

DOCS



TODAY

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New York State Department of Correctional Services

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DOCS staff, inmates recall 9-11 victims



This was the eerily quiet scene at Ground Zero only a few days before the world once again focused on these hallowed grounds. This Department joined with people around the world to commemorate the second anniversary of the devastating 9-11 terrorist attack that killed 3,016 innocents here in New York City, in Arlington, Va., and in the farmlands of Shanksville, Pa.

Our acts can honor memory of 9-11 victims

(Editor's note: The following is the text of the Commissioner's remarks delivered the morning of September 11 at the Training Academy.)

Thank you for coming to our second annual memorial service to honor those who died in the 9-11 attack on our nation.

Our hearts and minds know why it is important to each of us that we remember the 3,016 innocents who died that day. It is why we began this ceremony at 8:46 a.m. That's the moment American Flight 11 struck the north tower of the World Trade Center. The horror had begun.

A full two years after that awful morning, we still feel pain and anger for those who were sacrificed that day. We know the anguish of their survivors, especially those denied the closure of burying the remains of loved ones.

We mourn with the survivors of Michael Ragusa. Monday, his family buried a vial of the blood he had donated to a bone marrow center. The 29-year-old from Brooklyn is the last of the 343 firefighters who died at Ground Zero to be laid to rest. He is among the nearly half of the World Trade Center victims whose remains have not yet been found and identified.

Our staff and inmates earned national recognition for their support of the World Trade Center Relief Fund. And even today, supervised inmate crews from Camp Beacon travel to the Graymoor monastery in nearby Garrison. There, they maintain a memorial to the disaster – a cross fashioned from portions of two twisted I-beams from the World Trade Center. It rises above a base of concrete mixed with dust and ash from ground zero.

You can be proud of the work of your colleagues. From the hundreds of Officers

who provide security at government buildings in Albany, to those who had protected New York City's watershed. From those who serve as "citizen soldiers" in our National Guard, to those in rescue squads and fire departments who labored at Ground Zero.

But it is important this morning that we remember *why* these innocents died.

They died because cowards attacked a people free to hold ceremonies just like this one.

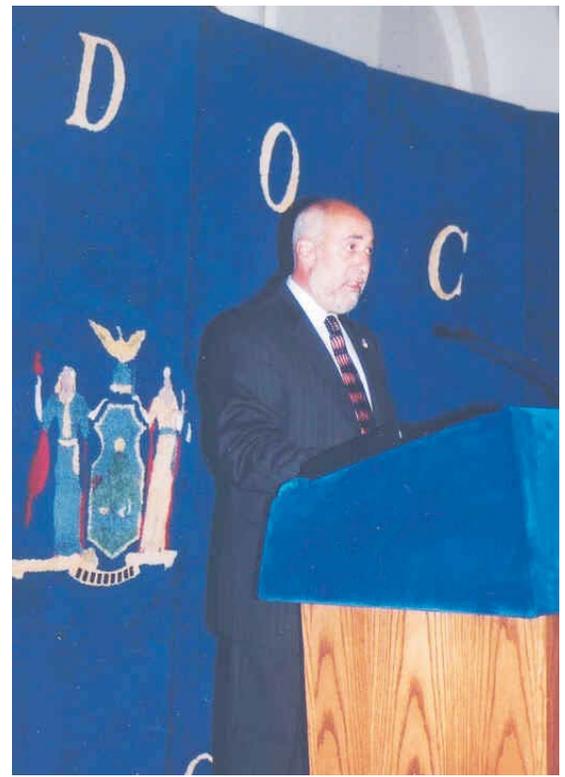
They want to destroy America: its institutions, its government – its people.

These innocents were targeted for one reason alone: They represented the strength of our way of life. They were employed to advance our free government and open economy.

Let me repeat that: The 9-11 attacks were aimed at all of those who preserve and advance our way of life. A way of life that we, too, are sworn to protect.

