

# DOCS



# TODAY

July 2003

New York State Department of Correctional Services

Vol. 12, No. 7

## 2 earn medals as we honor 34 heroes



Families of some of the 34 employees who have died in the line of duty since 1861 were among those in attendance at the memorial site in front of the Albany Training Academy on June 5 when the Department honored its fallen heroes and awarded two Medals of Merit honoring employee conduct last year. Apparently, the trip to Albany was a bit overwhelming for a few of the younger travelers.

## We honor the very best among us

(The following is the text of the Commissioner's remarks during the June 5 Medals Ceremony & Memorial Service held at the Training Academy.)

**F**or Governor Pataki, I welcome all of you gathering today to honor our medal recipients, their families and the families of our 34 fallen heroes.

Together, we offer our congratulations to Correction Officer Mark Pietrzak and former Officer Jim Whitehead.

Both of you share the best of what the family of corrections is all about: professionalism, dedication and a commitment to your colleagues and to all the people of New York state.

I especially want to thank Senator Dale Volker and Assemblyman Ron Canestrari for joining us and speaking today.

You have always been faithful partners in helping this Department move forward.

Three years ago we inaugurated this memorial. We promised that it would be a living tribute to our fallen heroes. That we would gather here each year to honor their memory and sacrifice. This agency's history goes back to the first state appropriation to build a prison – in 1795. It is reliably reported that Senator Volker led the debate in support of the bill.

When you recognize the age – of this Department – it is not surprising that some of its history has been lost to antiquity.

In 2000, we promised we would review the circumstances of on-duty deaths brought to our attention to determine if they were inmate-related. If so, we would add them to our first 32 heroes enshrined that year in the memorial room of the Academy.

In 2001, we added a



**Applauding medalists were (from left) Deacon Donald Sharrow, Assemblyman Ronald Canestrari, Senator Dale Volker, Commissioner Goord and Deputy Commissioner Lucien Leclair.**

33rd name. Shop foreman Joseph Weitekamp died in 1922 while fighting a fire inside Clinton.

This year, we must add a 34th name.

In 1877, Harry A. Casler held the title of Keeper – now called Officer – at Auburn.

He was overseeing the work of a crew of six inmates cleaning the outside walks near the north gate on the afternoon of February first. That's when an inmate struck him down from behind with a blow to the left side of the head with a shovel.

Keeper Casler died almost immediately. The inmate tried to escape. He was caught before he reached the end of the wall on State Street.

Keeper Casler's memory is now enshrined forever here at our Academy.

Keeper Casler is not the only other employee we recognize for prior service today.

In addition, we are adding to the official roll of our medals recipients.

We learned that Acting Commissioner Richard Hongisto presented two special awards in 1978: for conduct during the recapture of killer Robert Garrow, who had escaped that September 11 from Fishkill.

One Correction Officer from Green Haven was shot in the leg during the pursuit that led to Garrow's death in a firefight with law enforcement.

That Green Haven Officer was awarded the Medal of Valor in October 1978.

Even though he retired in 1996, he joins us here today. Would retired CO Dominic Arena please stand and be recognized?

*Please turn to page 15*

### ***This month's articles:***

- ***Staff statewide joins Green Haven in memorial: Page 3.***
- ***DOCS holds medals, memorial service: Page 4.***
- ***Two Officers earn Medals of Merit: Page 5.***
- ***Two former Officers honored for service: Page 6.***
- ***Search for heroes is tedious but worth it: Page 7.***
- ***Buffalo facility meets variety of needs: Page 8.***
- ***Steward's work is varied, active: Page 12.***
- ***Staff changes: Page 14.***
- ***Governor proclaims DOCS Employee Week: Page 16.***

**DOCS|TODAY** is published by the New York State Department of Correctional Services: George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York; Glenn S. Goord, Commissioner of the Department of Correctional Services; James B. Flateau, Director of the Public Information Office; Linda M. Foglia and Michael A. Houston, Assistant Public Information Officers.

**ON THE COVER:** The masthead brings DOCS|TODAY together with its past via "Copper John," the Colonial soldier who has stood watch atop the front gate of Auburn, the state's oldest prison, since 1821. The American flag was affixed to his bayonet in memory of those who lost their lives during the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks upon the United States. The flag itself was taken from a photograph of it flying above Ground Zero.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Should be sent to the Department of Correctional Services, Office of Public Information, Building Number Two, Room 203, 1220 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12226-2050, or to the Department's Internet address: <http://www.docs.state.ny.us>

**PUBLICATION:** DOCS|TODAY is prepared in-house via desktop composition. Camera-ready pages are sent to the Elmira Correctional Facility and published in the print shop operated by the Division of Industries (*Corcraft*). It is available on the Department website at [docs.state.ny.us](http://docs.state.ny.us)

## Green Haven recalls murdered CO Donna Payant

**I**t was a day of solemn remembrance – once again – at Green Haven on May 15.

Correction Officers and other security staff from around the state joined at 6:30 a.m. with Green Haven employees to honor the memory of former Green Haven Correction Officer Donna Payant.

CO Payant was murdered in the prison in the line of duty by convicted murderer Lemuel Smith in 1981 and a memorial service in her honor has been held at the facility for each of the past 22 years.

“In order to better our future we need to remember our past,” Commissioner Goord told the more than 100 Officers, local dignitaries and others who attended the memorial service. “It is very appropriate that you come here every year to remember Donna Payant and to honor her.”

Smith has been held in solitary confinement since murdering CO Payant while he was in Green Haven serving a 25-year-to-life sentence.

“We are reminded here today of the daily risks we face on our job,” said Commissioner Goord. “We need to keep working together and watching each other’s backs to make sure we all get home safe.”

Rev. Jose Mattos told the gathering that the annual memorial service is more a celebration of CO Payant’s life than her tragic death.

“We gather here today to remember the life of Donna Payant,” said Rev. Mattos. “She was a loving mother and wife who made the ultimate sacrifice. Today she stands high as a symbol of courage and self determination. Let the memory of



Donna live forever in this place, and in the hearts of those who loved her.”

Rev. Mattos said Donna Payant’s death should also serve as a daily reminder of the hazards of working in a prison, and the need for staff to be consummate professionals and rely on each other on a daily basis.

Green Haven Superintendent William Phillips also said that CO Payant’s death re-emphasizes the importance of all employees working together as a team.

The memorial service was once again held in front of the towering concrete front wall at Green Haven, near the flagpole at the site of a granite monument dedicated to CO Payant.

This year’s somber ceremony featured a new addition: 10 members of the New York State Corrections Emerald Society, comprised of bagpipers and drummers, started off the memorial service in tandem with Green Haven’s award-winning Color Guard unit. The 10-person Emerald Society contingent included two Sergeants, four Officers and one Registered Nurse from Greene, one Sergeant and one Officer from Great Meadow and a retired Sergeant from the Rotterdam Police Department.

