



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
WASHINGTON, DC

## Veterans Day

(5 minutes)

### INTRODUCTION

Hello, I'm [NAME], [ROLE] of Student Veterans of America [CHAPTER NAME]. It is an honor to be here with you today recognizing the service, sacrifice, and promise of veterans. When we celebrate our nation's veterans, we celebrate the interconnectedness of all Americans and the fact that we are *all* better when working in service to others.

### VETERANS DAY

In the US, Veterans Day falls on November 11th, the anniversary of the signing of the armistice, which ended the World War I hostilities between the Allied nations and Germany in 1918. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the legislation on June 1, 1954 and veterans are thanked and recognized for their services to the United States on this day each year.

But, I would argue, and I think you would agree, it's about so much more than that.

<beat>

Service.

Duty.

Commitment.

Honor.

Sacrifice.

No matter what differences there may be between us as Americans today, what backgrounds, beliefs and practices define our communities, those qualities hold true as a North Star for all who serve and for all those who receive the gifts of their service. And, so here we are today, united through this common bond and shared vision amongst so many varying affiliations.

### WHO ARE WE?

As I mentioned, I am the [ROLE] of [CHAPTER NAME] under the banner of Student Veterans of America, who represent 750,000 student veterans each and every year.



Taking a full course-load and maintaining involvement on campus can be a full-time job. For some of us, we essentially have two, or even three, full-time jobs as a result. This is, in effect, where a tight community can make a big difference. This is the core value of an SVA chapter.

We pride ourselves on being an inclusive organization—where all veterans *and allies* are welcomed. We strive to build chapters that allow everybody to bring their whole self to the table.

And, if you don't happen to be a veteran, you might not readily know that today's post-9/11 veteran *is* more diverse than ever, and increasingly female — as evidenced by nearly 50% of chapter leadership despite lower numbers in women currently enlisted.

And, that is why, as a national network of over 1,500 chapters, with the support of a national headquarters, representing more than 1 million student veterans in higher education. We are: One SVA.

Student Veterans of America also lives by the motto: “Inspiring Tomorrow’s Leaders” This motto is derived from the notion that:

The nation that makes a great distinction between its scholars and its warriors will have its thinking done by cowards and its fighting done by fools.

Student veterans are in fact the most dedicated talent hiding in plain sight, excelling alongside their civilian peers.

Outside of the higher ed world, none of you will be surprised to hear that today's veterans are among America's most dedicated voters, with 73.8% of veterans voting in local elections compared to 52.7% of non-veterans. Our latest research over the summer showed that 96% of student veterans planned to vote in the 2020 election. 96 PERCENT.

And, you've most likely seen veterans over the last few years of devastating natural disasters at the frontlines mobilizing recovery operations, now owning this critical service globally. You've seen them elected to office and placed in the administration. Put simply, veterans lead.

## **IN SUMMARY**

On this Veterans Day and moving forward, please remember that veterans are the key to solving any problems our campus or nation faces. We are here with gratitude in our hearts for the life-changing opportunity of higher education and are committed to leaving this revered place of learning better than we found it. While Tom Brokaw coined the phrase, “the greatest generation” about World War II service members, today many call us the “best of a generation.” And, we pledge to continue to earn that title.

It has been my humble honor to be here with you during this celebration of—



# SVA

Service.

Duty.

Commitment.

Honor.

And, Sacrifice.

Thank you. And, happy Veterans Day.