So that makes public employees just as much of a target as the 2,792 who died at the World Trade Center. Government agencies are targets just like the Pentagon, where 184 died when American Airlines Flight 77 slammed into it in Arlington. All Americans are as vulnerable as the heroic 40 crew and passengers aboard United Flight 93. They chose death high over the farmlands of Pennsylvania. They averted further – and potentially more devastating – destruction someplace else.

Please turn to page 15



Commissioner Goord addresses gathering.

This month's articles

- ***CO exam helps maintain prison security: Page 3.***
- ***DOCS joins millions recalling 9-11 attacks: Page 4.***
- ***Facility profile: Lincoln Correctional Facility: Page 6.***
- ***DOCS memorializes staff killed at Attica: Page 10.***
- ***CO performs double duty in Air Force: Page 12***
- ***Sing Sing restores stained glass in chapels: Page 13.***
- ***Staff changes: Page 14.***
- ***Clinton fund raiser honors dead colleague: Page 16.***

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ON THE COVER: The masthead brings DOCS|TODAY together with its past via "Copper John," the Colonial soldier who has stood 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.

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Upcoming CO exam maintains DOCS' commitment to prison security

Fulfills Department's 2000 promise to maintain staff while downsizing

Roughly 10,400 potential recruits are signed up to take the Correction Officer exam scheduled to be offered statewide on November 22.

That's a few hundred more than the 10,118 who signed up to take the last exam offered in November 2000.

It indicates that entering the professional ranks of the state's Correction Officers is still the goal of many New Yorkers.

Currently, the Department's employee investigation and psychological screening units continue to evaluate candidates under the 2000 exam.

The 2000 exam was used to schedule a CO recruit class of 90 candidates set to enter the Academy on October 27. The Department expects to use the results of this month's exam to canvas for recruits beginning in February.

Some employees have asked if security staffing could suffer from the twin effects of the current downsizing of the prison population and the departure of Tier 3 Officers who began becoming eligible for retirement in July 2001.

Inmate reduction exceeds staff attrition

Commissioner Goord announced a plan in April 2001 to address the projected decline in the inmate population and its effect on staffing.

The downsizing is generally driven by two factors:

- The effect of the various alternatives to incarceration programs supported by the Governor that have allowed more than 50,000 nonviolent offenders to leave prison since 1995 prior to completion of their court-set minimum sentences.
- The effect of the historic 44 percent reduction in crime across the state since 1994 that has reduced the number of felons entering state prison.

The joint effect of these factors has been to contribute to an 8 percent decline in the prison population, from a high of 71,538 in December 1999 to 65,601 on October 7, 2003.

In April 2000, DOCS employed 20,442 Correction Officers. That number has since declined by 6 percent, to 19,143 Officers last month.

That means the Department has kept its promise not to allow the security staff reduction – occurring solely by attrition – to exceed the decline in the inmate population.

The inmate reduction is occurring at approximately 36 selected facilities. The Department's goal is not to allow their staffing to fall below targeted levels as their inmate population is reduced.

At the same time, the Department attempts to fill all approved vacancies that occur in the 35 facilities not affected by the downsizing program.

Toward those goals, 1,836 COs have been trained and assigned since the downsizing began in 2000.



More than 1,800 CO recruits like these have graduated since the downsizing of the prison system began in 2000.

Facilities are also seeing more relief as the Department reassigns back into prisons the 126 Officers assigned to outside details in the wake of 9-11.

Already, the 83 Officers once assigned to homeland security details along the New York City aqueduct system have been reassigned back into their facilities.

Also, the 43 COs assigned to augment security at state government sites in Albany will be returned to their previous assignments by the end of this year.

Eligible retirees remain on the job

With nearly 15,000 COs in the Tier 3 retirement system, some asked if a wholesale exodus of COs would occur after the first Officers became eligible to retire on July 27, 2001.

The fear of any mass departures has proven unfounded.

In the 18 months just prior to the eligibility of Tier 3 retirements, 324 Tier I and II Officers retired. In the 18 months following the eligibility of Tier 3 retirements, 372 Officers retired – 169 Tier I and Tier II employees, plus 203 from Tier III.