At the conclusion of the prepared remarks, the American flag was raised to the top of the mast, then lowered to half-staff.

Employees from Green Haven and elsewhere then placed an assortment of flowered wreaths in front of CO Payant’s memorial. Seven Green Haven Officers fired a 21-gun salute, and two employees blew “Taps.”

**Photo at left shows memorial to CO Payant while, at right, staff lower flag to half-staff in her memory.**



## 34th name added to roll of heroes as 2 earn DOCS' Medals of Merit

**T**hreatening gray skies held back on June 5 until a light rain fell – but only during the reading of the roll of the 34 Departmental employees who have died in the line of duty as a result of inmate actions since 1861.

As bagpipers played, *Taps* echoed and a rifle squad fired a 21-gun salute, the Department of Correctional Services held its annual ceremony to award medals for extraordinary service last year and to honor the memory of those 34 heroes.

Approximately 400 guests attended the 4 p.m. ceremony at the permanent memorial on the grounds of the Training Academy in Albany. Guests traditionally include family members of the medal recipients and those of the 34 honorees, as well as some of the hostages from the 1971 riot at Attica and their families, in addition to rank-and-file Department employees, officials from other state agencies and legislative invitees.

Commissioner Goord awarded Medals of Merit for extraordinary service to Correction Officer Mark A. Pietrzak of Wende and former Correction Officer James T. Whitehead of Lakeview. With those presentations, the Department has now awarded 80 Medals of Merit. *(See stories beginning on page 5.)*

In declaring June 1-7 as Correctional Services Employee Week, Governor Pataki wrote: “The citizens of the Empire State recognize that the highest level of commitment among our (DOCS) employees contributes to the steady vigilance, dedication and professionalism that remains core values of DOCS.” *(Read the full proclamation on page 16.)*

In his remarks, Senator Dale M. Volker said, “As chairman of the Senate Committee on Criminal and Civil Codes, it continues to be an honor and a privilege to be invited annually to participate in this event representing Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno and the entire Senate.

“As a former law enforcement officer, I understand the enormous responsibilities that Corrections employees face on a daily basis. It is one of extreme dangers, and that of a strong commitment to public service, in protecting our state from those who demonstrate behaviors that try to destroy lives, families and the foundations of our state.

“I am very proud of the men and women working in our correctional facilities, as well as those correctional personnel who have fallen in the line of duty, for their commitment to their profession and I thank them for doing their part to keep our state safe and secure,” the Senator concluded.

Speaking for the Assembly, Deputy Majority Leader Ronald Canestrari said, “It is important that we recognize the men and women that work every day in correctional facilities across



**The event took on an international flavor this year with the presence of the ceremonial unit from the Fenbrook & Beaver Creek Correctional Institution in Ontario.**

New York state, especially those who have been killed in the line of duty. The men and women who work in these facilities operate under some of the most stressful conditions: yet they continue to perform admirably, as is evident by the two medal recipients today, Correction Officer Pietrzak and Correction Officer Whitehead.”

The Department also used the occasion to add two names to its list of medals recipients. In a ceremony that predated the current awards program established in 1984, two Officers earned awards in 1978 for their actions in the search that year for escaped Fishkill inmate Robert Garrow, killed

during a shoot-out with law enforcement. CO Dominic Arena was awarded a Medal of Valor; CO Frank Lago received a Medal for Meritorious Service. *(See story on page 6.)*

A 34th name was also added today to the memorial roll, that of Auburn Keeper Harry A. Casler. Newly-discovered records confirm that, while supervising an outside work detail on February 1, 1877, a shovel-wielding inmate launched an unprovoked and vicious attack on Mr. Casler. He died within minutes and the inmate was apprehended by another employee as he was trying to escape. *(See story on page 7.)*

The deceased employees now total 26 uniformed personnel and eight civilians; the total includes three women. The total comes from Attica (12), Auburn (seven), Clinton (six), Sing Sing (three) and one each from Elmira, Fishkill, Eastern, Green Haven and Great Meadow prisons, plus one employee who worked in New York City in the parole division when it was part of Correctional Services until 1977.

Among them are the 11 who died in the 1971 riot at Attica. Three others held the title of Principal Keeper (now Deputy Superintendent for Security) at Auburn when they were killed by inmates in 1927-30. Another was a Sing Sing Officer killed in 1916 by an escaping death row inmate. A hospital attendant was killed by a criminally insane inmate at Matteawan State Hospital (now Fishkill prison). Another was Green Haven CO Donna Payant, murdered by an inmate in 1981. CO Payant remains the only female CO in DOCS to die in the line of duty.

The ceremony took place at the permanent memorial park dedicated in 2000 on the 50-acre Academy campus. The centerpiece of the memorial park in front of the Academy is an Empire blue granite memorial that stands 12 feet high, six feet wide, 18 inches deep and weighs 19,711 pounds. No names are inscribed on the memorial stone. Instead, each honoree's name, identifying details and cause of death are enshrined on plaques located in the memorial room of the adjoining Academy. 



Commissioner Goord presents Medal of Merit to CO Mark A. Pietrzak and former CO James T. Whitehead.

## *Pair earn Medals of Merit for separate incidents defying flames*

### **CO Mark A. Pietrzak**

Western New York resident Noelle Marcucci, a single mother of four, has always considered her neighbor, Wende Correction Officer Mark A. Pietrzak, to be a “close friend.”

She now has a new description for him.

“He’s an absolute hero and a man with the biggest heart in the world,” Ms. Marcucci said of CO Pietrzak, whose brave rescue of three of her children from the family’s burning duplex on January 11, 2002, this year earned him the Department’s Medal of Merit.

“He’s just wonderful,” said Ms. Marcucci.

For CO Pietrzak, the accolades are not necessary – even though he led two of Ms. Marcucci’s children out of the burning house before returning home to retrieve a portable air unit to save her 15-month-old daughter who was in her crib on the second floor.

“Did I have any second thoughts?” CO Pietrzak replied when asked about putting his life at risk to venture to a smoky upstairs in an effort to save little Maressa Marcucci from her crib. “None at all. What I did just came naturally, I guess. I’d do exactly the same thing again, without a doubt.”

On a cold January day in western New York, CO Pietrzak was at home on a swap when Ms. Marcucci began hammering at the door of his home. She was screaming that her house was on fire and three of her children were inside; the fourth, Tyler, was at school. CO Pietrzak and his wife were cool-headed enough to call 911 before heading next door, and the couple then helped remove two of Ms. Marcucci’s small children, Michael and Eternity, from the first floor to outside safety.

*Please turn to page 6*

### **Ex-CO James T. Whitehead**

They don’t mince their words or mask their emotions when talking about coworker and former CO James T. Whitehead, a 2003 Medal of Merit recipient who pulled them both, seriously injured, from a van just before it burst into flames.

