



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

Veterans Day 2019

The Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy

Esteemed Members of the Metropolitan Council, Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils, Philoptochos Sisterhood, Faculty and Students of the Catechetical and Greek Afternoon Schools, Directors and Participants of all Youth Organizations, and all devout Orthodox Christians of the Communities of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

My Beloved,

This weekend our nation pays respect to the men and women of the armed forces who selflessly offered themselves in the service of their country. One of the principles upon which this nation was founded was religious liberty. We have the freedom to practice our own faith and not to be subjected to another's beliefs in no small part because loyal veterans have defended this fundamental American right since our nation's creation. We are also the beneficiaries of many other rights which were fought for by these brave individuals.

Our rights to free speech, to equal treatment under the law, to vote, to assemble, and to the press are just some rights that have been preserved by veterans throughout the years. Moreover, the assurance of our national security and the preservation of freedom to our posterity is one of their greatest gifts with which our veterans have provided us. These freedoms, however, came at a dear price of toil, treasures, and blood.

It was by the sacrifice of our first veterans that we secured this nation's liberty. It was by the blood of noble patriots that the union was preserved and the scourge of slavery was eventually brought to an end. It was by the bravery of American soldiers that they joined the Triple Entente and other allied powers in Europe to confront the increasingly antagonistic actions of other countries. It was by the unparalleled courageousness of American servicemen that they fought to free Europe from the clutches of Adolf Hitler and fascism. It was by the delicate and dangerous work of veteran agents within the intelligence community that Americans have been kept safe from the numerous foes of freedom.

No one can ever measure the devotion these men and women have shown for their country nor can we ever offer them enough thanks for their sacrifice. At the very least, we must thank and honor their dedication with prayers for their safety, for their families, and for our nation. May we never forget the cost to preserve our freedom and to use our freedom wisely

in pursuit of peace and prosperity for all. Praying that each one of you reflects on the gift of freedom in the light of the dedication and sacrifice of our veterans, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Evangelos". The signature is written over a grid of small, faint text that includes the word "Signature.doc" and the number "21610" repeated in a pattern.

† E V A N G E L O S
Metropolitan of New Jersey