



501 East 38th Street
Erie, PA 16546
814-824-2000
800-825-1926
mercyhurst.edu

Nov. 11, 2022

Celebration of Valor Remarks

By President Kathleen A. Getz, Ph.D.

Good afternoon and welcome to our annual Celebration of Valor.

Just as our founding Sisters of Mercy committed their lives to serving those who are poor, sick, and uneducated, our veterans have devoted theirs to ensuring America's independent spirit, freedoms, and liberties. Their courage, vigilance, and steadfast devotion stand as an example to us all, and I'm grateful to be part of an institution that recognizes and celebrates their commitment.

Today, it is my privilege to say "thank you" to the veterans in this room – and by extension, to all of America's veterans. We will not forget what you have done to protect our country and our lives.

Mercyhurst has a proud history of dedicated students, faculty, and staff serving our country. We have been distinguished as a "Purple Heart University," and, once again, we are recognized among the nation's "Best Schools for Veterans" in this year's *US News & World Report* rankings.

We owe a debt of gratitude to all those in our Veterans Affairs Office and in our university community who have helped us achieve these honorable distinctions.

Also, the "Pride of PA" Army ROTC Battalion, which includes 71 students from Mercyhurst, Gannon, and Penn State Behrend, has been a proud tradition at our university for over 20 years. Just this year, three new cadets contracted with our program, bringing the Mercyhurst cohort to 30.

So, thank you everyone, and Happy Veterans Day.