

"MAJOR GENERAL MCCONVILLE, PRESIDENT FAUST, LIEUTENANT GENERAL OELSTROM, MR. SOELDNER, MAJOR GENERAL DAVENPORT, BRIGADIER GENERAL RYAN, BRIGADIER GENERAL DEPRIEST, COL BORIGHT, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, ALUMNI, EDUCATORS, ADMINISTRATORS, STUDENTS, HARVARD CLASS OF 1961, FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS - WELCOME TO THE 2011 HARVARD UNIVERSITY COMMISSIONING CEREMONY."

"THIS HAS BEEN AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR FOR HARVARD AND ROTC. THIS YEAR HAS SEEN THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, ADMIRAL MULLEN, IN HIS VISIT TO HARVARD, MAKE A STRONG STATEMENT ABOUT ROTC, THE PRESIDENT SIGN INTO LAW THE REPEAL OF TITLE 10 UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION (§) 654, POLICY CONCERNING HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE ARMED FORCES, AND PRESIDENT FAUST AND THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY SIGN AN AGREEMENT ON NAVAL ROTC AT HARVARD. THERE ARE EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR HARVARD STUDENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN SERVICE TO THE NATION WHO WANT TO EARN COMMISSIONS AS MILITARY OFFICERS, JUST LIKE THOSE ON STAGE TODAY."

"TODAY'S COMMISSIONING CEREMONY MARKS THE TRANSITION OF THESE OFFICER CANDIDATES IN FRONT OF YOU FROM CADET OR MIDSHIPMEN INTO COMMISSIONED OFFICERS IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY, AND THE UNITED STATES NAVY. THESE

YOUNG MEN ARE ABOUT TO TAKE AN OATH TO SUPPORT AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES. THIS OATH WAS ESTABLISHED ON JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>, 1789, AS THE UNITED STATES' FIRST LAW TO ENSURE CIVIL AND MILITARY LEADERS' ALLEGIANCE TO THE COUNTRY."

"HARVARD HAS A LONG HISTORY OF EDUCATING THE NATION'S MILITARY LEADERS AND PROVIDING SUPPORT TO AMERICA'S ARMED FORCES. JUST THIS YEAR, ONE OF THESE SOON TO BE OFFICERS WAS RECOGNIZED FOR OUSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP, ONE AS A GATES MILLENIUM SCHOLAR AND FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR. WE ARE TREMENDOUSLY PROUD OF THIS CONTINUING HERITAGE AND FOR THE OUTSTANDING MILITARY LEADERSHIP THAT HARVARD HAS PROVIDED OVER THE LAST 4 CENTURIES."

"TODAY, HARVARD'S TRADITION OF SERVICE TO THE NATION CONTINUES THROUGH THESE POST 9-11 VOLUNTEERS. THEY HAVE CHOSEN SERVICE TO OTHERS OVER SERVICE TO THEMSELVES, FULLY KNOWING THEY WILL LIKELY BE IN HARM'S WAY. THEY WILL BE THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE EVER GROWING 'LONG CRIMSON LINE'. SINCE 1636, THOUSANDS OF HARVARD GRADUATES HAVE ANSWERED THE CALL TO MILITARY SERVICE, INCLUDING THOSE COMMISSIONING THROUGH THE RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS INTO THE US ARMY, MARINE CORPS, NAVY, AND AIR FORCE. THESE FOUR YOUNG MEN WILL BRING GREAT HONOR

UPON HARVARD AND WILL PROVIDE OUTSTANDING  
LEADERSHIP TO THE NATION AND TO ITS  
MILITARY SERVICEMEMBERS AS SECOND  
LIEUTENANTS IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND  
AS ENSIGN IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY."