

Islamic Society of Vermont

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To Whom It May Concern:

On October 15, 2013, the Muslim community in the state of Vermont as well as in many other parts of the world will celebrate a very important holiday in Islam known as Eid al-Adha. Eid al-Adha is one of only two holidays in Islam and it comes at the end of a very significant religious ceremony known as Hajj (i.e., the pilgrimage to Mecca).

Eid al-Adha is a religious festival for Muslims worldwide to celebrate the willingness of Prophet Abraham (known as Ibrahim in Arabic) to sacrifice his son as an act of obedience to God (Known as Allah in Arabic). The devil tempted Abraham by encouraging him to disobey God and spare his son. As Abraham was about to sacrifice his son, God intervened and instead provided a lamb as the sacrifice. To symbolize such event, on this day, all over the world, Muslims who have the means will sacrifice an animal as a reminder of Abraham's obedience to God, which is to serve as guidance and inspiration for Muslims. The meat is then divided among family, friends, and the needy members of the community. This day is truly a special day for Muslims and one in which our focus is supposed to be on celebration of the story of Abraham.

Accordingly, we sincerely appeal to your consideration in making religious accommodations for your Muslim student or employee on that day by permitting them to receive an excused absence. Of course, we expect the student to fully make up any work that may have been missed because of this accommodation.

Sincerely,

The Islamic Society of Vermont

October 9th, 2013