Dear PPSC Colleagues and Students,

On this Veterans Day, I invite our college community to pause and reflect with gratitude on the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have worn our nation's uniform, those who continue to serve today, and the families who stand alongside them.

For Pikes Peak State College, Veterans Day holds a particularly meaningful place in our history and our mission.

Our Centennial Campus stands on land that was once part of Fort Carson, donated by the Department of Defense to the State of Colorado to establish a college that would serve the educational needs of veterans returning from Vietnam. From our earliest beginnings, our institution was built, quite literally, on a commitment to those who have served our country.

That commitment continues today. Nearly one-third of our students are military-affiliated, and many of our faculty and staff are veterans, active-duty service members, military spouses, or family members of those who serve. Their experiences, perspectives, and contributions enrich our college community in countless ways.

Today, we honor all who have served, and we remember especially those whose service came at the greatest cost, those who lost their lives, those who returned with injuries both visible and unseen, and those who continue to carry the burdens of their service long after leaving the military.

We must also remember the families whose sacrifices are too often overlooked. Spouses, partners, children, parents, and loved ones endure long separations, uncertainty, worry, and sometimes profound loss. Their strength and sacrifice are inseparable from the service we honor today.

I am deeply proud that serving military members, veterans, and their families is not simply one of the many things we do at PPSC. It is part of who we are. It is woven into our history, reflected in our mission, and renewed every day through the opportunities we create for those who have served and those who love them.

To the veterans and military-affiliated members of our PPSC community: thank you for your service, your sacrifices, and the many ways you continue to contribute to our college and our nation.

And to all who work each day to ensure that PPSC remains a place of opportunity, belonging, and possibility for our military community, thank you for carrying forward this important part of our legacy.

Please offer your gratitude to our service members and veterans, not just on this special day, but throughout the year.

With gratitude and respect,

Lance Bolton
President, Pikes Peak State College