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Stories From Syracuse Event

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Syracuse University

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Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on February 9, 2017

Location: Paramount Studios, Los Angeles, CA

Remarks: Stories From Syracuse Event

Chancellor Syverud was introduced by Brian Frons, G '78

Thank you, Brian. Good evening and welcome.

Syracuse University today has more than 1,000 students who are veterans or military-connected. Syracuse University in the last 12 months has trained more than 30,000 men and women who have been in uniform in various programs helping them succeed in civilian life. Among all these students there are thousands of amazing stories. I thank everyone here who can help us tell those stories.

I thank all of you here from the entertainment industry. I thank the many members of “Veterans in Film and Television.” I thank tonight’s organizers, SU’s Institute for Veterans and Military Families; SU’s Office of Alumni Engagement; and SULA.

David Seaman, Dean of Libraries and University Librarian, is also with us tonight. David and his team are responsible for tonight’s GI Bill Exhibit, which is on display. The exhibit captures the time of hope and ambition after WWII when Syracuse University threw its doors open wide for tens of thousands of veterans - at a time when many other schools hesitated or even said “no.”

Today, Syracuse University again opens its doors wide.

In a recent study by the Pew Research Group, 84 percent of post-9/11 veterans believe the American public has no understanding of the challenges facing this generation of veterans and military families.

This is not surprising. The burden of more than a decade at war has been largely shouldered by a small minority. Less than one-half of one-percent of Americans volunteered for military service over the past 15 years. While this remains a serious challenge for our nation, I see it as an opportunity to elevate the work of Syracuse University - as well as our partners across the country.

The entertainment industry has a global platform and distribution network that can positively impact the civilian and military divide that exists in this nation.

By working directly with veterans who work in the entertainment industry - or those who share in that aspiration - we can shape powerful stories.

I am eager to hear from industry leaders, as well as veterans, this evening. I want to know how we can shape this national dialogue.

Thank you again for joining us this evening. And now I turn it over to one of Syracuse University's own. A 1996 graduate of the Newhouse School, the daughter of a military family on both sides, well-known television reporter and anchor, and now an on-air contributor to CNBC. Please Welcome Contessa Brewer. Go Orange!

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