



November 11, 2021

Dear campus community,

Today is Veterans Day in the United States of America. Unlike Memorial Day, when we pause to remember those who gave the last full measure of devotion in service to their country, today we recognize, honor, and express appreciation to all who have honorably served in the United States Armed Forces. It is because of their service that we all can sing of America as the “land of the free and the home of the brave.” President Woodrow Wilson, writing on the first “Armistice Day,” as Veterans Day was then known, reflected that this day would be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of these men and women, and for the opportunity it gives America to “show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of nations.”

South Carolina is home to approximately 400,000 U.S. military veterans -- about 10 percent of the state’s population. The University of South Carolina Upstate highly values these veterans, and our determination to serve them with a transformational education is the reason USC Upstate is ranked No. 1 by U.S. News and World Report among Best Colleges for Veterans in the Regional Colleges South category. A total of 133 veterans are students here, and another 114 dependents of veterans are enrolled. We are honored they have chosen USC Upstate to begin or continue their higher education, and are proud to support them during their time here, whether it be through our campus “green zones,” where student veterans can feel safe speaking to faculty, staff or fellow student, or our Student Veterans Association, which helps our veterans connect with the resources they need to succeed. Additionally, we have many veterans among our staff and faculty, and are grateful for their commitment and contributions to our campus.

To our veterans: I am sincerely grateful for your service and sacrifice. To all Spartans: Please take a moment today and every day to encourage and thank the veterans in your family or on campus. Without the service of these talented and dedicated men and women, American higher education would not exist; our form of teaching depends upon freedoms of association, expression, thought, and movement delineated in the Constitution. Our veterans make it possible for us to enjoy these freedoms in peace and safety. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bennie L. Harris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Bennie L. Harris  
Chancellor

**University of South Carolina Upstate**

800 University Way | Spartanburg, SC 29303

***Up is where we live.***