



BOSTON COLLEGE
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

BOSTON COLLEGE
8TH ANNUAL VETERAN'S ALUMNI RECEPTION
SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2018
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM
BAPST LAWN

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Good morning. I would like to thank the Alumni Association, and in particular, Jean Chisser for the invitation to deliver this year's keynote address for the 8th annual Boston College Veteran's Alumni Reception. Jean approached me over a year ago, recognizing that it was my 25th reunion year, to deliver this address. At first I thought she was mistaken as there didn't seem there was any way that I could possibly have graduated from BC 25 years ago. She was, in fact, correct...so, hence here I am. Thank you, Jean!

I'd also like to recognize quickly a few people with whom I've had the privilege to meet and get to know in the BC veteran community. George Harrington (Class of 1980) and Dan Arkins (Class of 1981), Co-Chairs of the BC Veteran's Alumni Network. Their passion for and commitment to the BC veteran community, including our current student veterans, is so evident and apparent from their investment of time and energy in developing the network and relationships among fellow veterans. When I was interviewing for the EVP role, one common theme I heard was how important "relationships" were at BC. I've come to learn how true this is and just how appreciative I am for people like Jean, George, and Dan who've sought to bring me deeper into relationships with fellow BC alums and veterans.

I'd also like to acknowledge Fr. Bob Keane, a 6 B ndivliring me

, the day it was announced that he was leaving Mt. St. James bound for The Heights of Boston College. I have the greatest respect for Fr. Keane and was so gratified when I realized that I would be once again working with him upon arriving back at BC in 2015.

I'd also like to quickly acknowledge Captain Shermer, who is working hard to develop BC's ROTC cadets into future leaders who will carry with them a world view that is very much informed by their Boston College experience and a mission-informed focus of using their educations for the benefit of others...first and foremost...for the young men and women who will be entrusted to their care when they assume their first assignments and duty posts. These are

Although I did find myself wavering on my decision as I completed my senior year of high school, I stuck with it and arrived at Ft. Dix in July of 1986. To this day, it is one of the decisions of which I'm most proud and the one which I believe gave me the self-confidence and an enduring self-reliance on my ability to make important decisions. My military experience, however, gave me so much more:

Grit

Perseverance

Disciplin-3(e)4(rse)6(ve)4(r)-6(a)4(nc)4(e)JTJETQq0.00000912 0 612 792 re upf0l-M4612 792 r024 a19

world that is different from the one I encountered in 1986 when I struck out on my own. A world that appears much more polarized, much more intolerant, and much more impatient. It's a world that, quite honestly, needs more people who are willing to help, serve and engage others and who are willing to shoulder the burden of making society more loving and more just. The world needs America to continue to be a beacon of hope and for its institutions, like Boston College and the US Military, to educate and form ethical leaders who are willing to shoulder these burdens in service to something much larger than themselves.

With the launch of its new strategic plan in 2017, *Ever to Excel: Advancing Boston College's Mission*, the University is doubling down on its commitment to liberal arts education and efforts to improve the student formational experience. From expansion of the core renewal program, to the exploration of new programs that seek to integrate student's intellectual, spiritual, and social experiences, to the significant investment in integrated science, to the leveraging of strengths in