



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the citizens of the Empire State recognize that the highest level of professionalism and commitment demonstrated by our State's Department of Correctional Services employees contributes to ensuring public safety and has made New York's one of the safest correctional systems in the nation; and

Whereas, Department employees work cooperatively, day in and day out, with employees at the New York State Division of Parole, Office of Mental Health, Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, inmate families, religious and community organizations, and local governments to carry out initiatives that facilitate a successful re-entry and transition back into society of the approximately 26,000 inmates who are released from the Department's custody each year, enhancing these individuals' ability to function as productive members of society; and

Whereas, the Department's staff has worked to increase treatment services for incarcerated sex offenders, while joining with staff of the State Office of Mental Health to provide increased mental health assessments and expanded and new treatment regimens including alternative residential housing for the growing number of inmates entering the correctional system who require mental health care; and

Whereas, Department employees serve in more than 300 different job capacities ranging from cooks, teachers and nurses, to clerks, secretaries and counselors, to correction officers, sergeants, lieutenants and captains, to superintendents and deputy superintendents, providing diverse services to the people of the State of New York; and

Whereas, this year, the Department will award seven Medals of Merit to distinguished employees in recognition of these employees' willingness to risk their lives off the job to help fellow citizens, while also honoring the memory of 35 employees who over the years have given their lives in the line of duty as a result of inmate actions; and

Whereas, in light of the tremendous dangers faced by these brave individuals every day while serving the people of New York State, and as the ninth annual ceremony takes place at the DOCS memorial on the grounds of the Albany Training Academy, it is fitting that our citizens join to remember and commend all correctional employees for performing such perilous and challenging tasks;

Now, Therefore, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim June 1-7, 2008 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 twelfth
day of May in the year two thousand eight.

David A. Paterson

Governor

[Signature]

Secretary to the Governor