

Good morning, Bobcats.

Tomorrow is Veterans Day - a time for us to come together as a campus and as a nation with a shared purpose of honoring the brave men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Veterans Day is an opportunity to reflect on the courage, sacrifice and dedication of those who have defended our freedoms—and to express our deep gratitude for their service.

At FSU, we are committed to supporting our veterans and their families and are proud to have veterans among our students, faculty, staff and alumni. Their leadership and service enrich our campus, and on behalf of the entire university, I want to thank them for their unwavering dedication.

Frostburg has received the Military Friendly School designation for going above and beyond to ensure our service members, veterans, dependents and spouses are successful. We are also home to a chapter of SALUTE, which is the first national higher education honor society for student veterans and military service members.

This past May we held an honorific naming ceremony of the Captain James A. Graham Veterans Center, recognizing the life and service of 1963 Frostburg graduate Capt. Graham who was killed in the Quang Tri Province of South Vietnam during the war. The renaming of our center, which provides vital resources, advocacy and a welcoming community for our student veterans and their families, serves as a powerful tribute to the dedication, bravery and sacrifice to our country of Capt. Graham and all our veterans.

Tomorrow, our Veterans Center in partnership with the Frostburg Lions Club will celebrate our faculty, staff and student veterans in the Center for an informal lunch – all veterans are welcome! And all active-duty military and veterans can enjoy one free lunch at Chesapeake and one free coffee at Starbucks. Then, on Friday, our Veterans Center will co-host a coffee social with the Department of Veterans Affairs as one more way to thank our veterans for their service.

In closing, as we observe Veterans Day tomorrow, I encourage everyone to take a moment to thank a veteran, learn their story and reflect on the meaning of

service. To all who have worn the uniform—thank you. You make our campus and our country stronger.

With FSU pride,

Darlene Brannigan Smith, PhD