

1. Welcome. Thank you for returning to this special place, our Brighton Veterans Memorial and for joining us this afternoon to honor and thank our Veterans for their service to our nation. Last year, COVID required that we limit attendance here in person and stream this ceremony for others to watch. I'm glad we could return in person today to celebrate this patriotic holiday and honor Brighton's veterans. We will now begin our ceremony.
2. If you are physically able to do so, please rise for the presentation of the flag. Color Guard, Post Colors. Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance. After pledge...Color Guard Dismissed.
3. Please join me now in a moment of silence to honor the memory of the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation. God bless each of these brave Americans. (Silence) Please be seated. Before we go on, I also want to give special remembrance to Lt. Colonel Bruce Tyo, who passed away on March 31. Lt. Colonel Tyo was a decorated Army Veteran who began his service in the ROTC at RIT, then served in the Vietnam War, the Iraq War, the Gulf War and the War in Afghanistan.
4. We have a number of community leaders and officials joining us today. From the Town of Brighton, Town Board members Jason DiPonzio, Chris Werner, Robin Wilt and Christine Corrado. Monroe County Legislators Howard

Maffucci and Linda Hasman as well as County Legislator-Elect Sue Hughes Smith are here today, and I want to thank each of you. I also want to thank the members of the Kauffman Post of the JWV who are with us today. You were such a big part of making our Veterans Memorial possible, along with the family of the late Jim Vogel, former Town Board member and Marine and Marine Corps Reserve Colonel, who served on the TB for over 20 years and chaired the committee that directed the installation of this rugged Veterans Memorial. Kit Vogel thank you for being with us. I also want to thank Jimmie Highsmith who is with us today. Yesterday, Jimmie was sharing his experience, along with other veterans, at Brighton's Twelve Corners Middle School, at the school's Veterans Day Assembly.

In honoring our Veterans, we must also honor the families of our Veterans. Not only did they frequently endure long periods of separation from their loved ones while they served in the military, but so often they stand side by side after their loved one returns to civilian life, giving service to their communities and to other service members and veterans. I am humbled by your commitment to your nation and I am humbled by your commitment to stand beside the veteran in your family in his or her continued service in civilian life. We are a better nation because of

the service of our men and women in uniform who served to keep our country free and we are a better community because of the service of our veterans and their families to their neighbors upon their return home.

5. Proclamation. For many years, the Buffalo Soldiers Presentation Team of the Pennington-Moye VFW Post 9251 in Rochester have served as color guard or honored guests at patriotic and community events in Brighton. Under the leadership of Bing Reaves, Sr., the Buffalo Soldiers have not only served at special events, but they have been community ambassadors and historians, sharing the history of the Buffalo Soldiers, African American soldiers who first served in 1866 following the Civil War, and continued to serve during the conflicts with Native Americans on the frontier of the American West, as well as the Spanish American War, World Wars I and II, and other conflicts. Despite being segregated, until President Truman's executive order integrating the military in 1948, the Buffalo Soldiers served with honor, respect and love for their country. Today, Bing Reaves is with us, and it gives me great honor to read this proclamation. REMARKS

6. Now, I will recognize Congressman Joe Morelle. Thank You Joe for your work to support health and education for

veterans, and for your work on the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives.

7. Next, I would like to recognize NYS Assemblymember Sarah Clark, who handled veterans issues when she worked for US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and continues to do so as a member of the Assembly.
8. Finally, I will recognize County Executive Adam Bello. Monroe County has shown a great commitment to our veterans, under the leadership of County Executive Bello. Director of Veteran Services for Monroe County, Nick Stefanovic, who served for many years is also here today. Nick makes it a point to attend our patriotic ceremonies every year and we thank you for all that you do for our local veterans.
9. Please rise if you are physically able to do so. Color Guard, Retire colors. Color Guard, Dismissed. Thank you to the Brighton Police Department Color Guard. I thank you for attending and once again remind you that today and every day, we do well to thank our veterans, not only with our words but with our actions. Their actions are why we are here today. They gave us their best...they deserve nothing less from us. Thank you and I wish you a safe and healthy day.