Saddleback College Recognizes First Responders at 9/11 Commemoration

Mission Viejo, CA – The Saddleback College community today remembered the victims of 9/11 and honored first responders at its 9/11 commemoration ceremony on the Saddleback College campus. One of Saddleback College’s own first responders, Campus Police Chief and Marine Corps Veteran Harry Parmer, led the ceremony. In attendance were students in the Saddleback College paramedic program, including student speakers Nick Colonelli and Adam Miller, who also served in Iraq.

The ceremony opened with remarks from the college’s president, Dr. Tod A. Burnett, who stated, “September 11th is a day that will forever be in our hearts and minds. It was a day when the spirit of America shined through the darkest hours of fear and destruction. Today’s somber ceremony is a time to reflect on the heroism of our first responders and the commitment of the American people to unite and rebuild after an act of terrorism that sought to break the American spirit, but failed.”

In his statement, paramedic student Adam Miller said, “Our first responders showed true bravery and heroism on 9/11, and many made the ultimate sacrifice in their pursuit to save the lives of their fellow citizens. As a student in Saddleback College’s paramedic program, it is an honor to follow in their footsteps so I too can help those in their greatest hours of need.”

Joining the Saddleback College paramedic students in the presentation of the memorial wreath were Chancellor Raghu P. Mathur, Ed.D., Dr. Burnett, and Saddleback College’s Academic Senate President Bob Cosgrove and Classified Senate President Mary Williams. South Orange County Board of Trustees Member Dave Lang was in attendance. Erin Maremont, Assistant in the Student Development Office, closed the ceremony by singing an a cappella rendition of “America the Beautiful.”

Attached photos: Saddleback College Paramedic Program students Adam Miller (left) and Nick Colonelli lay the ceremonial wreath; Saddleback College Campus Police Officers Santos Garcia, Beau Arbuthnot, and Jim Pyle serve as the Color Detail.
Located in Mission Viejo, Saddleback College is celebrating its 40th year of providing quality higher education to the south Orange County community. For more information on the college and its programs, please visit www.saddleback.edu.

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