“He’s my hero,” now-retired CO Christopher Loder said of former CO Whitehead, who is still recovering from injuries sustained in the April 7, 2002, New York State Thruway mishap and is hoping to soon return to the Department.

“It’s quite simple: he saved my life,” said Mr. Loder.

CO Larry Eggleston, who is still out on disability as a result of the injuries he sustained in the two-vehicle accident which claimed the life of the other driver, sounded a similar chord.

“I owe my life to him,” he said of former CO Whitehead. “He risked his life to save the both of us. He’s a great guy and he saved my life. What more can you say?”

For Mr. Whitehead, the plaudits are appreciated, but definitely not necessary.

“I feel great about getting the Medal of Merit award and I really do appreciate it,” said Mr. Whitehead. “It really is a great honor. But I just did what anyone else would have done in the same situation.”

Lakeview Superintendent Ronald Moscicki said he’s not at all surprised that Mr. Whitehead was tapped for one of the Department’s highest honors as a result of his heroic and unselfish efforts more than a year ago.

“He’s always been a great guy, a great employee, and a credit to this Department,” said Mr. Moscicki.

*Please turn to page 13*

## Former COs lauded for role in pursuit of Fishkill escapee in '78

Two former employees who received Department awards in 1978 for their roles in apprehending escaped murderer Robert Garrow this year had their names added to the list of those Medal of Honor and Medal of Merit recipients who have been honored since that awards program started in 1984.

Twenty five years ago, Green Haven Correction Officer Dominic Arena was presented with a Medal of Valor, the equivalent of today's Medal of Honor, by then acting Commissioner Richard Hongisto in a small ceremony dwarfed by today's awards ceremony and accompanying memorial service. Fishkill CO Frank Lago at the time was also recognized for Meritorious Service, the equivalent of today's Medal of Merit.

Garrow, convicted of four murders, escaped from Fishkill the night of September 9, 1978. That prompted a massive manhunt in the farm fields and woods surrounding the facility in the vicinity of Route 84. A Green Haven CERT member, Mr. Arena came upon Garrow, who had covered himself in brush and was laying on the ground, in a wooded area near the prison a little before 6 p.m. on September 11. Upon seeing the Officer, the armed Garrow began firing. One bullet struck Mr. Arena and responding CERT mem-



**Dominic Arena receives deserved applause.**

bers then returned fire, killing Garrow.

Mr. Lago was credited with helping pinpoint the area where Garrow was likely hiding. He found a transistor radio in the vicinity that was traced through an attached Department Identification Number (DIN) to Garrow, who had previously purchased it from the prison commissary.

"I feel very honored that Commissioner Goord is doing this for me," said Mr. Arena, who retired from the Department in 1996. "It's a very nice recognition. I'm still very dedicated to this Department – I spent 22 years on the job – and this Department has always been very good to me. I truly believe this Department is better today than it ever was."

Mr. Arena was shot in his left leg and the bullet traveled to his right hip. He spent six months recuperating from his injuries. Today he works part time as a

small engine mechanic and enjoys his house in the Adirondacks.

Mr. Lago, who left the Department in 1982, could not be located to be given the opportunity to attend the medals ceremony and memorial service. 📖

### CO Mark A. Pietrzak ...

*Continued from page 5*

Ms. Marcucci was frantic, telling CO Pietrzak that another daughter was in her crib in an upstairs bedroom. He tried to climb the stairs to save her, "but I couldn't make it upstairs because of all of the smoke," he said. "The whole upstairs was just filled with smoke."

CO Pietrzak then remembered that he has a portable air unit at home. He raced home to get it, returned to the burning house and carefully went up the stairs. CO Pietrzak then crawled on his hands and knees in the direction of the baby's screams and opened the door to her bedroom.

Unable to see anything because of the dense smoke, he felt around for the crib. Upon locating it, CO Pietrzak scooped Maressa up and whisked her downstairs to safety. Once outside, he applied his air unit to the little girl's face under the loving eyes of her beaming and grateful mother.

"By the time we got downstairs the ambulance and fire department were there and then they took over," said CO Pietrzak.

"We were able to quickly save two of my kids but if it wasn't for Mark, I probably would have died trying to save Maressa as

bad as the smoke was," Ms. Marcucci said. "There was no way I was going to leave her up there."

Maressa was taken to a local hospital where she was treated for smoke inhalation and released. CO Pietrzak said the outcome might have been different had the baby's door not been closed, which he said kept much of the thick, black smoke from getting into her little lungs.

"It was really smoky up there but luckily her door was closed," CO Pietrzak said. "It helped to keep a lot of the smoke out of the room."

Still, Ms. Marcucci recalled the awe of the hospital workers who tended to Maressa.

"The hospital told me to hold onto my little miracle," she said. "She was covered in soot and everything in her crib was melted."

The Marcucci family only recently moved back home, as the needed repairs to their heavily-damaged duplex were extensive and most of their possessions were lost.

"Little by little, we're trying to get back to a degree of normalcy," said Ms. Marcucci. "We lost a lot but it's only material things. The most important thing is that we're still a family. We can rebuild." 📖

# Records search for heroes is tedious and slow – but well worth the effort

**A** 34th name – that of Auburn Keeper Harry A. Casler, who was killed on February 1, 1877, by a shovel-wielding inmate while supervising an outside work detail – has become the latest addition to the Department memorial which duly honors those security and civilian employees who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

The decision to add Mr. Casler's name to the memorial was reached after dogged research by Program Research Specialist James Lyons out of Central Office uncovered various newspaper accounts from the era confirming Mr. Casler's brutal death. Mr. Lyons had been pursuing a tip from retired New York Police Department (NYPD) Sgt. Michael Bosak, who dabbles in prison research, and Mr. Lyons was eventually able to piece the puzzle together.

The names of 32 employees who died in the line of duty were honored during the memorial dedication in 2000. A 33rd name – that of Clinton shop foreman Joseph Weitekamp, who died as a result of fighting a fire at the facility in 1922 – was added to the memorial during the 2001 ceremony.

“We will continue to do all we can in terms of research and following leads to assure that each and every employee who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of the people of New York state is appropriately honored and memorialized,” said Commissioner Goord. “I urge anyone who might have information on someone who may have died while on duty to come forward and we will pursue that information to ensure that justice is served.”

Despite his best efforts, Mr. Lyons was unable to track down any living relatives who he could directly tie to Mr. Casler even though he could track his roots to the Mohawk Valley. Two years ago, when Mr. Weitekamp's name was added to the Department's memorial, his grandson, Joseph Weitekamp, proudly attended the dedication ceremony.

