

REMARKS OF MAYOR NOAM BRAMSON
MEMORIAL DAY 2010

Ladies and gentlemen: good morning. Let me begin please by noting the presence of several colleagues and dignitaries.

On their behalf, and on behalf of all the residents of our community, I offer thanks to the United Veterans Memorial and Patriotic Association for organizing today's commemoration and parade, and for the hard work of bringing back, now for the third year, such a great community tradition.

We are honored by the presence of so many of New Rochelle's Police officers and Fire Fighters. Thank you all.

We welcome the members of the armed forces who are with us, and express our appreciation for their service.

And we can always count on the New Rochelle High School band to make an occasion special. Let's give them a big round of applause.

Finally, I note with pride the wonderful turnout from all across our city. We are united today in solemn gratitude for those – here in New Rochelle, and throughout America – who gave everything they could in service to our country.

It is not within our power to restore companionship to the widowed, nor love to the orphaned, nor life to the dead. Such healing we entrust to the world beyond our own.

And, in truth, all that we offer today, the music and the processions, the flags and the wreaths, though given with a fullness of heart, are symbols only. Our debt demands much more than a single day's celebration.

For it is within our power to honor the purpose of sacrifice, ensuring that no drop of blood shed on our behalf shall ever be shed in vain. It is the duty of those who do not wear the uniform to safeguard every day the virtues for which others have died – and still die.

And surely our task is by far the easier.

We are not asked to leave the comfort of home for a distant shore. We are not asked to kill or be killed.

Only to care for our neighbors, to live within our means, to debate with civility and respect, to stand up to injustice, and to value our children above ourselves.

A nation that lives by such principles is a far better memorial than any work of marble or stone. So let us prove worthy of those we remember today, and let us earn God's blessing on our country and her cause.

Thank you very much.