

From: **EZ Speechwriters**

To: **Colonel Patrick Morgan**

Thank you once again, for the opportunity to earn your business.



Colonel,

The points and suggestions we have offered before, are briefly worth repeating below.

- * Bring the microphone to you, do not bend into it.
- * Place your notes flat where you can read them without raising them into view.
- * Audience eye contact, Chris Ludlow eye contact.
- * Speak slowly.
- * Practice your speech three times, the dress rehearsal the morning of the speech.
- * If you make notes on your speech, clean those notes up beforehand as to not confuse yourself with scribbles between paragraphs, etc.
- * Speak in a tone as a commanding officer, but also tell your audience a story, converse with them.

Begin:

“Good afternoon, welcome, welcome, one and all. We are very pleased to be here today for this event, and even more pleased for the individual we are here to honor.

My name is Colonel Patrick Morgan, Commander, 165th. Medical Group.

Each time I have had the distinct honor to speak at such an occasion as this, I am not only flattered for being asked, but I am again front and center of one of the most dynamic military units within the United States Armed

Forces. Then to recognize one of us, for valor, service, commitment, and unwavering dedication to command and country, is a tribute to both the 165th and our guest of honor. The 165th is a legacy for excellence, going back three-quarters of a century. And no one has maintained those standards to a higher degree, than our retiring guest of honor. Please welcome Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Ludlow.

Applause

We would also like to welcome JoHanna, Chris' wife, and their children, Andre and Elizabeth. Welcome to all of you.

There can never be enough said about a warrior. To borrow from and paraphrase, Dr. Paul Whitesell, in his famous speech to the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy.

"Of the hundred, ten will stand above. Nine of those ten are true fighters. Ah, but that one, that one, is a true warrior, and that warrior, will bring the others home.

Regardless of what they carry as tools for their mission, regardless of their rank, and regardless of how the enemy perceives them, warriors are defined by their actions. They are the leaders; they are the ones who are up and gone before the siren even hits the first high note. They are the ones who comfort the injured, the frightened. And they are the ones who inspire greatness, duty, and victory. Lieutenant Colonel Chris Ludlow is a warrior.

Lieutenant Colonel Ludlow has been an integral part of the 165th for two decades. When our nation was challenged in 2001, a challenge that will forever remain in our minds, tens of thousands answered the call. Tens of thousands walked towards enlistment centers, tens of thousands trained shoulder to shoulder. And right there among them, was Chris Ludlow. During those times, Lieutenant Colonel Ludlow had one purpose, one goal, and that was to help his country in the way in which he was trained and skilled: medicine. I would venture that at that time, he may never have imagined that today; we would be honoring his retirement from an Air National Guard career spanning twenty-years.

The 165th Air Lift Wing, and 165th Medical Group, is a multi- faceted component of American military preparedness. Campaigns such as February's deployment in support of U.S. Air Forces Europe Commanders, or

the just decommissioned Georgia Coronavirus Response Task Force, as well as this month's The Military Child, and next month's Sentry Savannah, are all layers within the 165th's comprehensive abilities. But make no mistake about our core mission. We go to places that are volatile and hostile. Places that have been harmed, to fix the harm, mend the harm, evacuate from harm, and prevent harm. Every wheels-up, every gurney lifted, has a strategic purpose in mind; to get those we support either resupplied for the fight, relocated safely from the fight, or back into the fight. And we're ready, always ready. With the events in eastern Europe these past months I felt proud as I was made aware of a statement from a commander in another branch of our military. And her comment reflects the mission of many military units, including the 165th. She was asked, based on certain posturing from a potential aggressor, if she was ramping up readiness in her command? Her response, to paraphrase was:

"We are business as usual, because our business as usual is being ready at any time, at any level."

That doesn't come without leadership, without skills, and without dedication, from men and women, just like Lieutenant Colonel Chris Ludlow.

Lieutenant Colonel Ludlow has a distinguished medical career, both civilian and military. As an officer in the 165th, his contributions are significant:

- New Orleans deployment 2005, to medically assist the flood victims, and others, who suffered the devastations of Katrina.
- In 2009, Chris spent months in the Iraq war theater, as a physician caring for the needs of our military personnel and civilian contract employees.
- Between 2010 and 2013, Lieutenant Commander Ludlow was an integral part of the Georgia CERF-P; similar in nature to Homeland Security, as a responding entity to both natural disasters and acts of terrorism.
- More recently, when COVID struck, he volunteered for, and was granted, active-duty status for several months. In that time, he worked throughout a wide range of Georgia's hospitals, alongside their physicians, nurses, and technicians, to stem the Pandemic.

Those who are Air Lift Wing Medical Groups, are first responders in every sense of the term. And as such they are exposed to both the physical threats associated with an incident or disaster, as well as the accompanying emotional stress. They see things most people will never see in a lifetime, and they hear sounds that can pierce a

person's soul. They bring life back, and they give comfort to those who are tired from the journey. They need strength from within and from without, as no human being can witness what some do, and not be affected. They get that support from family, from coworkers, and from leaders. Chris Ludlow is such a leader. His character is exemplary. His empathy to those in need is inspirational. He leads by example, as a role model, and as a mentor. He has that unique quality that understands that the human condition requires both care and comfort. He is a gentleman, a skilled professional, and Lieutenant Colonel Ludlow, is a warrior. Chris Ludlow's skills, compassion, and his integrity, will be missed at the 165th.

Pause

For myself, for all those here today, and for the Air National Guard, thank you for service to country, to community, to Georgia, and to human dignity. May you and JoHanna explore unlimited new horizons in life and in spirit: Godspeed."

Pause

"Thank you everyone, enjoy the remainder of our celebration, and most importantly, please travel safely to your final destinations this afternoon."
