



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1 March 2019

Mr. Dwaine B. Duckett
Vice President
University of California
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Mr. Duckett,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to express our horror and disgust that the University of California continues to employ Professor Joshua Clover, who has called for and continues to advocate for the mass murder of law enforcement officers as well as urging them to take their own lives.

On Thanksgiving Day in 2014, this hateful person stated:

“I am thankful that every living cop will one day be dead, some by their own hand, some by others, too many of old age #letsnotmakemore”

Not all families can gather around their tables to be together on Thanksgiving. For many, their loved one will be at work—keeping our homes and streets safe so that others may enjoy the holiday. For other families, the space at the table will be empty because their loved one gave their lives in service to the public. Since this vile utterance, more than 600 officers died in the line of duty.

Law enforcement officers struggle with the physical and mental stresses of their job—stresses which have only increased in recent years because of the rise in hatred and violence directed at them. These officers struggle with their mental health and that struggle impacts their families as well. For far too many, the answer is suicide. While the actual number of officer suicides is unknown, it is reliably estimated that suicides outnumber the total number of line of duty deaths, meaning that more than 600 officers took their own lives since the day Professor Clover gave thanks for a future full of dead cops.

It is difficult to understand what kind of person has such vile thoughts, but it is apparently someone you feel comfortable employing. I submit to you that had he made this comment about any other profession or group he would not be teaching students at the University of California. Your institution would not shrug off such contemptible vitriol as merely academic expression.

His call for mass murder and increased police suicides was disgusting enough, but just after Christmas Day 2014, he encouraged ambushes against law enforcement officers and offered advice to increase the chances that the officer would be killed:

“I mean, it’s easier to shoot cops when their backs are turned, no?”

Targeted ambush attacks on law enforcement have been increasing over the last several years. In 2016, 253 officers were shot in the line of duty and 64 were killed—33% of which were by ambush. In a study of attacks on law enforcement between 2010 and 2016, 20% of ambushed officers were seated in their patrol cars when they were attacked. This report also states that:

“56 percent were not on a call or engaged in any enforcement activity. Many of these officers were simply eating, sitting on post, or in five cases, targeted and killed while at their home or on their way home.”

As far as we know, there have been two ambush attacks on law enforcement officers in 2019, including the murder of Officer Natalie Corona of the Davis Police Department. Officer Corona was investigating a multi-vehicular crash when she was shot and killed by an individual not connected to the incident. As repugnant as Professor Clover is, his statement is correct—it’s easier to shoot and kill someone when their backs are turned, which is why the Davis Police Department issued a shelter-in-place order for University of California students on the Davis campus. Officer Corona’s colleagues, however, remained in harm’s way and ultimately found her killer. No students were harmed and no one else was shot in the back that day.

Thousands of people came to the emotional memorial service at the UC-Davis campus for this incredibly young and talented law enforcement officer. The horror of having this 22 year-old life snuffed out while her back was turned hurt the community she served very deeply. It sickens me that Professor Clover was likely celebrating the killing of this young lady—it was, after all, another cop who would not die of old age.

Law enforcement officers are too often subjected to hate-fueled violence in word and deed. Nationwide, law enforcement agencies are striving to improve policing services and better our relationships with the communities we serve. Professor Clover, however, seems to reject such efforts:

“People think that cops need to be reformed. They need to be killed.”

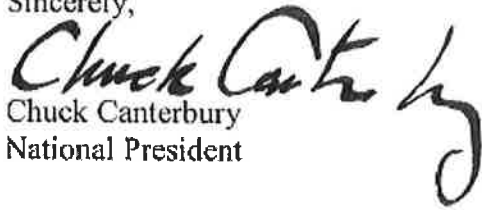
He made this statement in 2016, a year which saw an increase of 56% in felonious firearms deaths for law enforcement. It is frightening to think that this person actually teaches students and your university pays him to do so.

Law enforcement officers *are* being killed. So far in 2019, 55 officers have been shot in the line of duty and 11 have been killed. The danger to law enforcement officers is also increasing, in part because of people like Professor Clover, who urge others to find a gun and to use it on an officer while their back is turned. Vice President Duckett, this is a vile and bloodthirsty man and

I do not believe that the University of California, an institution of some distinction, should associate with, let alone employ, such a detestable person.

Professor Clover has every right to spew his egregious, hate-filled calls for the mass murder of our young men and women in service to their communities, but you and the tuition-paying students are not obligated to subsidize it or provide him a platform. On behalf of the more than 345,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I urge that you sever all ties with him and condemn, in the strongest possible terms, his repeated calls to murder my law enforcement colleagues. I am happy to discuss this issue with you further and you can reach me or Executive Director Jim Pasco at my Washington office. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Canterbury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "C" at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail that loops back under the name.

Chuck Canterbury
National President