

Alhambra Pioneer Cemetery



Ignacio Plaza / City Hall









Veterans Hall Community Brunch



SERVICE WITHOUT PARTISANSHIP; SACRIFICE WITHOUT PREJUDICE

by David E. Fraser, Chief of Staff, Office of Supervisor Federal Glover

Remarks to the 2016 Veteran's Day Celebration

Martinez, California

I bring you greetings today from Contra Costa County District 5 Supervisor, Federal Glover. Supervisor Glover has asked that I convey his profound gratitude to you, the wonderful citizens of Martinez and neighboring communities, for affording a new opportunity to serve as county supervisor for 4 more years. And I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve as Chief of Staff, as I've done for the past 10 years.

Members of the Veteran community here in Martinez should know of my own commitment and sense of brotherhood I have for you. I plan my activities around the Veteran's Day and Memorial Day events that are held this city. It is that important to me.

This Veteran's Day is one that in many ways will remain prominent in my mind for a very long time to come. Allow me, please, to briefly explain why. On November 2, barely a few days ago, I drove my son, Private First Class Bryan Fraser, to San Francisco International Airport, where he boarded a flight for Seattle Washington. On the following morning, he and several other United State Marines, flew to Japan, where he will be stationed at Okinawa for the next two years. Only three weeks earlier, he completed his communications MOS at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twenty-nine Palms.

That my son has chosen to serve this great nation of ours; that he understands the importance of service and sacrifice; that he lives by a code of honor which has driven the United States Marines for 2 centuries, 4 decades, plus 1 year, gives me a sense of pride.

But there is a growing climate of dissatisfaction, disillusionment, and even disdain that troubles me. I'm concerned about the impact of those emerging attitudes on the men and women who are serving in our military. It is in this context on Wednesday morning that I wrote a brief message to my son. Here's what it said:

Son, we have a new Commander-in-Chief elect. Continue to keep focus, and do your duty as a good Marine. As always, I am very, very proud of you.

Why was it important to convey that message to him? Our service men and women protect and serve all Americans. The politics that guide administrative and executive decisions cannot and should not impinge upon their oath of service. You see we have a history where great Americans served in Vietnam only to return home to political disdain. They were spurned for fighting in a war that many deemed objectionable. Their sacrifice was met with derision.

Our service men and women should be honored for their service regardless of the political climate or the circumstances under which they must serve. Our soldiers, our sailors, our marines, our airmen, our coastguardsmen, understand well that theirs must be service without partisanship, and sacrifice without prejudice. And we as Americans must be grateful for that service and always, always, honor them for it.

To our veterans, and those who are on active duty and present here today, we salute you for your service. We thank you for your sacrifice. Semper Fidelis.