Just as the Auburn Daily Advertiser was set to go to print on February 1, 1877, news was received that a keeper at Auburn had been killed by an inmate. An editor quickly dispatched a reporter to the scene and the newspaper was able to include a brief description of the horrific event in its edition that evening, expanding on what quickly became the talk of the town in its February 2 edition.

Under a headline entitled “Murder at the Prison” was this initial account of what happened at the prison on February 1, 1877:

“About three o'clock this afternoon, Keeper H. A. Casler (from Utica) with a squad of six men was engaged in cleaning the walks near the north gate when without any known cause Wm. Barr, better known as “Whistling Sam,” a Sing Sing transfer, struck the keeper on left side of head, felling him to the walk, when he resumed his attack in a most savage manner, and but for the intervention of the convicts would have undoubtedly mangled the keeper horribly.

“Sam attempted to escape but was overhauled by officer Boyle before reaching the south end of the wall on State Street.



Academy visitors review some of the 34 memorial plaques.

“Keeper Casler was removed to the hospital where he expired before medical aid could be procured.

“Barr has been transferred back and forth from the asylum to the prison a number of times and it is generally conceded that he is insane.

“Keeper Casler is a young man very recently married, and commands the respect of all his fellow officers.”

The February 2, 1877, edition of the Auburn Daily Advertiser included this account of the incident, prefaced by a notation that the inmate assailant had complained to Mr. Casler of the hard work and refused to obey orders:

“The keeper reprimanded him and ordered him within the gates when Barr made the savage attack upon him. That weapon used was an ordinary iron shovel with which Barr dealt him a heavy blow on the left side of the head. Keeper Casler fell to the walk stunned by the blow when Barr renewed the attack, cutting him across the cheek with the edge of the shovel, and still unsatisfied followed this up with another brutal blow which cut through the neck near the base of the skull. The demon would have mutilated his helpless victim further only a convict threatened to brain him with a pickaxe unless he desisted.”

The newspaper said Casler was about 26 years old.

Mr. Lyons' NYPD source, when commenting on the stabbing death of Sing Sing Keeper Edwin A. Craft on March 19, 1869, said he thought there was another prison employee death in central New York around that time. That sent Mr. Lyons to the New York State Library where he scoured the archives for whatever he could find. He'd type in keywords like prison and keeper and sort through a seemingly insurmountable number of hits spanning years. He eventually found a small article in an 1877 edition of the New York Times that referenced the Auburn killing, and then he got the particulars from the old local newspapers.

“It's grunt work,” said Mr. Lyons. “The digging can be tedious and slow when you're looking for that little vein of gold in the mountain.

“But the results are very much worth the effort.” 



*Bridging the cell block to the neighborhood*

# Buffalo

It is a massive but low-profile building, nestled within the community of Alden some 20 miles east of the city of Buffalo. But it is quite different from the hundreds of quaint residential homes that sprinkle the area. Its 180 or so residents are rather unique as well. Opened in 1992, this one-story building measures more than 20,500 square feet and can provide overnight lodging to as many as 132 people. Its residents commute to work by mass transit, just like the many residents of the community. But that is where the similarity ends

---

These are male state prison inmates nearing the end of their sentences and anxiously preparing as best they can for release back into the community, and their shared home is known as the minimum-security Buffalo facility.

Unlike maximum- or medium-security state prisons, minimum-security facilities such as Buffalo have no perimeter walls or fences, rolls of razor ribbon wire, barred windows or

yard towers. Buffalo's security staff are not Correction Officers, known by their distinctive uniforms; they are Community Correction Center Assistants and wear civilian attire.

Counselors, community center assistants and Division of Parole employees are more of an integral part of the daily regiment at work release facilities such as Buffalo, interacting closely

*Continued on facing page*

*Continued from previous page*

with inmates who are among the closest to release in the prison system. That means they bear especially close monitoring as they “test the waters” leading to release, as staff scrutinizes them for how well inmates are prepared for release into the community.

That said, Buffalo’s role has expanded beyond that of a typical work release facility, making it unique not only in the community but in the Department as well. It serves as a general confinement prison, work release facility and residential treatment center for inmates with substance abuse issues. Buffalo focuses that overall mission into involving inmates in continuous temporary release through structured, closely supervised community programs. The goal is to place inmates in close proximity to or within the county in which the inmate plans to reside upon parole or expiration of maximum sentence.

The temporary release program has existed across the state, including here in western New York, for approximately 30 years. Its premise is that by preparing inmates to find jobs, monitoring their employment and other outside activities while overseeing their search for residences, the state can increase the number of successful releases, thereby reducing crime on our streets.

### **Work release reduces recidivism**

Various studies have documented that this bridge between incarceration and release is a solid one. Based upon the most recent study of male inmates, those released in 1998 and tracked for three years, those men who successfully participate in work release return to prison at a rate of 28 percent, compared to 43 percent return rate among all other male inmates.

But the program is a double win for New Yorkers: not only does it contribute to safer streets, but the per capita cost of a work release facility is approximately one-third of the tax dollars required to support a traditional prison.

Inmates are expected to find full-time employment; gain work experience and learn job skills; earn and save money that they can spend when they’re released; contribute to the financial support of their families; participate in therapeutic programs with various community agencies and reestablish family ties. In effect, they are monitored as they begin living as productive and responsible members of society, learning where and how to access the support systems that will help them succeed.

To be eligible for consideration to participate in the temporary release program, an inmate must be within 24 months of merit time or parole eligibility, conditional release or maximum



**Buffalo gets snow? Inmates dig out hydrants.**

expiration of sentence, and must be physically, mentally and emotionally capable of seeking and maintaining steady, gainful employment.

However, inmates meeting those conditions for consideration are denied if they have been convicted of absconding or escape offenses; have outstanding warrants, or are serving sentences for certain violent felony offenses.

Nearly 5,800 inmates participated in temporary release programs last year. Eighty-two percent participated in work release and 13 percent received furloughs, with the balance taking part in educational release; industrial, medical or community service leave, or to make a deathbed or funeral visit.

Under temporary release, eligible inmates may be granted the privilege of leaving their respective facility for a period not exceeding 14 hours in any given day for those programs.

Buffalo’s inmates, like their counterparts at other temporary release facilities throughout the state, basically participate in work re-

lease. Most of the inmates who are assigned to Buffalo were sent to prison from that part of the state and have families in western New York. They find jobs and work in Erie and neighboring counties. It is those inmates’ intention to return to those communities upon their release from prison.

All inmates housed at Buffalo commute to and from the facility on public mass transit buses that stop directly in front of the prison on a scheduled basis.

For the convenience of the state, Buffalo also includes in its facility count some inmates on temporary release who are physically located as far north as Jefferson County, east to Herkimer County and south to Delaware County. These offenders must present themselves regularly to the Department’s Day Reporting Centers in their regions. They must comply with all the same rules and regulations demanded of all other inmates in the temporary release program.

