



*From the Desk of Mayor
Charles W. Burkett*

Good morning:

Today is a special day for many reasons, not the least of which is the honor we have as Americans to venerate the brave men and women who have stepped up to serve our County.

It's also a special day for we get to celebrate the power of our democracy, and its ability to keep our Country and our military on the right course.

Our recent election has ushered needed change, especially as it pertains to the men and women who serve.

That new direction will refocus the priorities in our Country, and in our military.

Why is that important?

Because when it comes to the longstanding traditions and legacy of our armed services, the following virtues are non-negotiable. *Duty, integrity, ethics, honor, courage, loyalty, respect and selflessness.*

Tragically, the foregoing virtues had been supplemented in recent years with experimental and distractive directives such as equity and the like.

Those directives did not strengthen our military, rather I would argue that they have embarrassed and weakened our military forces – and distracted and created anxiety among the men and women who have chosen to serve, and who deserve better.

What do they deserve?

They deserve our respect, our thanks and our commitment to stand strong to protect the honorable legacy of all the armed services, to revere the men and women who died while serving and to honor and support those who serve today.

I thank God for our working democracy.

May God Bless our Country, may God Bless our Country's new direction and my God Bless all those who have, and are, serving in our military – the strongest, most lethal, most honorable, and most respected force for good, this world has ever known.

Thank you.