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100th Annual ROTC Chancellor's Review

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Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on March 31, 2017

Location: Dome

Remarks: 100th Annual ROTC Chancellor's Review

Chancellor Syverud was introduced by Dr. Samuel Clemence, interim dean of Hendricks Chapel and professor emeritus in the College of Engineering and Computer Science

Welcome. I thank all of you for taking part in the 100th annual Chancellor's Review at Syracuse University. I am honored to be here to preside and to review these fine cadets. They have achieved distinction, and they have performed with grace.

One hundred consecutive years of Chancellor's Reviews at Syracuse University. A century of continuous support at this University for ROTC. Those are two facts no other University in America can match.

This is remarkable. For the last century, throughout times of patriotism and times of protest, in WW II through the Vietnam era and into the Post 9/11 era, this University maintained its strong commitment to ROTC—and its commitment to those who serve. We remain committed to inspiring thoughtful leadership in our armed forces through our Reserve Officer Training Program.

There were some tough times for this University during that century. Times when our budget was busted. Times when our politics was fraught and divided. There were times when many other universities were distancing themselves from ROTC training. Through all those times, Syracuse University kept investing in ROTC and the development of the next generation of military leaders.

In just the last three years, our University has increased scholarship, programmatic, and leadership development support to the corps of cadets with the goal of continuing to attract the highest quality future leaders in the nation.

Through the support of the Dottle family, last year we announced the inaugural class of Dottle ROTC scholars. These are high-performing cadets who have excelled academically and in their civic commitment to our community.

If you look around the Dome today, if you look around the world today, you will see abundant evidence that our investment in ROTC has brought extraordinary returns for our University, our nation, and the world.

The alumni of these ROTC programs, many of whom are here today, have served at the highest levels of the military. They have in many cases transitioned from military service to lead in every sector of our economy and our civic life. They have been and are great leaders and citizens. We are so proud that they are alumni of these corps.

There should be no doubt. Syracuse University's commitment to ROTC and to our veteran and military-connected community will continue in the century ahead.

ROTC enrollment at Syracuse has grown over the past three years and today, at more than 150 cadets, is the largest in more than a decade.

Our commitment will continue as well by the proposed construction of the National Veterans Resource Complex, which is planned to be reviewed by our Board of Trustees for approval next month.

The NVRC is a building that is a class-leading, national exemplar of academic, government, and community collaboration. It will leverage public and private support to ensure that Syracuse University remains the best in the nation for research, actionable programming, and collaboration in support of our nation's service members, veterans, and their families.

We plan to break ground on the building this spring. It will be the future, state of the art home of many of our veterans and military programs, including brand new space for both our Army and Air Force ROTC corps.

Many of you are helping us renew our commitment and sustain our legacy with ROTC. I thank all of you. I thank all of our ROTC alumni, many of whom travelled far to join this special day. I thank the representatives of many of our partner ROTC schools who send students to our corps of cadets. I thank Syracuse ROTC alumna Major General Peggy Combs, who spoke as our keynote last night. I thank all our friends at Fort Drum, who do so much with our University, and who have sent us the 10th Mountain Division Band to play for us today.

I give thanks for the faculty, and staff at this University who work their hearts out for ROTC every day, not just on our centennial. Our commanders - Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Kimbrough and Army Lieutenant Colonel Jason Warner. Our staff, including Laura Bates and Virginia O'Connor. Our team from the office of Veterans and Military Affairs and IVMF, including Retired Army Colonel Ron Novack, Margaret Lambrecht, and Lauren Pyland.

Most of all, I give thanks for the students and the family and friends who support them. I am so proud of these cadets. This work is not easy. The hours can be long. I see you doing your best under great demands. For the sake of our country, I am grateful that you have taken on this responsibility. 100 years from now, I suspect there will be new cadets still here at Syracuse University, inspired by the legacy of what you are doing now and will do in your careers. Let's make it happen.

Thank you.

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