



DOCCS, City of Auburn Celebrates 200th Year of Auburn Correctional Facility

DOCCS Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci, along with Executive staff from both the Department's Central Office and Auburn Correctional Facility joined Auburn Mayor Michael Quill to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Auburn Correctional Facility.

Constructed in 1817, Auburn was the second state prison to open once housing female inmates, as well as male inmates, from 1817 to 1828, then again from 1893 to 1933. Auburn was the first prison in the world to house an electric chair starting in 1890. The facility was authorized to use the electric chair from 1890-1916. A total of 54 men and one woman were put to death in the chair including William Czolgosz, the man who assassinated President William McKinley.

"The history of Auburn Correctional Facility is fascinating. Not only is it remarkable that the state's second oldest prison is still standing 200 years later but equally remarkable is the fact that it is still open and operating today. This facility is an icon of the City of Auburn allowing many families to grow here thanks to its ability to employ generation after generation who have spent their lives protecting the citizens of the city and the state," said DOCCS Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci.

During the celebration, which was held on Founder's Day, the facility's Honor Guard performed the national anthem. A plaque recognizing and honoring all employees for the past 200 years was then presented to be placed at the facility. The day also featured musical performances, food and drinks, and displays of historical photographs of the facility.

In 1929, during a riot, large portions of the housing blocks and industry program buildings burned down. Twelve years later, in 1941, they were rebuilt.

Today, the maximum security prison has a capacity of 1,766 inmates, with an average of about 1,500 housed on any given day in general population. The facility also houses an Intermediate Care Program for mentally ill inmates, serves as an intake facility to house inmates before they are sent to a reception center, and as a place to hold inmates on a short stay while in transit to other facilities.

Auburn is home to two large Industries Programs, the License Plate Shop and Wood Furniture Shop. A total of 124 inmates work in the plat shop producing license plates for

the Department of Motor Vehicles. The Wood Furniture Shop currently employs a total of 101 inmates.

