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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Running Thunder Ceremony at Cal Poly 'P' Honors Sept. 11

To mark the six-month anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Cal Poly's Running Thunder club will host a public ceremony Sunday repainting and rededicating the "P" on the hilltop above campus.

Painting the 50-foot Poly P in various colors and themes in connection with events is a university tradition. In a response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the campus painted the concrete letter with the stars and stripes of the American flag Sept. 13; it has appeared that way since then in memory of those who died in the attacks.

Sunday afternoon the club will repaint the P white in a ceremony marked by a barbecue, a color guard ceremony, a period of silence, prayer, and speeches by local officials reflecting on issues Cal Poly and San Luis Obispo now face as a result of the attacks.

The event is free and open to the public. Bus transportation to the P will be provided from the H-4 parking lot across Perimeter Drive from the Fisher Science Building at the entrance to Poly Canyon.

Transportation begins at 3 p.m. Sunday. The barbecue will run from 3 to 4:30 p.m. on the lawn at the base of the P, with speeches beginning at 4 p.m. Speakers include San Luis Obispo Mayor and Cal Poly Professor Allen Settle, Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker, Associated Students Inc. President Angie Hacker and representatives from local police and fire departments.

A multi-faith group of leaders from local churches will preside over a brief prayer and following period of silence as the P is repainted. The Cal Poly ROTC Color Guard and the Cal Poly Marching Band will perform at sunset, followed by a spotlighting of the freshly painted P. In the event of rain, all activities except the actual painting will move to Chumash Auditorium.

Running Thunder is the Cal Poly Club charged with maintaining the Cal Poly P. The ceremony is being sponsored by Running Thunder, the Cal Poly Spirit Council, Student Community Services, Cal Poly Athletics, the Cal Poly Alumni Association, and Associated Students Inc.

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