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ROTC Commissioning Ceremony

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Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud
Delivered on Sunday, May 10, 2020
Location: Virtual, Syracuse, NY
Remarks: ROTC Commissioning Ceremony

Greetings to our new officers and to your families, friends, and supporters.

It is my privilege and honor today to recognize and thank everyone associated with the Syracuse University Army and Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Today we celebrate the commissioning of 29 Army and Air Force Second Lieutenants.

Today's graduates come from Syracuse University and our partner schools in Upstate New York, including the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, SUNY Oswego, LeMoyne College, and Utica College.

I have watched these new officers grow over their years here. They have worked tirelessly to balance their academic studies and the rigorous demands of ROTC training. They have been up early in the mornings. They have been on duty on weekends and in the summers. They have consistently ranked among our most accomplished scholars and our most dedicated community members.

This year's commissioning ceremony is so different. We can't be with one another physically. But we can still thank these students virtually for their service to our country. Even more important, we can thank the families who raised them.

Parents, Grandparents, families: As a father, I know that there are precious few moments in life when someone looks at your kid and tells you that you have done well. I assure you folks, today is one of those moments. Today is the Olympic Gold medal ceremony of parenting. You have done well. These are amazing men and women receiving their commission. My hat is off to you; my heart is full of gratitude to you; you have done all of us proud.

To our new officers: Thank you for making this University a better place. You now join thousands of Syracuse ROTC graduates who have gone on to greatness in the world. We are grateful to you. And we promise you that, out of respect for what you have achieved, we here will continue to support and enhance the best and the oldest continuous ROTC program in the United States. Go Orange, Go Army, Go Air Force, and Godspeed.

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