in many ways, provided a guide in how to engage with the press. Mr. Earnest very swiftly moves from topic-to-topic and inquiry-to-inquiry in the Briefing Room, including from time-to-time embedding humor and earnest remarks. For example in January, Mr. Earnest reminded the briefing room that there is no risk of Patriots Quarterback Tom Brady taking his job after the Deflategate press conference- which prompted the President to ask him why he was being mean to tom Brady.

With that said, it is my honor to introduce White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest.