military speech

I have **been asked to be one of two keynote speakers at the upcoming Patriot Ball. This event has been growing exponentially over the past 5 years.  I asked who would be in attendance.  Here is the response**.

*We anticipate over 700 guests consisting of.****2 dozen military VIP, 40 Gold Star family members****. The remaining 650 guests will be patriots from all walks of life. Approximately 50 Chiropractors, Perhaps why we should be on Forward Operating Bases as Commissioned Officers, How we can help with the opioid crisis and suicide in the military/veteran community. Any topic relating to chiropractic and the military.*

**An impressive group. Yes I would like to say something about chiropractic and the lack of recognition, but I would like to leave a message in the 10-12 minute talk to this group.  June 6th marks the 75 anniversary of Normandy.  The brave men who understood the cost of freedom…..and were willing at a very young age to pay the price.  The Gold star families, who today, sacrifice the loss of a loved one is a huge price to pay.**

**I was just wanting to leave a very succinct message of Hope, Appreciation, Respect and admiration for these individuals who served in the military or whose lives have been forever changed by the events of battle, from WWI to every war we have, popular or not, has had casualties of the service men who were killed, wounded and their lives and families forever changed.**

**Maybe you have some thoughts which can help me craft a memorable message.**

**here is my initial start**

**Initial thoughts on the talk…….needs to be embellished.**

**To say I’m honored to be sharing this evening with so many members of the armed forces, active and retired, would be a great understatement.**

**I stand in awe of each of you.**

**And not just because some of your have stars on your shoulders or have traveled in space or have won our nation’s highest military honor … but rather because of something infinitely more basic:  Your sense of DUTY and dedication to our COUNTRY.**

**This is especially true in an era where so many of our young people seem so inwardly fixated.  It’s sad, but true, that “The Selfie” – the new tradition of taking your own picture and chronicling your own life – has become the pre-imminent symbol of so many folks under the age of 30.**

**But the military requires, indeed demands, that its men and women think first and foremost of the people for whom they are responsible.**

**And, of course, in a larger sense, about dedicating themselves – sacrificing themselves – first and foremost to the nation and their fellow citizens.**

**In a world where we all too often look out and ask, “where are our leaders, where are those who still put patriotism above partisanship, I think the answer is – like so many things in life – right before our eyes:  It’s you – the soldier, the leader, the sentry at the gate who protects all of us and the ideals that define us as a nation.**

**Each and every one of you are OUR HEROES and OUR PATRIOTS.**

**You know, it’s great that we finally say “thank you” to those in uniform for all that they do – the days and months away from home and loved ones, the danger – real and omnipresent in far-away places where the uniform and the flag are mortal targets, AND for doing what you are doing here tonight:  Sitting among us, swelling our hearts with pride, and reminding us, always, that a life well-lived is only so when we serve others.**

**Thank you, my friends, for your kind invitation, and thank you, the men and women who have served our nation in uniform – from the bottom of my heart – for all that you do.**

**May God bless each of you, and continue to bless this wonderful nation.**