



Six Puppies Find New Homes After Dog Tags Graduation

Inmates from the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility's Puppies Behind Bars Program participated in the Department's most recent Dog Tags Graduation held in December 2016.

The ceremony marked the completion of the second graduation of 2016 as a similar event was held in the Fall, at the Otisville Correctional Facility.

The graduations are a culmination of the program where inmates raise service dogs for veterans suffering from PTSD or traumatic brain injury. The puppies arrive at the facility when they are eight months old and undergo training for 24 weeks. For the final two weeks, training is conducted between the puppy raisers and the veterans.

The 2016 Bedford Hills graduates included Sergeant First Class Andrew Bayer, U.S. Army, (New York) and his dog Fenway, Sergeant Justin Bazan, U.S Army, (New York) and his dog Magnum, Specialist Timothy Crowley, U.S. Army National Guard, (Pennsylvania), and his dog Flora , Master Sergeant Leonard Fallis, U.S. Army, (New York) and his dog Chuck, Staff Sergeant Raymond Long, U. S. Army, (South Carolina) and his dog Travis and Sergeant First Class Ernest MacArthur, U. S. Army, (Florida) and his dog Emerson.

The program achieves several goals including building confidence through socialization, learning commands, obedience work, and being able to go into public places. Training was conducted between puppy raisers, veterans, and the Director of Puppies Behind Bars, Ms. Gloria Gilbert Stoga.