In fact, retirements from the work force have remained relatively stable at a low rate. The total number of CO retirements in all tiers was 248 between July 2000-01, 259 from July 2001-02, 347 between July 2002-03 plus 82 through Oct. 10. That's a total of 936 retirements during a period in which 1,836 new Officers were hired in a system with a declining inmate population.

Since an average of 24 Officers leave the work force each pay period, that means retirements represent only about half the average of 624 COs who leave the work force each year.

Not all of those departing Officers need to be replaced with new hires: As the inmate population continues to drop, the Department's CO staffing is being adjusted as well.

Just as the state continues to monitor the work force as downsizing occurs, it is also mindful of the potential impact of the departure of security staff, for retirement and all other reasons.

The appropriate response is to schedule exams like the one upcoming, to ensure a steady stream of eligible CO candidates.

By maintaining a pool of potential Officer recruits, the Department can continue to plan Academy classes designed to ensure that it can meet the need for new Officers.

Commissioner Goord will continue to monitor all staffing to maintain the safety and security of every prison. 

Facilities gather to recall victims, losses of 9-11 terrorist attack

Staff and inmates at facilities across the state joined with their fellow Americans across the country on September 11 to remember and honor the innocent victims of the terrorist attacks of two years earlier.

Prayer and remembrance in interfaith services were the order of the day during separate ceremonies for staff as well as inmates. The mood of each was somber, but the message that resonated across the state prison system was clear: Those who lost their lives will never be forgotten, and America will remain unified and vigilant in its ongoing fight against terrorism and oppression.

“God our creator, we as brothers and sisters are united through you. Today our heart aches,” Rev. Deacon Donald Sharrow said during a morning memorial service at the Training Academy in Albany.

Despite the horrific events of that day two years ago, Rev. Sharrow said it united all Americans, and the country remains strong and focused. He said it is imperative that Americans continue to remain united and strong, not only for the good of this country but for the benefit of others in need.

“We witnessed extraordinary expressions of faith, courage and compassion,” said Rev. Sharrow. “The patriotism that we felt in the moments and days, and continue to feel today, calls ever more strongly to pursue liberty and justice for all Americans, and for all those around the world who continue to suffer from violence, poverty and injustice.”

Facilities observed a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m., the precise moment the first hijacked airliner struck the north tower of the World Trade Center. Wreaths were laid at facility memorials during well-attended services, and candles were lit. Flags were raised by Color Guard units across the state, then lowered to half staff in honor of the deceased.

“I don’t think anyone will ever forget where they were, or what they were doing, during the morning of September 11, 2001,” Oneida Rev. Lawrence Lucas II told employees during that facility’s memorial service. “A morning not unlike this morning with blue skies, bright sun, no clouds. A beautiful autumn morning – peaceful, serene, tranquil.”

Then the world was changed forever, he said.



Dancers were part of Albion’s inmate service.

“Many lives were lost that day, and that’s why we are gathered here to remember the many boys and girls, men and women, black and white, persons of all races, nationalities and religions who lost their lives at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in the fields of Pennsylvania,” said Rev. Lucas.

There was an overwhelming sense of patriotism and pride at the memorial services across the state.

Most ceremonies began with the Pledge of Allegiance and then featured words of hope and remembrance from several speakers of all religious dominations. Employees sang “God Bless America” and “Amazing Grace.” Some facilities aired videos of the moving memorial services for the victims and the courage of many in the aftermath of the disaster. Bells were tolled at several facilities in honor of those who lost their lives while at others, “Taps” was played to close memorial services.

At Camp Pharsalia, Chaplain John Koopman said it is important that all Americans remain unified and strong in their resolve. He also said that while we should never forget the past and the horrors inflicted on this generation and past ones, love and compassion must continue to rule and conquer.