Work release inmates are typically employed 40 hours a week. On their off hours, they routinely run personal errands or go to school or church like most New Yorkers. However, as assigned, they must also attend AA, NA and any other self-help groups in the community. Or, they return to the facility to attend such programming under the oversight of staff and/or community volunteers.

The work release program in Buffalo has documented many successes over the past decade. The unemployment rate among work release inmates assigned there averages only 9 percent – considered very low given the sporadic previous work experience of most inmates and the fact that they are inmates seeking employment. Yet most inmates enrolled in the program are able to get jobs in the local community within four weeks of beginning their job search.

*Please turn to page 10*

More than 160 new employers hired Buffalo work release inmates last year, affirming the success of the program while providing inmates with an incentive not to run afoul of the law. Employment positions vary based upon inmates skills and aptitude, but they include custodial service, general construction, food service manager, sales, machine operator and other jobs.

### **Inmates pay taxes, support families**

Besides providing inmates with the work ethics and job skills to succeed on the outside, there's the financial factor. The total gross earnings by Buffalo work release inmates last year was \$736,199. Of that, \$124,968 was withheld from their paychecks for federal and state income taxes; \$37,830 was paid in Social Security taxes and \$105,516 was deducted for room and board.

Inmate work release wages must be surrendered to facility staff, who then deposit the money into the inmate's account maintained by the facility. Besides deducting taxes and room and board, deductions will also be made for child support and other restitution, where applicable. The inmates receive weekly personal expense money and the majority provide their families with some financial household assistance. Money that the inmates are able to accumulate in their accounts allows them to begin parole and release into the community often a step ahead of other inmates released from non-work-release facilities.

Former inmates have described the program as "a second chance at life," helping thousands of inmates to make the difficult transition from incarcerated felon to law-abiding citizen.

Inmates aren't the only winners under the Department's temporary release program. Communities throughout the state have also benefited thanks to the leadership of Governor Pataki.

In January 1995, Governor Pataki issued an Executive Order barring from temporary release any inmate convicted of committing a violent act.

That has resulted in a 79 percent reduction in the number of inmates participating in temporary release each year, from 27,937 in 1994 to 5,797 in 2002.

The average daily participation in work release also declined, by 74 percent: from 6,300 in 1994 to 1,652 in 2002. At the same time there's been a:

- 91 percent decrease in program participants arrested for any crime, from 1,968 in 1994 to 171 in 2002.
- 98 percent decrease in program participants arrested for violent felonies, from 359 to seven.
- 91 percent decrease in the cumulative number of ab-

sconders, from 3,682 to 343.

### **Making efficient use of limited beds**

Because of the sophisticated manner in which the Department uses work release beds, it is not necessary to keep an empty bunk at work release facilities for each inmate, as is required everywhere else in the system.

Some Buffalo work release inmates head out of the facility each work day for up to 14 hours and return each night to the dorms to sleep. They're working for much of the time they're out and spend the rest of their time in such approved activities as attending school or self-help meetings.

For others, the arrangement is different. Some sleep two consecutive nights at the facility and spend the other five nights sleeping at home on a furlough basis. Some of them are furloughed on Wednesday afternoon returning on Monday night while some others depart on Friday and return Wednesday night.

Before being allowed to be out of the facility for five-night stretches, all potential furlough residences are investigated by

parole officials for suitability and must be approved by the facility's Temporary Release Committee. If the residence is not deemed suitable, the inmate can try to locate another residence that passes muster; if not, he must return each night to the facility until an appropriate residence can be designated.



**Buffalo ASAT counselor Patricia Bene conducts relapse session.**

As they progress closer to their parole eligibility dates, work release inmates normally graduate to what is called "day reporting" status: they live at an approved residence on a full-time basis. They are required to report to one of seven designated day reporting centers in western New York twice a week. There, they meet with their Parole Officer and either a Department security employee or counselor. Their progress in the community, on the job, in treatment programs and at home is documented, and they're subject to drug testing as a contingent of their higher level of freedom and accompanying responsibility.

While Buffalo is primarily a work release facility, it does offer additional programming equally designed to help reduce recidivism. Several of the inmates who have been granted temporary release head into the community on weekdays to go to school while others are assigned to outside alcohol and substance abuse treatment and counseling.

Buffalo is also one of just two male facilities in the state to offer a drug relapse treatment program. This is an intensive 60-day program for inmates who are participating in work release and/or a residential treatment program but test positive for drugs or report drug use. Inmates can and have been removed

*Continued on facing page*

*Continued from previous page*

from temporary release and returned to a regular state prison for drug use. But participation in the relapse program is based on the facility Superintendent's individual review of such infractions and the Superintendent's decision to waive an inmate misbehavior report in favor of treatment.

The inmate must sign a memorandum to participate in the program and to stay off drugs. Violation of that memorandum is an automatic ticket back to a traditional prison.

The goals of the relapse program are similar those of the other treatment modalities offered to all inmates: individualized treatment plans, education, development of a drug-free lifestyle and coordination of discharge planning.

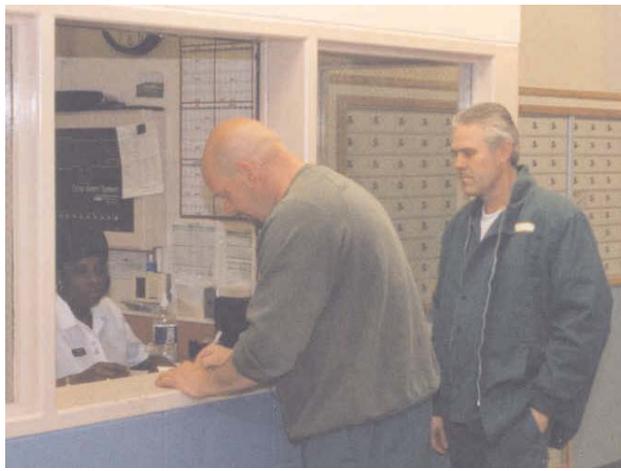
Buffalo also offers a specialized DWI offender program. This intensive program requires inmates with documented histories of alcohol abuse to receive regular group counseling in the facility. When the inmates are out in the community they're also required to regularly attend AA and other self-help counseling sessions. Depending on the inmate's scheduled date of release he will move through program phases and then participate in the community service leave program.

Buffalo was first accredited in 1995 by the American Correctional Association, affirming that it meets nationally-acceptable standards in its management and operations. The process of accreditation is also important statewide because it requires all staff to gain a fuller understanding of their facility's mission and to refamiliarize themselves with all the details and demands of their individual responsibilities and how they mesh with facility operations. Buffalo has been reaccredited triennially since and is up for another reaccreditation next year.

### **Many lend a helping hand inside and outside**

The dedicated efforts of Department and other staff from a variety of disciplines are vital in ensuring the success of those inmates assigned to Buffalo.

