



CAL MARITIME
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Message from the President
May 27, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

As we approach our national Memorial Day holiday, I wish you and your families a safe, happy weekend. This holiday is only 51 years old, having been originally established as Decoration Day in the years after the American Civil War to honor slain Union soldiers. In 1971, the United States Congress created this national holiday to recognize the sacrifices of American service members in all conflicts. As we each enjoy time with our families, barbecues, picnics, and the opening of summer, please take a moment to recognize the meaning of this holiday. There are thousands of heroes buried at Arlington, in Normandy, France, and around the globe who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our Country. We offer our profound thanks and gratitude to those with loved ones who died in service to our Nation.

I also hope you will take a moment to share and celebrate your many accomplishments at Cal Maritime this year. All of you contributed to a safe, productive, and successful academic year. The dedicated work of many hands over many years culminated in the beautiful commencement ceremony for the Class of 2022, a moment anticipated and celebrated by so many Keelhauler families. Thank you.

I cannot write to you without sharing a deep sense of distress. As a campus community we are, seemingly in the same moment, experiencing the fading glow of another spectacular commencement, the satisfaction of having our academy recognized nationally for excellence, the difficult but ultimately successful departure of the GOLDEN BEAR on sea training, and then the sickening and gut-wrenching news of our fellow Americans being murdered in cold-blooded attacks by gunmen across our country. This wide range of emotions, from joy and happiness to profound sadness and anger, leaves many of us reeling or disoriented.

As we return to our work next week, I ask you to join me in dedicating some time to dialogue, informally, with our campus teammates regarding these disturbing, senseless, and horrific incidents. In our role as educators of the next generation of leaders, I ask you to consider our role in addressing the root causes of these incidents and commit to meaningful impacts in the moral and social development of our academy cadets. We must prepare them to live in, lead, and create an inclusive, just society for all Americans. In doing so, we will deliver a “more perfect union” and truly honor the sacrifices of those heroes resting in Arlington and beyond.

In service, TC



CAL MARITIME

Thomas A. Cropper
President
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