Good Morning,

It is my pleasure to welcome each of you here today in honor of those who gave so much. I would like to take a minute and recognize Veteran and Council-woman Charlene Lovett and chair of the River Valley Community College Advisory Board and my husband Major Donald Wayne Smith and thank them for their service and each and every veteran gathered here and throughout our country for the sacrifices they made for securing our freedom.

As we all know freedom is not free and many have lost their lives and been injured in pursuit of freedom. We also recognize the sacrifices of their families as well.

President John F. Kennedy once said: and I paraphrase, “A nation reveals itself not only by the men and women it produces, but also by the men and women it honors, the men and women it remembers.”

As President of River Valley Community College, it is my honor to today pay tribute and honor to all of the men and women who have sacrificed for our freedom. Today we gather in remembrance of and in tribute to some of our nation’s finest and bravest.

Across our nation citizens and veterans will gather to pay homage to America’s finest men and women who gave their lives in defense of freedom. We honor those who gave what Abraham Lincoln called the “last full measure of devotion” in the fight for our liberty.

River Valley Community College is pleased to continue and expand its efforts to support Veterans on our campus through the efforts of Marlene Lewis, in her new role as Project Assistant for Student Affairs as she will serve as the College’s new Certifying Officer and Veterans Liaison and the efforts of Shannon Carney who will be joining us beginning next semester as our onsite American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corp who assist us with expanding services and support at River Valley Community College.
It is also my honor today to announce the establishment of River Valley Community Colleges’ President’s Veterans Affairs Council (PVAC), who will be chaired by Charlene Lovett and Major Donald Wayne Smith

PVAC will have as its primary purpose working with me and the college community to:

1. Promote Awareness in Community
2. Generate Programmatic Ideas and Events to support Veterans on Campus
3. Work in Partnership with College Personnel to expand Veteran Awareness and align Applicable Services

I am honored they these have agreed to work with us and take on this important task for River Valley Community College.

At this time, I would also like to have a moment of silence on behalf of all veterans at this time.

Thank you.