But they don't do it alone.



**Buffalo Community Correction Center Assistant Marilyn Brown signs inmates out on furloughs.**

Enter concerned community individuals who want to try to ensure the success of the inmates when they're released into their communities throughout western New York and elsewhere.

Registered volunteers come in to meet and speak with inmates, often operating under the supervision of, but separate from, facility staff. Their offerings are varied and geared toward providing inmates with even more tools and skills. The volunteers conduct AA, NA and other self-help groups and

provide other services.

They, along with staff, try to help inmates forge bonds with community agencies to help ensure a smooth transition, be it setting up job interviews or making sure of a continuum of treatment.

Just as volunteers are a part of Buffalo, Buffalo employees play a key role in area communities. They unselfishly dedicate their time and energies to help others, young and old. They sit on municipal, school and other community boards, serve as soccer and Little League coaches, help out at their local houses of worship, collect and clear debris from area roadways and donate food and other items to the needy.

Unlike many other minimum- and medium-security prisons throughout the state, Buffalo does not have any regular supervised community service crews performing needed work in local municipalities at no cost to taxpayers. But that's not to say they haven't provided various local communities with big assists in times of need.

After Buffalo was buried under a blizzard that dumped nearly seven feet of snow on western New York in December 2001, supervised crews from Buffalo and other state prisons in the region quickly took to the streets.

At the request of local emergency management officials, supervised inmate crews from Buffalo, Collins, Gowanda, Lakeview, Orleans and Wyoming worked just under 19,000 hours to find and dig out buried fire hydrants to ensure the safety of local residents.

They also cleared walkways leading into public buildings as well as intersections and bus shelters.

Over the part few years, supervised community service crew inmates from Buffalo have worked in various other capacities as well.

They have, for example, shoveled snow from the playing field of Ralph Wilson Stadium prior to NFL games hosted by New York's only professional football team, the Buffalo Bills. 



**Buffalo's barracks are similar to those in medium-security prisons.**

# Facility Highlights

## *Employees at work*

### Steward's role is varied, busy and touches most areas of operations

**J**ean Yost likes to be where the action is. And as Mid-State's steward, her wish is granted every day.

"There's never a dull moment and I truly enjoy what I'm doing," said Ms. Yost, who's worked for the Department for 14 years and has been a steward for the past seven. "There's always something to keep you busy. I don't think a lot of people realize that the steward's position is a very important job in any facility in the state."

Mid-State Superintendent Joseph Costello agreed.

"The steward's job is critical in any large operation," said Mr. Costello. "If the finances aren't straight, the inevitable result is a shortage of revenues for materials and services. Stewards help ensure that you get the optimum amount of services for our money and that's very important, especially in these difficult financial times. We have to take a real close look at what we're doing and see if we can do some things differently and more efficiently to save money."

As the facility's fiscal watchdog, Ms. Yost oversees a staff of 28 people in the always bustling business office. The disciplines that she and her staff deal with are many and varied: payroll, purchasing, inmates accounts, the state shop, vouchers, accounts receivable, the commissary, inmate claims, vendor payments and other issues.

"So much of what happens in a facility flows through the business office," Ms. Yost said.

Much of Ms. Yost's time is dedicated to a constant monitoring of the facility budget, making sure that the money needed for programs and services is there, and looking for ways to save money.

"It's very important to anticipate our needs and have the funds available to satisfy them," she said.

Ms. Yost also works with employees in the budget division at Central Office to try to head off any potential financial problems before they occur and look for efficiencies.

"We've developed a very close and productive working relationship over the years, and that's important," she said.

Ms. Yost also deals with many other issues relating to the safety of staff and inmates at the facility, serving as a traffic cop of sorts. Those duties include dealing with issues like pest control, elevator maintenance and waste management. The overriding goal is to develop solid contacts with multiple vendors to make sure the facility gets the most for its money while adequately addressing the needs of staff and inmates.



**Jean Yost, Mid-State steward, at her station.**

For the most part, even though her job is demanding, Ms. Yost said Mid-State's business office has been able to run effectively due to the dedication and expertise of her coworkers.

"I provide them with direction and they proceed from there," said Ms. Yost. "One of the most satisfying aspects of my job is to be able to see the growth of my coworkers and the ongoing development of my staff. Aside from that, I personally like working with the numbers."

As if she doesn't already have enough on her plate as Mid-State's steward, Ms. Yost wears a few other hats as well. She heads the facility's Internal Control Committee and serves as Acting Deputy Superintendent of Administration when Mark Matthews is not on duty.

"I really do enjoy what I do," said Ms. Yost. "I like to keep busy."

Mr. Costello applauded the efforts of Ms. Yost and her coworkers with helping to keep the facility on a solid financial footing while providing programs and other services that staff and inmates have come to know and expect.

"Jean puts a very personal touch on her dealings with others," said Mr. Costello. "She is very approachable, very dedicated, knows her job very well and does her job very well." 



Officers stood at attention during ceremony and, afterward, families of our 34 fallen heroes laid flowers in front of the memorial.

## CO James T. Whitehead

*Continued from page 5*

“What he did comes as no surprise to anyone who knows him. He’s a special guy,” the Superintendent added.

Early on that April morning, Mr. Loder was driving a van to work with CO Eggleston and Mr. Whitehead as passengers. As they came over an incline, all their lives changed forever.

“There was a vehicle just parked in the Thruway, pointing toward us in the direction that we were heading,” said Mr. Loder, whose vehicle was headed east. “He was just stopped in the wrong direction on the Thruway and the car was right in my lane. There was nothing I could do. He was just right there.”

The van crashed head-on into the vehicle and overturned. Although severely injured, Mr. Whitehead was able to pry himself from the mangled wreckage and then took it upon himself to save his coworkers.

“There was no way I was leaving them there,” said Mr. Whitehead. “No way.”

The smell of gasoline made for a risky proposition, but that didn’t faze Mr. Whitehead. He helped extricate his two coworkers and friends from the vehicle and ushered them to safety, mere moments before the van erupted into an inferno.

“The van just burst into flames right after we got out of it,” said Mr. Loder “Lord!”

Mr. Whitehead knew at the time that he was likely putting his

own life on the line to save his two friends, but said he didn’t hesitate to do what he knew had to be done.

“At the time, I just thought about my family and the Lord gave me the strength to do what I did,” said Mr. Whitehead. “I really didn’t have any time at all to think about it. I just did it.”

The family that is corrections was also paramount on Mr. Whitehead’s mind as he risked his own safety to save his fellow colleagues.

“They’re my partners and they needed my help,” he said. “In any other situation, they would have done the same thing for me. There’s no question in my mind about that.” 

