

what's up doc?

by Dr. Mary Livers, PH.D, MSW, Deputy Secretary

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Hello, Everyone:

Well last weekend's start of football season was not kind to our teams in Louisiana. LSU fans were disappointed after a very rare cancellation due to weather. Now they have been spending all week trying to figure out if the Tigers are ready for Mississippi State (and how to get refunds for the cancelled game). UL Lafayette nearly upset University of Kentucky, but Kentucky squeaked by the Cajuns in their season opener. I am sure many of you were watching the LA Tech/Southern University game, since we have lots of alumni from both schools. LA Tech came out on top, but Southern has already had a chance to redeem itself beating Mississippi Valley State last night.

I hope you enjoyed Labor Day weekend visiting family and friends at barbecues, reunions, and parties. I spent the last long weekend going into fall in Texas. I took my Mom to a memorial service for my Aunt Margie. My Aunt was 92 and died in her sleep. The way to go for sure. Despite her age and full life, it is hard to say goodbye.

She was a very sweet person, and had a positive impact on everyone she knew. A memorial is a celebration of life, but it is also a good time to do a gut check. It is a good time to ask, "What would be said about me if I were the dearly departed?" Am I living the way I would like to be remembered? I know my Aunt Margie did.

Funerals and memorials are an essential part of the grieving and healing process for families. I have to say it was nice to see my family. So many families are torn apart during difficult times like these. We have all heard of those horror stories. My aunt did it right and had her affairs in order; it made it easy on everyone. Not to sound too morbid, but any of us could drop any day. It is a good thing to have your legal stuff in order so the family is taken care of and there are no unnecessary fights over the estate or the funeral.

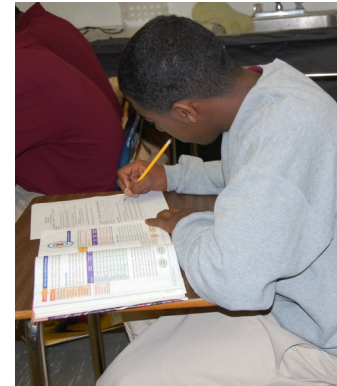
I know that some folks around central office are feeling really busy between work and home. I am sure that many of you in the field and facilities feel the same way; I am. My schedule is wicked crazy for the next few months. I keep telling myself to be more balanced, but it is hard to say no. Staying balanced and calm is an art, which requires constant managing. Some days I do better than others, just remember "stay calm and BE OJJ!"

I know one group of folks that is probably having no trouble finding calm right now – our recent retirees! Try to stay in touch with your former coworkers. Even though they are living the life of leisure, we want them to know that we still care about and miss them. I hope they all feel like they want to stay in touch with us. They probably don't miss the grind and the stress, but I know they miss great people that they worked with at OJJ.

Today, 9/11 is a day that will be forever etched in the mind of Americans. It is hard not to think back on where you were on that fateful day. Many first responders lost their lives trying to save others. Monday, September 14 has been set aside as a day of prayer for the Louisiana law enforcement who have lost their lives in the line of duty this year. Please take some time this weekend and Monday to pay tribute to these officers. They left behind families and friends that need to be reminded that their loss will not be forgotten.

I'll close with my sincere thanks to every member of the OJJ team, wherever you serve, for all you do every day to meet the mission.

Sincerely,
"Doc" *Dr. Mary Livers*



Comments?
Send them to
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