



STATE OF NEW YORK

GEORGE E. PATAKI  
GOVERNOR

June 7, 2001

Dear C.O. Mitchetti:

It is a pleasure to join with families, friends and coworkers today as you are presented with the Department of Correctional Services' Medal of Merit for bravery, courage and heroism in the line of duty.

You demonstrated these very qualities on September 27, 2000, when Deputy Superintendent George Schneider was viciously attacked by an inmate while he was making rounds through the yard at the Green Haven Correctional Facility. The inmate had a shank taped to each hand, and began stabbing Schneider in the face, shoulder and back. In an effort to protect Deputy Superintendent Schneider, you immediately intervened in the incident during which time the assaultive inmate stabbed you twice in the back of the head. Despite your injuries, you remained at the scene in an effort to control the inmate until additional help arrived, whereupon the inmate surrendered his weapons and was escorted from the yard. Your quick thinking and courageous actions in assisting a fellow employee without regard for your own safety are truly commendable.

Four years ago, I was proud to be the first Governor in the history of New York State to present the prestigious Medal of Honor and Medal of Merit to the deserving men and women of the Department of Correctional Services. You carry on the admired traditions of professionalism, valor and excellence which have long been the standard of the 32,000 men and women who work in 70 correctional facilities throughout the Empire State. This distinguished honor places you among the 111 Correctional employees to earn a medal since the inception of the program in 1984.

I commend you for representing the highest standards upheld by Correctional professionals throughout the entire country, and I offer gratitude and congratulations for a job well done.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. E. Pataki'.

C.O. Gary L. Mitchetti  
Green Haven Correctional Facility  
Stormville, NY 12582

