



PACIFICA
GRADUATE INSTITUTE

Veterans Day Message from the Office of the President

November 11, 2023

Dear Pacifica Community,

As we come together to observe Veterans Day, let us delve into the profound realm of the human spirit and reflect on the continued importance of tending to the souls of our military service members. Beyond the visible acts of valor, the warrior's journey is a complex tapestry of experiences that echo in the depths of their souls.

On this eleventh Day of November, we honor the courageous individuals who have fearlessly and selflessly served their fellow Americans. While our veterans span different eras, they share common experiences that call for our respect, compassion, and unwavering support.

In the face of a growing mental health crisis, particularly among veterans and the lasting effects of war, the demand for licensed professionals to address emotional and psychological needs is pressing. From Pacifica's founding mission to aid veterans, families, and young people in response to the Vietnam War and cultural upheaval in the 1970s to our current endeavor of tending the soul of and in the world, Pacifica has been on a transformative journey intertwined with the experiences of crises. With our breadth of therapists, clinicians, and resources, Pacifica stands committed to flattening this curve. We extend our heartfelt acknowledgment and appreciation to all those engaged in this crucial work within our Pacifica community and beyond.

As an employer, educational institution, and support network, Pacifica is dedicated to attracting, developing, and retaining highly skilled veterans who bring invaluable perspectives. With over 30 veterans currently enrolled and a legacy of certifying more than 100 students for VA benefits, we take pride in fostering a community that values and supports our military members.

Our commitment extends to partnerships with organizations focused on bridging the gap between employers and veterans. The Pacifica Graduate Institute Alumni Association (PGIAA) serves as a beacon, offering resources and services through the PGIAA Support Network, including the CareLine (805-679-6163) and the impactful Return the Gift initiative. We invite you to explore the inspiring journey of Eduard Uzumeckis, Ph.D., a disabled Vietnam War veteran, through our Alumni Spotlight on <https://pgiaa.org>.

Through the Yellow Ribbon program, Pacifica continues to provide scholarships for qualifying veterans under the Post 9/11 GI Bill®, ensuring accessibility to transformative education. For details on Pacifica's support for veterans, visit <https://www.pacifica.edu/financial-aid/pacifica-yellow-ribbon-scholarship-program/>

Throughout November, let us collectively:

1. Connect, listen, and learn the stories of our brave men and women, sharing them with future generations.
2. Write a thank-you note, share a story, or express gratitude through our [Connect Form](#), featured on the Office of the President's webpage.
3. For employees, indicate your veteran and disability status through your ADP login. This confidential information aids our Human Resources department for federal reporting purposes and contributes to our community's diversity.

As we express our gratitude on this day, let us go beyond surface-level acknowledgment. Together, we embark on a journey of collective soul-tending, recognizing that every individual, including our veterans, carries a unique narrative worthy of exploration and healing.

To our veterans, we extend our deepest appreciation. Your service has protected our freedoms and enriched our collective understanding of the human spirit. May we, as a university community, continue to honor and tend to the souls of our soldiers.

Joyfully Serving,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leonie Mattison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Leonie H. Mattison, Ed.D, MBA
President and CEO