Veteran's Day Speech to a Veteran's Organization

Thank you, , for that kind introduction.

Fellow Sailors – fellow veterans –fellow Americans… it is an honor and privilege for me to join you today.

The [Name of Organization] is a vital and important part of our community. Without you, many of our veterans' needs would go unmet. So I want to thank you for all the good works you do. Much of what we do on Veteran's day is ceremonial. In ceremonies we remind ourselves and others of the many virtues that we honor in military life. But you find additional, tangible ways throughout the year to recognize and help both our veterans and the greater community.

Veteran's Day is an appropriate time to say this, as your service to flag and country has never ended with military service. In many different ways – by service to fellow-veterans, to American youth, to their local and national community, to their country's sacred traditions… you keep bright and alive all that makes America the great and strong country it is today.

Your Navy has never been more ready than it is right now. Our performance in Iraq and Afghanistan has shown this. We are the greatest Navy in the world because of our willingness to embrace the changes that enhance our capability. The United States Navy remains the greatest Navy to ever set sail, keeping America a lighthouse of hope and a beacon of freedom.

So today we celebrate American veterans – whose service continues to make possible - the creation and security of America. From our independence – through all the wars since … and small, but lethal campaigns across the world - veterans like you have served, and preserved, America.

Your dedication, courage, and determination inspire and teach us the rewards of service to our great nation. You are carrying on a fine tradition.

Let me simply say we are proud of you and lucky to have you among us. You are a powerful example of what is good and true. Today we honor your commitment and sacrifice - and above all, your service.

The sacrifices of our veterans have and continue to not only conquer the present threat, but will provide for the prosperity, safety, and freedom for future generations - and the country they serve. Because of your sacrifices, the United States of America - will not merely endure... we will prevail.

Thank you for your service. Good afternoon/night.