



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the citizens of the Empire State recognize that the highest level of commitment among our State's Department of Correctional Services employees contributes to the steady vigilance, dedication and professionalism which remain core values of DOCS, as this important component of our State's law enforcement system is also recognized to be a demanding and challenging line of public service; and

Whereas, thousands of DOCS "citizen soldiers" have served and are currently serving in the National Guard and Army Reserves, fulfilling the call to duty in protecting New Yorkers, Americans, and people in other countries of the world – many of them in the Mideast as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

Whereas, among them is Franklin Correction Officer Christopher M. Paiser who was activated as a member of the New York National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, and on June 16, 2004, while on duty in Iraq where he was stationed at Camp Anaconda, the unit came under mortar attack – as a result, CO Paiser sustained injuries to his eyes, for which he continues to be treated for loss of vision; and

Whereas, thousands of Correctional Services employees have proudly stepped forward to perform additional prison duties in the absence of CO Paiser and other "citizen soldiers" as part of their contributions to our Nation's security; and

Whereas, this year, the Legislature approved my Administration's proposed apportionment of \$12 million in recompense to the survivors of prison employees slain during the 1971 inmate riot at Attica and to the employee hostages who survived captivity, as well as our proposal that establishes an official day of commemoration to be observed every September in honor of the slain employees, and to take place at the memorial built on prison grounds; and

Whereas, this year, the Department will award its Medal of Honor to CO Paiser and two other deserving employees, and bestow its Medal of Merit upon two distinguished employees, while observing the memory of 35 employees who gave their lives in the line of duty as a result of inmate actions; in light of the tremendous dangers faced by these honorees and others every day while serving the people of New York State, we are especially grateful to all law enforcement professionals who uphold the safety of our communities and achieve this goal through their cooperative work in all areas of the criminal justice system, and as the sixth annual ceremony takes place at the DOCS memorial on the grounds of the Albany Training Academy, it is fitting that the citizens of this State remember and commend all correctional employees for performing such perilous and challenging duties with the greatest vigilance and attentiveness to public safety;

Now, Therefore, I, George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim June 5-11, 2005 as

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES EMPLOYEE WEEK

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this ninth day of
June in the year two thousand five.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor