

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on April 1, 2016

Location: Carrier Dome

Remarks: Chancellor's Remarks at the Army and Air Force ROTC Chancellor's Review

*The Chancellor was introduced by Lt. Col Jon Landis
Commander, Air Force ROTC Detachment 535*

Welcome to the 99th year of Chancellor's Reviews at Syracuse University. I am pleased and honored to be here to preside and to review these fine cadets, who have achieved distinction and performed with grace.

We are honored to welcome to the Carrier Dome today:

- Colonel Greg A Semmel, Commander of the 174th Attack Wing and Installation Commander of Hancock Field Air Base, United States Air Force.
- Lieutenant Colonel Fernandez, Commander of the 313th Recruiting Squadron, United States Air Force.
- Lieutenant Colonel Paul Jackson, Commander of the Syracuse Recruiting Battalion, United States Army.
- Lieutenant Thomas Boharsik, Commander of the 313th Recruiting Squadron, United States Air Force.
- Mr. Joseph Rufo, Vice President of Administration, SUNY ESF
- Ms. Jennifer Reddy, Assistant Director and veterans' coordinator in the office of continuing education, LeMoyne College.

We are grateful for the presence of the 10th Mountain Division Band, which is here from Fort Drum.

I'd also like to thank:

- Lieutenant Colonel Jon Landis, Commander of Air Force ROTC Detachment 535 and professor of aerospace studies
- Lieutenant Colonel Jason Warner, Professor and chair of military science

- Retired Army Colonel Ron Novack, executive director of the Office of Veterans and Military Affairs
- Professor Sam Clemence, Interim Dean of Hendrick's Chapel

Thank you also to the people who helped organize this morning's event, including:

- Laura Bates, Syracuse University Army ROTC office coordinator
- Virginia O'Connor, Syracuse University Air Force ROTC office coordinator.
- Margaret Lambrecht, Development Associate at IVMF

And I want to welcome the family and friends of our cadets. Thank you all for being with us today.

For 99 years, Syracuse's Chancellors have been honored to preside over this review, which includes 135 cadets attending Syracuse University and a half dozen other fine colleges in our region. I am especially pleased today also to recognize those cadets achieving distinction for superior performance.

Military reviews have a distinctive place in history. They can be traced back to Baron Friedrich von Steuben. He was a major general in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

His outlines of military reviews were practiced by Revolutionary War soldiers. Von Steuben has an Upstate New York connection. He retired in the region and is buried in Remsen, about an hour northeast of Syracuse.

The first Chancellor's Review at Syracuse University took place on May 4, 1917. Chancellor James Roscoe Day reviewed the Cadet Corps in front of Carnegie Library. This corps was the predecessor of today's Army and Air Force ROTC corps.

Syracuse University has an unrivaled history of supporting students who aspire to serve in our nation's armed forces. We are especially proud of our long relationship with ROTC. This relationship followed on the heels of our World War I Students' Army Training Corps in 1918.

The Reserve Officer's Training Corps was established in March 1919. The University began offering a bachelor's degree in military science in 1920.

Secretary of War Newton D. Baker at the time identified Syracuse as the first educational institution to do so. That ROTC unit continues today as Syracuse University's Army ROTC Stalwart Battalion.

Syracuse University began offering flight training in 1940, on the cusp of World War II. During the war, it housed the largest Army Air Forces College Training program in the country.

Chancellor William Pearson Tolley reviewed 2,100 Air Force cadets on parade in front of Carnegie Library in 1943. The Air ROTC was established at Syracuse in 1946. It continues today as Syracuse University's Air Force ROTC Detachment 535.

Syracuse and ROTC share a commitment to the values that inform thoughtful leadership and excellence in service. We are all proud of these cadets.

We are proud that you have the intellectual, physical, and social skills needed to succeed. You will be effective leaders in areas of crisis and need, at home and around the world;

And we are proud that you have balanced the rigorous dual demands of your academic discipline and the requirements of your ROTC training.

We expect great things of each of you in the future. The challenges and opportunities you will face in today's world are extraordinary. You have prepared well. You are ready to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities.

Wherever you serve, you will take Syracuse University, and our partner schools, and their whole-hearted support with you. And we will be here for you when you return from service as veterans.

In the late 1940s, Syracuse led the way in enrolling World War II veterans under the newly implemented GI Bill. Chancellor Tolley's decision to do that changed the face of the campus forever. It continues to define and shape the University today.

We strive to become a great, thriving, diverse, and engaged international research university. And we are dedicated to becoming the best place for veterans.

I also thank your family, friends, and dedicated faculty members. I know they have provided you with support, encouragement, and guidance.

[Lead applause]

Congratulations, cadets and Godspeed in your great days ahead.

Thank you.

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