



January 9, 2019

SBCC Community -

Today marks the 1-Year Anniversary of the debris flows that devastated Montecito and our greater community. I know that our entire community will be reflecting today.

As a former firefighter, I responded to well over 1,000 calls involving fires, auto accidents, emergency medical services, or rescues. Some calls were nothing, other were significant; however, nothing I experienced came close to what the fire fighters experienced one year ago. Unimaginable. What great appreciation I have for the herculean efforts of our first responders in the hours, days, weeks, and months following this disaster. It also gives me great appreciation - and awe - of the everyday heroes that stepped up in ways big and small in the aftermath of these events.

I am immensely proud of the ways in which each of you played some role or part in providing assistance and support to a colleague, a student, a first responder, a neighbor, or one of the many evacuees who came to our campus seeking refuge and safety. It is a cornerstone of what makes this community and college strong and resilient.

I witnessed the best in us on that day and the days that followed. I hope you will take a moment to think about the lives that were lost, the families that were impacted and the communities that are forever changed. The following short [video](#) has been compiled with first-hand stories of Montecito Firefighters sharing their stories.

This evening, there is a remembrance event which the entire community is invited to participate in. You can find more information about the event here: [Raising Our Light](#). If you are able, I encourage you to attend. I am certain it will be a touching tribute and time to reflect.

We are 805 Strong!