### On the web ...

Readers with Internet access can obtain information on the world wide web from the offices of both Governor Pataki and Commissioner Goord. Their addresses:

Governor Pataki: <http://www.state.ny.us>

Commissioner Goord: <http://www.docs.state.ny.us>

Colorized editions of DOCS|TODAY beginning with January 2003 now appear on the DOCS website. Editions are posted as PDFs at the middle of the month prior to the cover date. 

# Transitions

May 2003

**Name Title Facility**

## Promotions

Richard T. Sprance . . . . . Senior Correction Counselor . Bedford Hills  
 John P. Sullivan . . . . . Head Cook . . . . . Bedford Hills  
 Ryan C. English . . . . . Spvr Inmate Griev Prog Trnee Cayuga  
 Russell A. Sampson . . . . . Maintenance Supervisor 3 . Cayuga  
 Renee M. Bissell . . . . . Commissary Clerk 4 . . . . . Elmira  
 Gina M. Guerriero . . . . . Calculations Clerk 2 . . . . . Fishkill  
 Carolyn A. St. Denis . . . . . Inmate Records Coordinator 2 Franklin  
 Patti Bartlett . . . . . Payroll Clerk 3 . . . . . Gouverneur  
 Richard E. Tenbrink . . . . . Dentist 3 . . . . . Gowanda  
 Michelle L. Cassisi . . . . . Inmate Records Coordinator 2 Green Haven  
 Charles Coburn . . . . . Filter Plant Operator . . . . . Groveland  
 Katrina A. Tyszko . . . . . Clerk 2 . . . . . Hale Creek  
 Michele Anadio . . . . . Inmate Records Coordinator 1 Hale Creek  
 Juliana Welch . . . . . Inmate Records Coordinator 1 Lyon Mountain  
 Sally Talcott . . . . . Payroll Clerk 3 . . . . . Marcy  
 Judy E. Altier . . . . . Stores Clerk 2 . . . . . Mid-State  
 Terrance Wallon . . . . . Head Cook . . . . . Mid-State  
 Patricia A. Urban . . . . . Inmate Records Coordinator 1 Moriah  
 Carl Koenigsmann . . . . . Clinical Physician 3. . . . . Mt. McGregor  
 Carl Murphy . . . . . Head Cook . . . . . Oneida  
 Juanita L. Miller . . . . . Stores Clerk 2 . . . . . Oneida  
 Mary McClellan . . . . . Principal Clerk Personnel. . Orleans  
 James Johnson . . . . . Plant Superintendent C. . . . . Otisville  
 William L. Wagner . . . . . Ed Spvr (Vocational) . . . . . Sing Sing  
 Thomas M. Benson . . . . . Plant Utilities Engineer 1 . . . Summit  
 Eileen Pousada . . . . . Commissary Clerk 3 . . . . . Taconic  
 Margaret M. Conforti . . . . . Principal Clerk Personnel. . Taconic  
 Eric M. Strack . . . . . Maintenance Supervisor 2 . . Taconic  
 Kathleen F. Rivenburg . . . . . Keyboard Specialist 2 . . . . . Ulster  
 Shari Norton . . . . . Inmate Records Coordinator 1 Wyoming  
 Robert Chapin . . . . . Correction Captain . . . . . Bedford Hills  
 William Keyser . . . . . Correction Captain . . . . . Green Haven  
 Christopher Miller. . . . . Correction Captain . . . . . Otisville  
 Richard M. Carine . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Arthur Kill  
 Michael Emerson. . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Arthur Kill  
 Dwayne Durland . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Downstate  
 Raymond Hauck . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Eastern  
 Duane Bickell. . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Fishkill  
 Kenneth J. McClune . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Fulton  
 Robert Keith . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Green Haven  
 Kyle Brackenbury . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Mid-Orange  
 Kenneth Dutton. . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Queensboro  
 Shawn P. Kerbein . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Shawangunk  
 Russell Wightman . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Sing Sing  
 Alan Erickson. . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Sullivan  
 Charles Krom. . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Bayview  
 William J. Bowman . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Five Points  
 Nicholas DeLuca . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Five Points

Larry Scott . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Five Points  
 Joseph Szczygiel. . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Five Points  
 Steven Smaldone . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Green Haven  
 Gilbert Conklin . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Lincoln  
 Edward R. Fortier . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Sing Sing  
 John Bradley . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Sullivan

## Retirements

Michael L. Morse . . . . . Dep Supt Program 3 . . . . . Albion  
 Donna Lareau Shatraw. . . . . Nurse 2. . . . . Altona  
 Michael R. Watts . . . . . Commissary Clerk 3 . . . . . Altona  
 Linda J. Rood . . . . . Principal Clerk Personnel. . Altona  
 Patricia J. Priestley . . . . . Inmate Records Coordinator 2 Attica  
 William P. Dolan . . . . . Teacher 4 . . . . . Auburn  
 John H. Sabourin. . . . . Superintendent. . . . . Bare Hill  
 Thomas Rabideau . . . . . Vocational Instructor 4 . . . . Clinton  
 Elsie M. Golovach . . . . . Keyboard Specialist 1 . . . . Clinton  
 John Steffanci . . . . . Maintenance Supervisor 1 . . Downstate  
 Karen Sheak . . . . . Dep Supt Admin 3 . . . . . Eastern  
 Fernando Colon . . . . . Counselor (Spanish) . . . . . Eastern  
 Carolyn T. English . . . . . Keyboard Specialist 1 . . . . Elmira  
 Clifford W. West . . . . . Correction Counselor. . . . . Elmira  
 Robert H. Wilson . . . . . Correction Counselor. . . . . Great Meadow  
 George B. Duncan . . . . . Superintendent. . . . . Great Meadow  
 K. J. Collyer . . . . . Senior Correction Counselor . Great Meadow  
 Jurdes Karlander . . . . . Keyboard Specialist 1 . . . . Greene  
 Dana J. Hommel . . . . . Maintenance Supervisor 3 . . Hudson  
 Janice C. Ortel . . . . . Cook . . . . . Lakeview  
 Sandra Ray . . . . . Assistant Chief Investigations Main Office  
 Richard M. Masterpolo . . . . . Tractor Trailer Operator . . . . Main Office  
 Basilia Mendez . . . . . Keyboard Specialist 2 . . . . Main Office  
 Nancy Smith . . . . . Inmate Records Coordinator 2 Marcy  
 Dorothy L. Smith . . . . . Nurse 2. . . . . Marcy  
 Marleah S. Gillander . . . . . Nurse 2. . . . . Mid-State  
 John A. Sikora . . . . . Plant Utilities Assistant . . . . Mid-State  
 Lawrence J. Joyce . . . . . Correction Counselor. . . . . Monterey SICF  
 Dolores Taisey . . . . . Teacher 4 . . . . . Mt. McGregor  
 Charles M. Buchal . . . . . Ed Supr (General) . . . . . Mt. McGregor  
 James B. Strife . . . . . Tractor Trailer Operator . . . . Oneida  
 Elizabeth R. James. . . . . Nurse Administrator 1 . . . . Orleans  
 David L. Goldman . . . . . Psychiatrist 1 . . . . . Riverview  
 Benjamin M. Taylor. . . . . Asst Dep Supt . . . . . Rochester  
 Bernard J. Obremski . . . . . Nurse Administrator 1 . . . . Southport  
 Donald Hooks . . . . . Farmer . . . . . Sullivan  
 Stephen G. Adler. . . . . Dep Supt Programs 3 . . . . Washington  
 Linda L. Diehl. . . . . Nurse 2. . . . . Watertown  
 Anne B. Hartman. . . . . Nurse 2. . . . . Wende  
 Noel R. Clawson . . . . . Facility Food Administrator 1 . Willard  
 Douglas Grogan . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . Bare Hill  
 Julio Carreras . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . Downstate

