



Corrections and Community Supervision

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, June 8, 2016

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Department of Corrections and Community Supervision Awards Medals To Ten Brave Employees

Lieutenant Governor and Acting Commissioner lead moving ceremony honoring medal recipients and those killed in the line of duty

ALBANY – Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul joined by Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci today awarded Medals of Honor and Medals of Merit to ten Department employees for courageous actions displayed in 2015. Upon the conclusion of today's ceremony, DOCCS has awarded 54 Medals of Honor and 129 Medals of Merit since the awards program began in 1984. The ceremony also included the annual reading of the names of the 42 Department staff who have died in the line of duty.

In a letter sent to attendees of the ceremony, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo said "Today's ceremony is an important tradition that recognizes the hard work of all DOCCS employees and a solemn reminder of how difficult and dangerous your job can be. On behalf of all New Yorkers, I extend a sincere expression of sympathy and salute the families of those who have died in the line of duty."

"Corrections and Community Supervision Employee Week is a time when we honor those corrections officers lost in the line of duty, but also come together to recognize the men and women who are heroes on the job every day," said Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul. "Through their service and sacrifice, corrections officers play such an important role in keeping our communities safe and helping offenders prepare for a successful transition back into society."

For the 17th consecutive year the Albany Training Academy hosted the event where several hundred people gathered. Related materials, including the full citations, are available on line at <http://www.doccs.ny.gov/PressRel/16memorialmedals/index.html>

Medal of Honor

Correction Officer Kenneth McFadden earned the Medal of Honor for intervening as an inmate attempted to injure a doctor and nurse while in an outside hospital.

Correction Officer Gregory Edgar earned the Medal of Honor for his quick response in restraining an inmate who had attacked a doctor, nurse, and fellow Correction Officer at an outside hospital.

Medal of Merit

Correction Officer Ryan Day earned the Medal of Merit for his actions during and following an altercation between several combative inmates.

Correction Officer Craig Walsh earned the Medal of Merit for his assistance in the arrest of an individual who had assaulted a police officer during an altercation at a grocery store.

Two staff members from the Auburn Correctional Facility (Cayuga County) earned the Medal of Merit for their quick thinking and decisive actions following fire at the facility's Powerhouse.

- Plant Utilities Engineer 1 Billy Kirby
- Sergeant Joseph Merville

Correction Officer Jeffrey Lewis earned the Medal of Merit for rescuing his neighbor and neighbor's dog from a house fire and for his attempt to extinguish the fire.

Two Correction Officers from the Attica Correctional Facility (Wyoming County) earned the Medal of Merit for their actions in saving the life of an inmate following an inmate on inmate assault.

- Correction Officer Leonard Platt
- Correction Officer Trevor MacIntyre

Correction Officer Gary Roneker earned the Medal of Merit for his intervention in an attempted assault in the parking lot of a restaurant he had stopped at for lunch.

"Because of actions like these, today is a bittersweet day as we pay tribute to those no longer with us, but we also have the opportunity to honor the fine individuals whose actions make a difference in the lives of those living in the community they protect," said Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci.

The Department also recognized and thanked the hundreds of deployed staff who worked tirelessly alongside other law enforcement agencies in the search for the two escaped inmates from the Clinton Correctional Facility last year. A plaque acknowledging their efforts will hang at the Albany Training Academy.

The annual ceremony takes place at the Academy's 50-acre Albany campus. The centerpiece of the memorial park in front of the Academy is an Empire blue granite memorial that stands 12 feet high, 6 feet wide, 18 inches deep and weighs 19,711 pounds. The names of fallen employees are enshrined with plaques displayed in the Academy Memorial Room. Governor Cuomo's [proclamation](#) of June 6-12, 2016 as "Corrections and Community Supervision Employee Week" is also on display there.

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