“The families and many Americans who were taught love by all religions have been traumatized by the killers who only saw the Trade Center’s 2,700 (victims) as abstract numbers,” said Chaplain Koopman. “No families, no people have ever been subjected to the constant replay of these very personal deaths. May we allow the personal creator of all of us to unite us in his ultimate healing love symbolized by the sun of every day.”

Chaplain Koopman also recited a Benediction prayer from Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He was a theologian who stood up to Adolph Hitler and never lost hope in God even though Hitler’s dark forces would hang him a month before the end of the war.

“Oh God of all people,” quoted Chaplain Koopman, “give us faith that will protect us from despair, from passions and vice. Give us such love for people that we will blot out all hatred and bitterness. Give us hope that will deliver us from fear and faintheartedness.”



Pharsalia Chaplain John Koopman delivers remarks.



Downstate raises the colors.



Upstate employees participate in an outdoor ceremony.



Attica Imam Zakaria Gasmalla lights a candle.



Mid-State proclaims its colors.



Opened as a haven for women, now serves men

Lincoln

A stroll down West 110th Street in New York City is to visit a pleasant and serene residential neighborhood. The street itself frames the northern end of the internationally acclaimed Central Park. One notices an eight-story structure at number 31, sandwiched between two well-kept residences. Further inspection confirms the frequent comings and goings of its 260 or so residents. This is not an ordinary Manhattan neighborhood residence. This is the Lincoln Correctional Facility, which wears a triumvirate of hats as a work release, day reporting and educational release prison for men.

Lincoln's principal function is to provide inmates nearing release with a physical, motivational and supportive setting for meaningful work and educational release programs within or close to the communities in which they plan to reside upon release.

In essence, it serves as a bridge between incarceration and success on the outside. The thrust of the programs at Lincoln

centers around individual and family counseling and upgrading marketable job skills and personal abilities.

And thanks to the continued dedication and diligence of staff and volunteers from the local community, it's a mission that's been successful since the facility accepted its first inmates in 1976.

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Lincoln is located between 5th and 6th avenues in a building that opened in 1914. In its early years, like today, the building's mission was to address the transitional needs of its occupants, a roster that once included female Hebrew immigrants. This eight-story building was built specifically to serve as a Young Women's Hebrew Association (YWHA) center. It had the capacity to provide services for up to 160 newly-arrived immigrants who had decided to make Manhattan their new home in America.

Those running the association provided their grateful clients with temporary housing and centralized social, recreational and dining services. Dancing, music and revelry filled the spacious building on a regular basis. Strong friendships were quickly forged that in many cases lasted a lifetime.

The building featured a swimming pool in the basement, a gymnasium and a theater with a balcony and exquisite lobby on the first floor. There were offices and classrooms on the second and third floors. On floors four through seven, there were dormitory-style rooms for the female residents and a sprinkling of separate rooms for approved overnight visitors. The kitchen and dining room were on the eighth floor. The roof – more commonly known as the ninth floor – was a place for relaxing, socializing and absorbing the breathtaking views of the Manhattan skyline. (See photo on page 6.)

The building's mission remained the same for the better part of the next three decades, until it was occupied by the U.S. Army at the start of World War II as a place of rest and relaxation for the troops.

The steady "rental monies" gleaned from the government under this arrangement allowed for a host of building improvements and renovations. Those changes helped to prepare the site for its new mission as "The New Lincoln School," also called "The Experimental School."

Initially, from 1948 to 1951, school officials rented some space in the building from the YWHA and purchased it in 1951 for \$293,000. By taking control of the entire building, it enabled educators to teach upward of 330 co-ed students ranging from elementary to secondary grades.

Due to its progressive mission, the school reached out to ethnically diverse, bright but poor students. Depending on need, scholarships were also made available. Annual tuition was \$680 in the 1950's and \$1,400 in the early 1970's.

In the late 1960's, The New Lincoln School continued to reach out to under-serviced children by renting a floor of the building to the "Northside Center for Child Development." That was an organization started by doctors, including Kenneth Clark.