Continued on next page

# Commissioner's Commentary ...

*Continued from page 2*

An eagle-eyed member of Fishkill's CERT unit discovered Garrow's transistor radio during the search. That helped to focus the search that led to finding Garrow.

Receiving a Medal for Meritorious Service in 1978 was Correction Officer Frank Lago.

Despite our efforts, we have been unable to locate Officer Lago, who left the Department in 1982.

The remainder of our medals have been awarded since the inception of the current Medal of Honor and Medal of Merit program in 1984.

We add these three names this afternoon because each one of them is as important today as they were then – and will be in the future.

Our medal recipients remind us of the bravery, valor and dedication of today's employees.

And we cannot afford to forget the fallen heroes of corrections. They are men and women who came to work each day to perform the duties assigned to them.

But in their cases, they paid the ultimate sacrifice in the performance of those duties for the people of New York state.

We cannot forget their sacrifice, or that of their survivors.

The granite monument behind me and this ceremony are the physical expression of our commitment to honoring and remembering them.

We come together to remember them each May 15th – when we gather at Green Haven to remember Correction Officer Donna Payant who was murdered in 1981.

We remember them each September 13th at Attica – to recall the 11 employees who died there in 1971.

Those ceremonies, like this one, remind us that Correctional employees perform the most difficult – and sometimes the most under-appreciated – jobs in state service.

Newspaper accounts reported in 1877 that Keeper Casler – and I quote – “commands the respect of his fellow officers.”

Today, I believe every Correctional employee should command the respect – and the thanks – of all New Yorkers.

Not only for the jobs performed with distinction each day by the 32,000 uniformed and civilian employees working inside the 71 facilities we operate.

But for the efforts thousands of you put into your duties at home and abroad as “citizen soldiers,” serving in the National Guard and the Army Reserves.

Also for the special duty performed by hundreds of you in the past 18 months in homeland security assignments here in Albany and along the New York City watershed.

The mission of this Department is to serve and protect the people of New York state.

It is only fitting that we gather to recognize the work performed by the best among us.

And it is our obligation to remember ... to honor .. and to learn from our fallen heroes. 

*Continued from previous page*

Robert J. Farrell . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Fishkill  
Robert Fulton . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Green Haven  
Debra A. Behr . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Mohawk  
Kenneth H. Roberts . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Ulster  
Raymond F. Diehl . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Watertown  
Lynn Tedford . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Wyoming  
George J. Eisenschmidt . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Cayuga  
Michael P. Clancy . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Clinton  
Michael K. Early . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Clinton  
Donald M. Kunze . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Shawangunk  
James S. Walker . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Adirondack  
Joseph G. Cowan, Jr. . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Auburn  
Walter Drollette . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Clinton  
Gilles G. Leduc . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Clinton  
Kenneth J. Mabry . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Clinton  
David S. Couture . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Clinton  
Beryl R. Noelting . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Clinton  
Ronald A. Biniarz . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Collins  
Salvatore F. Sgarlata, Jr. . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Coxsackie  
Richard W. Martin . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Elmira  
Thomas J. Savino, Jr. . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Elmira  
Kevin E. Carroll . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Elmira  
Daniel Stowell . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Elmira

Jose A. Gonzalez . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Fishkill  
Daniel Ryan . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Great Meadow  
Frank L. Englese . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Great Meadow  
Robert E. Utter . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Green Haven  
Richard Thomas . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Lincoln  
Anthony M. Mancuso . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Mid-Orange  
William F. Chisham . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Mt. McGregor  
Douglas F. Duell . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Mt. McGregor  
John J. Driscoll . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Otisville  
Philip J. Neucall . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Shawangunk  
Norman Benezra . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Ulster  
Jeffrey E. Pultz . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Walkkill  
George Badillo . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Walkkill  
Maurice Tracey . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Washington  
David Drown . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Woodbourne  
William Schrader . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Woodbourne  
John W. Pirnos . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Woodbourne

## **Deceased**

Robert J. Carr . . . . . Head Cook . . . . . Altona  
Richard Shelmandine . . . . . Vocational Instructor 1 . . . . . Bedford Hills  
Marion Finnegan . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Green Haven  
Peter Nellenback . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Mid-State  
Gerald Patterson . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Wende  
Gary Garrett . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Wyoming 



# 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 that remain core values of DOCS; 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 and are now serving in the National Guard and Army Reserves, dutifully 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**, hundreds of security employees serving as members of Correctional Emergency Response Teams have participated in homeland protection assignments in the past year, providing additional security along the New York City aqueduct system as well as in and around several governmental buildings in Albany; and

**Whereas**, thousands of their coworkers have proudly stepped forward to perform additional duties in the absence of these two groups of fellow employees as part of their contribution to the Nation's security; and

**Whereas**, DOCS employee professionalism has guided more than 51,000 inmates to earn early release under programs established by the Governor, as well as having utilized security measures that have improved prison safety by reducing inmate-on-staff and inmate-on-inmate violence to 22-year lows; and

**Whereas**, this year, the Department will honor two current employees for meritorious service while observing the memory of 34 employees who gave their lives in the line of duty while serving the people of New York State; in light of the events of September 11, 2001, the citizens of New York are especially grateful to all members of our law enforcement community who have accepted additional responsibilities to ensure the safety of our communities and they continue to meet this vital goal by staunchly upholding the laws of this State and Nation; as the fourth annual ceremony takes place at the DOCS memorial on the grounds of the Albany Training Academy, it is fitting that New Yorkers remember and commend all correctional employees for performing dangerous and challenging duties with the greatest professionalism and attentiveness to public safety;

**Now, therefore**, I, George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim June 1-7, 2003 as

### CORRECTIONAL SERVICES EMPLOYEE WEEK

in the Empire State.



*John P. Cahill*  
Secretary to the Governor

**Given** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twentieth  
day of May in the year two thousand three.

*George E. Pataki*  
Governor