



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) employees provide a vital service to the citizens of New York State by keeping our prisons secure and thereby maintaining public safety, and we appreciate the professionalism and dedication of Department employees who, even under difficult conditions and continuing – yet necessary – contractions, ensure that our correctional system remains one of the safest in the United States; and

Whereas, DOCS employees work cooperatively with employees of the Division of Parole and the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, religious and community organizations, representatives of local governments and inmate families for the successful reintegration into society of the approximately 27,000 inmates who are released from the Department's custody each year, employing an expanding array of re-entry initiatives that include specialized re-entry units in various parts of the State with the aim of enhancing incarcerated offenders' ability to return to their communities as law-abiding, productive citizens; and

Whereas, working with staff from the Office of Mental Health, DOCS staff provides services for offenders with mental health issues, including those available at the nation's first Residential Mental Health Unit which opened this past year; and

Whereas, Department staff work to provide nutritious and low-cost food products, not only to the State inmate population, but also to not-for-profit and charitable organizations, as well as to county governments for use in local jails, helping to reduce the local property tax burden; and

Whereas, building upon successful efforts to make the agency a responsible steward of our land, air and water Department staff are constructing the most environmentally-friendly new buildings in the American correctional community, expanding inmate job training programs to include "green" jobs, and expanding production of environmentally-friendly cleaning products that are gaining widespread use among correctional facilities and are now available for use by other State agencies; today, Department employees serve in more than 300 different job capacities, providing a diverse variety of services on behalf of the people of the State of New York; and

Whereas, this year, the Department will award two Medals of Merit to distinguished employees for their courageous and unselfish efforts to save fellow citizens in peril in the community, while also honoring the memory of the 35 Department employees who over the years have given their lives in the line of duty as a result of inmate actions, and as the eleventh annual ceremony takes place at the DOCS memorial on the grounds of the Albany Training Academy, it is appropriate that the citizens of this State remember and commend all correctional employees for performing such dangerous and challenging tasks every day;

Now, Therefore, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim June 6-12, 2010 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 third day
of May in the year two thousand ten.

David A. Paterson

Governor

James Schwartz
Secretary to the Governor