The Clarks developed and presented the psychological and research data used by U.S. Supreme Court justices in their rulings that the separate education of black children was inherently unequal and psychologically damaging to both black and white children. Its landmark 1954 decision began a process to integrate public schools with "all deliberate speed."

Based on the Supreme Court rulings, The New Lincoln School Board of Trustees made the decision to sell the building.



Lincoln in a photo made circa 1917.

Educators found an eager taker in the state of New York. Lincoln debuted as a work and education release prison in 1976.

But there was a glitch before the needed building renovations were accomplished and the arrival of the first inmates.

Area residents had grown accustomed to having tranquil immigrant Jewish women and eager school children in the building. They were not exactly overjoyed with the prospects of having convicted felons as their neighbors. The outcry was so unified and sustained that the Department was forced to obtain the building by eminent domain, much to the chagrin of the neighbors.

The prevailing notion among area residents was that this new arrangement would be nothing but a negative. But the prison would become a good neighbor.

A well-documented track record of success

Lincoln is classified as a minimum-security facility for male inmates aged 16 and older.

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Lincoln serves three populations: 250 inmates assigned to work release, 50 in drug treatment and as many more in community service crews.

Lincoln was first accredited by the American Correctional Association (ACA) in 1996, affirming that it meets and in many cases exceeds nationally-acceptable correctional standards in all facets of its daily administration and operations. The facility was last accredited in 2002 and will next be re-accredited in 2005.

The Department's temporary release programs, which include work release, have proven to be a cost-effective means of housing select non-violent felony offenders in a secure environment without jeopardizing community safety.

The core mandate of such programs is to transition inmates from prison to the streets by enabling them to obtain gainful employment and find residences during their incarceration.

These inmates are also learning a work ethic by showing up to their jobs on time each day, taking pride in their work and learning valuable job skills that will help provide for themselves and their families.

The programs are successful: Repeated studies by New York, other jurisdictions and outside organizations have confirmed that inmates who successfully participate in these programs return to prison at lower rates than those who do not.

Helping fuel the lower recidivism rate is the fact that work release tends to make inmates more financially stable at the time of their release than inmates who did not participate in the program. Most have also been able to develop a broad-based community support system, and hopefully permanent employment.

To be eligible to participate in the temporary release program, an inmate must be within 24 months of their earliest release date, parole eligibility, conditional release or maximum expiration of sentence. They also must never have been convicted of absconding or escape offenses; have no outstanding warrants, and be physically, mentally and emotionally capable of seeking and maintaining steady, gainful employment. Participants also cannot be convicted of a homicide, sex crime or most other violent felonies.

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, with the exception of those inmates who may be on furloughs. Inmates assigned to temporary release participate in work release, educational release, furlough, a community service program and a rehabilitation therapy program.

The majority of Lincoln's inmates, like inmates at other similar facilities, are assigned to work release.

Work release inmates typically work 40 hours a week. On their off hours, they do what any average New Yorker would do. They attend self-help meetings and counseling sessions, seek permanent employment, run errands or go to school or church. They also return to the facility at night to attend programming under the oversight of staff and community volunteers.

Inmates assigned to work release see Social Security payments as well as federal and state income taxes withheld from their paychecks, like any other wage earner. The net earnings for work release inmates totaled \$6,393,403 in 2002 and they paid \$1,910,660 in taxes.

They also paid \$2,216,838 in room and board charges and saved \$3,728,428 to help provide for themselves and their families upon release from prison. Additionally, they paid just under \$450,000 in family support, reducing the need for or the amount of money taxpayers spend on public assistance.

Inmate wages earned through an inmate's outside employment must be surrendered to facility staff, who then deposit them into the inmate's account. Money the inmates accumulate in their accounts allows them to begin transitioning into the community, often a step ahead of other inmates released from non-work-release facilities. Former inmates have described the work release program as "a second

chance at life," helping thousands of inmates to make a difficult transition from incarcerated felon to law-abiding citizen.

Inmates aren't the only winners under the restructured temporary release program. Communities throughout the state have also benefitted thanks to Governor Pataki.

