

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on May 11, 2014

Location: Hendricks Chapel

Remarks: Chancellor's Remarks at the 2014 ROTC Commissioning

The Chancellor was introduced by CPT Gerard Shumer.

Thank you, Captain Schumer; and thank you, Col. Paolozzi, for your message this morning.

I also would like to thank the people who organized today's ceremony:

- Major Paul White, project officer for Army ROTC
- Captain Robert Neuman, project officer for Air Force ROTC
- Laura Bates, Syracuse University Army ROTC office coordinator
- Virginia O'Connor, Air Force ROTC office coordinator
- Michelle Larrabee of Hendricks Chapel
- and our University organist, Olukola Owolabi

Colleagues on the platform, faculty members, family, friends: I am honored to join you this morning to recognize and congratulate our 39 newest members of the U.S. Army and Air Force. I invite you all to join me in giving them one more round of applause.

[Applause]

I also invite our newly commissioned officers to join me in thanking their families and friends, whose support and encouragement along the way helped make this moment possible.

[Applause]

Syracuse University has been preparing students for military service for nearly a century. Since 1918, we have partnered with ROTC to make sure our future military leaders get the preparation they need to perform well and act wisely.

For our new officers, today marks the culmination of years of hard work and dedication. Like every other student, you came here with a desire to learn more about who you are and what you are capable of. But you also came with a deep sense of purpose: to serve your country in military service.

You have had great teachers, in the classroom and in your military training, who prepared you for the challenges that lie ahead. In the process, you have:

- Tested your physical limits and learned how to exceed them.
- Worked as a team and learned how to lead a team.
- Developed the capacity to think deeply and learned how to act nimbly.

In short, you have developed the qualities needed to serve with courage, wisdom, and integrity in any situation.

You have our wholehearted support as you begin your service. I know you will do great things and make your families and Syracuse University even prouder of you than we are today.

And we will be here to support you when you are done. Syracuse has an unrivalled history as a leader in supporting the needs of our veterans:

We led the nation after World War II in accepting record numbers of returning soldiers under the GI Bill and we are leading today with the ground-breaking Institute for Veterans and Military Families, a national model in creating opportunities for veterans and promoting their successful transition back into civil society.

We will continue to build on that legacy. As I said in my inauguration speech, we have the capacity, we have the opportunity, to be the best in the world at empowering veterans of our armed forces and their families. We have an unrivaled capacity to bring to bear our expertise in the professions, in disabilities, in entrepreneurship and information, and in the arts and sciences

for the benefit of our University and of those who have borne the battle and their families.

We can, and we will, do it—not only because it is the right thing to do, but because experience has shown that veterans make Syracuse University a better place. The life experience, perspectives, and leadership skills they bring with them enhance the learning experience and benefit us all.

As you leave here, you become a part of Syracuse University at work in the world, reflecting the values we hold dear: a commitment to learning, truth, compassion, and integrity.

I am so grateful to have such wonderful representatives on our behalf.

Thank you to the family and friends who helped to inform your character, and to your instructors, who prepared you so well.

Congratulations, officers. Thank you for your courage and commitment, and for your service to us all.

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