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Chapman Student Launches Campaign to Send a Million Text Messages to Troops

Shauna Fleming, 18, Will Lead Fellow Chapman Students in Group Texting Effort to Kick Off the Campaign, Friday, Nov. 16 at 10 a.m.

ORANGE, Calif., Nov. 15, 2007 A Chapman University student who has sent more than 4 million thank-you letters, cards and emails to U.S. service members stationed around the world is now encouraging Americans to send one million thank-you text messages to U.S. troops during Thanksgiving week. To set the pace, freshman Shauna Fleming has invited a crowd of her fellow Chapman students and university staff members to join her in a group text-messaging effort on Friday, Nov. 16 in front of Memorial Hall on the Chapman campus in Orange to get the thank-you texting campaign started. Uniformed military personnel will also be on hand to get the campaign rolling. According to Fleming, 18, founder of AMillionThanks.org, citizens all across the United States can send free text messages to the troops beginning at 6 a.m. EST on Saturday, Nov. 17 and ending at midnight PST on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 22.

Anyone who sends a text message of thanks to a member of the armed services at 8-9-2-7-9 will receive a reply within seconds from a member of the U.S. armed forces currently serving in any of 177 countries, expressing his or her appreciation for the support, personally and on behalf of others who are serving. All of the major mobile wireless providers AT&T Wireless (Cingular), Verizon, Sprint (Nextel, Qwest) and T-Mobile are providing this free access to the America Supports You text-messaging program.

The goal is to get people to take a moment during the Thanksgiving holiday season to think about those who are serving this nation, and to tell them we appreciate their sacrifices, says Fleming. I've seen firsthand how the simple words thank you can give a positive morale boost to our military men and women and this text campaign will have a positive impact on their families as well. She adds that the troops families will be told how many people have texted in their thanks and will be able to see many of the text messages that are sent.

Fleming's A Million Thanks (www.amillionthanks.org) organization was the first member of the America Supports You program when it was founded in 2004. Since then, the America Supports You program has welcomed more than 300 grassroots organizations and 35 corporate sponsors to its team. America Supports You team members support the troops through varied efforts, including letter writing, care packages, helping the wounded when they return home and assisting military families. To learn more about how you can help, please visit www.americasupportsyou.mil.