

Dear colleagues,

Please find below the remarks delivered by the President of the Staff Union at wreath laying ceremony to honor our fallen civilian, police and military personnel on occasion of Staff Day. Also attached is a link to the video feed in case you were not able to attend or follow the event.

“Mr. Secretary-General, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues.

On behalf of the United Nations Staff Union, I would like to welcome you to this important gathering. Today, we come together to honor the memory of our civilian, police and military personnel fallen at the service of the United Nations.

The United Nations strives to maintain international peace and security through the commitment, dedication, and sometimes sacrifice, of these men and women. The world has witnessed the remarkable reach of our civilian, police and military colleagues, deployed under the UN flag. They have delivered time after time in unprecedented circumstances while demonstrating valor in times of crisis.

Our civilian, police and military personnel and their families deserve everlasting gratitude and support from the United Nations family. As they are deployed to remote places, they continue to hold themselves to the highest standards of the organization. Guided by these principles, they do their utmost to prevent the loss of innocent lives, strengthen universal peace, and encourage the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms that all of us deserve to enjoy.

We have to remember that as we meet the threats of today's world, we cannot sacrifice the values of the United Nations: Honor, Courage and Selflessness. These are our greatest strengths, and the principles that make us a beacon to the world. We are the United Nations which, at its best, is defined by hope and not fear. We have overcome and continue to face many challenges, but that is who we are and that is what makes us stronger than any act of terror. We must always remember our history and keep in mind that the blue flag does not fly high because the wind moves it; it is elevated by the spirits of the men and women who have done their utmost to protect it since 1945.

So, we can't say it enough and we can't show it enough, but our deepest acknowledgement goes out to all of those who have sacrificed and continue to sacrifice. Thank you for the professionalism that is the hallmark of this organization and for the strength of character that you all represent, as we honor the blue flag that stands high around the world.

For a tribute to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, I now have the privilege of introducing the Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres. Thank you very much.

Now, I would like to invite, Mr. John Dietz, the President of the of the Association of Former International Civil Servants in New York to say a few words.

Mr. Secretary General, Mr Dietz, thank you both for your moving words, which capture the sentiments we all share towards our fallen colleagues. In the course of the day, let us keep in mind their virtues, their sacrifice, but also the good times we shared as friends and colleagues. Our colleagues in the Staff Union have put together an extensive programme of events for Staff Day. I would like to thank the many, many people who have devoted their time and energy to make

this day possible. I now invite you to enjoy Staff Day as a celebration in honor of those who we miss the most.”

Direct link: <http://webtv.un.org/watch/wreath-laying-ceremony-2019/6084071888001>

We would like to thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

*Patricia Nemeth*

President – United Nations Staff Union

Vice President for Conditions of Service – CCISUA