

Thanking Our Veterans

COMMANDER ADDRESSES CVHS CEREMONY

“Veterans Day is our day to thank and remember all veterans and to let them know we appreciate them for their service and honor them for their sacrifices,” Air Force Lt. Col. Benjamin Dahlke told the audience at the 2016 Center for Veterinary Health Sciences’ Veterans Day observance.

“An inscription at the Korean War Veterans Memorial says, ‘Our nation honors her sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met.’ They answered the call. These words apply equally to many others, to today’s service members who are tomorrow’s veterans.”

Dahlke, commander of Air Force ROTC Detachment 670 at OSU, a professor and head of the Department of Aerospace Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences, offered his unique perspective on tomorrow’s veterans. CVHS students, professors and alumni are often affiliated with the military.

“The term the ‘Greatest Generation’ is used for those who lived through the Depression and fought and won World War II, and it’s the perfect name. Now we have Generations X, Y and Z, and as this generation alphabet has reached its end, many maintain that the sense of entitlement, apathy and narcissism has risen exponentially with each letter, but let me present a different view,” Dahlke said, noting more than 3 million have joined the military since 9/11.

“Their service has been selfless ... and their accomplishments have been extraordinary,” he said.

“This generation of active guard and reserve service members, this 9/11 generation has maintained our security during a hard and certainly divisive time in our nation’s history. These men and women have disproved the myth of apathy in their generation. They chose to serve a cause greater than themselves, they answered a call.”

Over the next five years, more than 1 million will transition back to civilian life, embracing a new role as veterans.

“Certainly, they’ve earned their place among the greatest of generations,” Dahlke said.

“If there is anything that our veterans have taught us, it is that there is no threat we cannot meet and there is no challenge we cannot overcome. And for that inspiration, for all the sacrifices, and those of veterans’ families that have helped keep our country safe and free, we thank each and every veteran, not just today, but every day, for every day. God bless each of you and God bless America.” **CVHS**

KAYLIE WEHR

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Air Force **Lt. Col. Benjamin Dahlke** speaks at the **CVHS Veterans Day** observance.