Memorial Day 2010

Dear Friends,

Many of our faculty, staff, students and alumni, along with thousands of community members here in Inland Southern California, have served in the Armed Forces or have had members of their family do so.

And to each who served, we extend a heartfelt, "Thank you."

I ask that, with all the other festive activities you might have planned for this Memorial Day weekend, you not lose sight of the sobering fact that Memorial Day represents the single day of national awareness and reverence that specifically honors those Americans who died while defending our nation and its values.

This is a time for all - hawks and doves, veterans and civilians, residents and citizens - to come together to pause in respect for the men and women... the sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, spouses and partners, friends, uncles and aunts, and grandparents... who died in service of us.

There are many ways to participate.

On Memorial Day, at 3 p.m. local time, Congress established a National Moment of Remembrance... a 60-second pause. I hope, whatever you are doing at that time, you will take a moment and reflect.

Others will tend the grave of their beloved family member(s).

And others will go to a National Cemetery and participate in remembrances.

I am grateful that UCR's Professor Paul Green, from the Ethnic Studies Department, alerted me to the fact that the names of those who were buried in the past 12 months - some 5,500 individuals - will be read at the Riverside National Cemetery starting at 9 a.m., Sunday, May 30, and concluding by sunset (http://socalpgr.org/SoCalPGR/RNC.html).

And under the category of "this is Southern California after all," if you ride a motorcycle, there are Patriot Thunder and West Coast Thunder rides being organized for Monday, May 31, with starting points from Barstow to San Diego, and Long Beach to Banning, to converge on the Riverside National Cemetery in honor of America's fallen... several thousand riders are expected (http://socalpgr.org/SoCalPGR/SoCal_Events/Entries/2010/5/31_Entry_1.html and http://www.westcoastthunder.com/ride_info.html).

Whatever your plans are this weekend, I ask that you be reflective, and safe on the crowded
roads and waters.

To our students and faculty, enjoy a moment's respite before the final-end-of-the-academic-year-push of examinations, papers and projects ... all of which culminate in Commencement 2010 on the campus of the University of California, Riverside, on June 11, 12, 13 and 14 on the Pierce Lawn near the Bell Tower.

Warm regards,

Tim

Tim White, Chancellor

Share your thoughts: http://fridayletters.ucr.edu/leavefeedback

**Operation Education**
UCR becomes one of three American universities with an Operation Education Scholarship Program, which provides additional financial assistance to U.S. military veterans with service-related injuries sustained since Sept. 11, 2001. My wife, Karen White, is leading this effort, which is modeled after the successful program we started at the University of Idaho.
http://newsroom.ucr.edu/news_item.html?action=page&id=2349

**Remembering Beijing**
China is preparing to open a spectacular museum commemorating the Summer Games and China's role as host nation. And who is the chief designer on the project? UCR's own Haibo Yu, associate professor of theater.
http://newsroom.ucr.edu/news_item.html?action=page&id=2337

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