

# Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on November 14, 2017

Location: Ensley Athletic Center

Remarks: Roy Simmons Sr. and Roy Simmons Jr. Statue Dedication

*The Chancellor was introduced by the Voice of the Orange, Matt Park.*

Thank you, Matt, for the introduction and for your great service as the Voice of the Orange.

There are a lot of people to thank for this happy day at Syracuse University.

I want to give a special thanks to one person who did so much to make this day happen, and that is Cliff Ensley.

You all know Cliff made possible the indoor facility, behind me. But he has done even more for Lacrosse and Football and athletics at Syracuse. Cliff is the force behind both Plaza 44 and the statues celebrating those who wore 44 and their coach, Ben Schwartzwalder. And, he is the force behind raising the money to make possible today's celebration of Roy Simmons Jr and Sr. I believe that, without Cliff's smiling insistence and encouragement to all of us, we would not have made it to this great occasion.

Cliff, I want to give you a gift to thank you for all your help. Jack Johnson, is a Haudenosuane friend of mine who learned how to make traditional wooden lacrosse sticks under the great Alf E. Jacques of the Onondaga Nation. Jack has made you, Cliff, a customized Syracuse University lacrosse cane in the style of a wooden lacrosse stick. May this cane help carry you over the years ahead. Thank you Jack, and thank you Cliff.

Today we celebrate Roy Simmons Sr. and Roy Simmons Jr. and 86 years of having the Simmons family connected to Syracuse Lacrosse.

I did not know Roy Simmons Sr, but I sure have heard amazing stories about him, including at the Lacrosse Centennial Dinner. The long tribute dinner. I mean like, really long. So long that some of your cars got locked up in the parking garage at the Oncenter. I am going to be much briefer today.

I have been blessed, along with my wife Dr. Ruth Chen, to get to know Roy Simmons Jr. very well. I admire everything about him. I admire him as a truly great coach who won so many championships. I admire him for what he taught his students, including well beyond the game of Lacrosse. I admire him as a renaissance man - an artist, a sculptor, a voracious reader in almost every field. I admire him as a gentle man who remains loyal to friends through thick and thin, as I witnessed in his kindness to Lillian Slutzker throughout the end of her life.

But what I admire most about Slugger is that he genuinely cares about Syracuse University in the right way. He really knows the history here; he sees through the blather and grandiose marketing to what really matters - and that is our students, his team, and producing in the classroom and on the field better men that what he started with.

Syracuse University has been unbelievably lucky to have the loyalty and hard work of the Simmons family. Roy Simmons ranks among the handful of unique people who most define this University for me. I am very happy that he and his father will be remembered through this statue. And I so proud that he is, that he always has been, and that he forever in our hearts will be, the definition of Orange.

Thank you.

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