

Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on Friday, March 9, 2018

Location: Carrier Dome

Remarks: Chancellor's 101st ROTC Review

The Chancellor was introduced by Captain Dallas Rainey

Welcome and thank you. I will be brief.

For 101 consecutive years, the Syracuse University Chancellor has had the privilege of honoring and celebrating Reserve Officer's Training Corps cadets.

I thank everyone who has played a significant role in the lives of many of these fine cadets and who helped organize today's event:

- Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Kimbrough, Commander of Air Force ROTC Detachment 535 and professor of aerospace studies;
- Lieutenant Colonel Jason Warner, professor and chair of military science and Army ROTC Stalwart Battalion;
- Retired Army Colonel Ron Novack, executive director of the Office of Veterans and Military Affairs;
- Reverend Brian Konkol, Dean of Hendricks Chapel;
- Laura Bates, Syracuse University Army ROTC office coordinator;
- Virginia O'Connor, Syracuse University Air Force ROTC office coordinator;
- Margaret Lambrecht, development associate at IVMF;
- Lauren Pyland, OVMA.

I also thank the family and friends of our cadets for being with us today.

There are many University faculty, staff and administrators in attendance today. Your support of the cadets – many of whom are your students – is greatly appreciated.

Today is the Friday before Syracuse University's spring break. That means that most of the faculty and most of the students are gone from campus already. It means that the dining halls and residence halls are at least three quarters empty. It means most people are relaxing now.

And here we are in the Dome, with 150 cadets in full dress uniform, at work, not relaxing along with their instructors and their supporters and University staff. All of these folks are on duty while others relax.

I could tell a similar story about other times in our University year. I could tell you about 6:30 a.m. on many weekday mornings, when these cadets turn out in all weathers for physical training, in the Dome or the gym or quad. Some of them come long distances from our partner universities in central New York, leaving early and returning to find their roommates and friends still in bed.

I could tell you about weekends and summers when these cadets similarly serve. It is part of the drill as much as this Chancellor's review. It has occurred every year for more than a century, ever since Chancellor Roscoe Day reviewed the corps of cadets in front of Carnegie Library in 1917.

People ask me a lot these days why Syracuse University is so committed to veterans and military families, so committed to ROTC. The simplest answer is this: our cadets and our veterans and those who support them are often here when others have left the field. The habits and discipline and hard work that these cadets and veterans manifest can be counted on by this University, and this region, and this country. And that is worth celebrating, in good times and in bad.

That is why this University is eager to continue its historic support for both the Air Force and Army ROTC programs here. That is why we all are working so hard to increase our veterans and military connected enrollment at this University, and why it has recently passed 1,200 students. That is why our ROTC programs and our Office of Veteran and Military Affairs and our Institute for Veterans and Military Families now muster more than 100 professional staff working to make this University the best place for veterans and military connected students, faculty, staff and alumni. That is why we are building, between Waverly and Marshall Streets, the National Veterans Resource Center, which will be the finest facility in the world for university based veteran and ROTC programs.

I congratulate all these cadets for their hard work and their honors. I thank you for making this place a better University, as did all those veterans and cadets who came before you here for more than 100 years.

I wish I could give you more to thank you for staying on the field on the day before spring break, and for staying on the field at 6:30 in the morning, and for staying on the field on weekends and summer breaks. But what I can do is say I am proud of you, I believe in you, and I expect great things from you.

Many thanks.

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