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### ROTC 98th Annual Chancellor's Review

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*Syracuse University*

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# Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on Friday, April 3, 2015

Location: Carrier Dome

Remarks: ROTC 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Chancellor's Review

*The Chancellor was introduced by Lieutenant Colonel, Michael Bianchi*

Welcome to the 98th year of Chancellor's Review 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 Colonel Scott Heintzelman, 2nd Brigade ROTC Commander. He is the commander for all 42 ROTC programs in the Northeast.

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

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

I want to thank:

Lieutenant Colonel Jon Landis, Commander of Air Force ROTC Detachment 535 and professor of aerospace studies

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Bianchi professor and chair of military science, and

Retired Army Colonel Ron Novack, executive director of the Office of Veterans and Military Affairs.

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

Laura Bates, Syracuse University Army ROTC office coordinator, and

Virginia O'Connor, Syracuse University Air Force ROTC office coordinator.

I am pleased and honored to be here today to preside over this review. I am especially pleased 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 soldiers. Von Steuben has an Upstate New York connection. He retired in the region and is buried in Remsen. That is 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.

That year, the University taught telegraphy, carpentry, masonry, and auto mechanics to 800 soldiers in the vocational section. Military training and academic classes were provided to 1,600 personnel in the collegiate section.

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. I am so proud of these cadets. We are all proud of you.

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;

Proud that you are effective problem-solvers, strategic thinkers, managers, and collaborators;

Proud that you have integrity and compassion. You have a deep respect for the principles of justice upon which our nation was founded;

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

Cadets, you inspire us by what you have achieved and who you have become.

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.

Your willingness to prepare for such critically important service speaks to your character. It also speaks to your courage and your commitment to your country. I know you will make your families, and Syracuse University, even prouder in the future.

Wherever you serve, you will take Syracuse University and its wholehearted 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. We have done it before, and we can do it again.

We do it by building on the groundbreaking work of the Institute for Veterans and Military Families and other cross-campus initiatives. These groups seek to empower those who have borne the battle.

Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter visited our campus on Tuesday. He told us that the military community must rely on institutions that couple scholarship with training and action. He said there's no other place that does it like Syracuse.

Cadets, your experience here embodies the combination of scholarship and training and action. So today, I thank you for your service and dedication, both to Syracuse University and your country.

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

Please join me in thanking them now.

The purpose of our review today has been to observe the state of training of our cadets. You, cadets, are ready for duty.

Congratulations, and Godspeed in your great days ahead.

Thank you.

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