

Veteran's Day Speech November 11, 2020

Thank you for that warm welcome. To the members of the Dunellen American Legion Post 119 and the Dunellen Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5479, thank you for your leadership in serving all veterans in our community, the State of New Jersey and the United States. Your efforts to provide a haven for the countless men and women who have served this great nation should not go unnoticed and it is my honor to be here among you and your membership today to honor our veterans on Veterans Day.

I also wish to thank other members of our community who assisted our two veterans' organizations in making sure our ceremony honoring our veterans happened today. Thank you to Alex Miller and the Recreation Commission, the Dunellen Police Department, Fire Department, OEM and Rescue Squad for being here today and all days. I wish to extend thanks to the honorable Mayor of Green Brook, Patrick Boccio, who is here every year

with us. And, I would like to extend thanks to the Dunellen Borough Council.

Veterans Day, as historical tradition has come to call this day, is celebrated on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month, to recognize the conclusion of the Great War in 1918, the war it was thought at that time, to end all wars. Originally known as Armistice Day, and made a legal holiday in 1938, it would become a day that Americans celebrated to pay tribute to the great heroism of those who fought in World War I.

Unfortunately, that bloody conflict was not the end of all wars. The United States and the world would only twenty short years later fight against Nazism and fascism in World War II and then eventually the United States would enter the Korean War to assist in the independence and unification of Korea. Following these wars, the 83rd Congress of the United States in 1954, with the urging of many veterans organizations, would amend the 1938 act that originally made November 11th known as Armistice Day to

celebrate WWI, and replace Armistice with Veterans so we may honor all American veterans. This would be further cemented in history when in 1975, President Gerald Ford, signed legislation that would ensure Veterans Day would always be observed on November 11th, regardless of what day of the week it would fall on.

Be it from the Great War to World War II, Korea or Vietnam, the Gulf War to Afghanistan to Iraq or from the beginning revolution of our great nation, today is a day that all Americans, young and old, focus their attention on the importance of our veterans. It is a moment in time that as Americans we honor all veterans for their patriotism and their willingness of service to country and sacrifice for a common good.

It is because of these sacrifices, we as Americans enjoy this opportunity to assemble here today, independent from the overbearing reins of government, a free people, to practice our freedom of speech and religion, free to love whom we love, and

enjoy the rights to vote for our representatives. As Americans, let's never lose sight of the meaning of today. May we always show respect for our American institutions, extend a lending hand to our neighbors, and commit ourselves to making our communities across this great nation a place for all to strive for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We owe this to those who came before us to fight for these freedoms and way of life, and to those who continue to fight to this day to protect our freedoms.

Let us make sure that no fallen soldier or sailor, Coast Guardsman or Marine or Airman, shall have died or have been wounded in vain. We must remember them and honor them, and we do that by not only extending to them our thanks and support, but also by living our lives as a free people.

God Bless you, God Bless all of our veterans and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and may God continue to Bless the United States of America.