His January 1995 Executive Order barred inmates convicted of committing violent acts from participating in temporary release programs.

That resulted in a 79 percent reduction in inmate participation, from 27,937 in 1994 to 5,797 in 2002. Between 85-90 percent of temporary release inmates are on work release.

Since the Governor's action, the average daily participation in work release has 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.
- a 98 percent decrease in program participants arrested for violent felonies, from 359 to seven.
- a 91 percent decrease in the cumulative number of absconders, from 3,682 to 343.



ASAT counselor Pedro Martinez tells new inmates what is expected of them.

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An integral part of the neighborhood

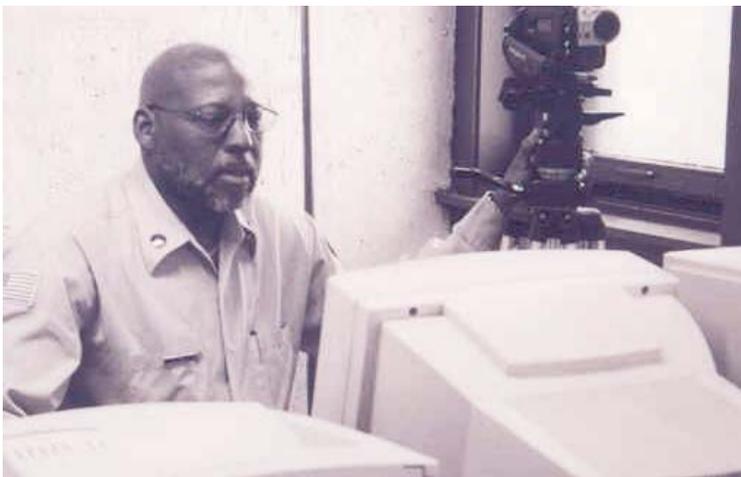
Since it's primarily a transitional services facility, Lincoln's inmates for the most part aren't involved in vocational, industrial and other typical prison activities. But there are exceptions.

For instance a few inmates are "employed" on community service crews and work for the Division of Industries. Previous assignments have included:

- Assembly and installation of Corcraft furniture and other items purchased by New York City-based public agencies;
- Working at the Mayor's Volunteer Action Committee, where the inmates distribute free donated clothing to the homeless and other needy persons;
- Working on behalf of the Harlem Gateway Association, where they have removed graffiti and painted the fascias of residential buildings in the area;
- Working with the New York Parks Department, where inmates learn horticulture skills that have allowed some of them to get permanent jobs in that profession, and
- Setting up and taking down chairs for the annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Summer Concert Series. Their work also includes assembling the stage, putting up the scaffolding for the massive overhead lighting fixtures and erecting the stage curtain.

The free concert series was started several years ago and has grown in popularity annually, thanks to the efforts of staff and inmates. Past head-liners have included Ashford and Simpson, Teena Marie and the Mighty Sparrow. The facility provides as many as 25 inmates and several Correction Officers to transport and provide supervision four days a week from July through August.

The tireless efforts of Lincoln's staff and inmates are visible on a daily basis. Crews clean and sweep the entire neighborhood corridor from 5th Avenue, where a statue of jazz legend Duke Ellington sits. They also tend to 6th Avenue, where there is a triangular sidewalk tribute to Malcolm X. Then it's off to



CO Richard Thomas was one of the first Officers to work at Lincoln. He retired earlier this year.



CO Meloyde McHan uses her expertise as fire and safety officer to explain precautions at the facility.

7th Avenue and then 8th Avenue, where a circular rotunda is being proposed to commemorate Frederick Douglas, the great orator. They are a big part of the reason the neighborhood looks as well as it does today.

Inmates aren't the only ones who've been making a visible difference in the community.

Staff, community integration remains strong

Staff have embraced the community and its residents, often taking up residence in the neighborhood and becoming key strands in the community fabric. They serve on community boards, work as scout leaders and mentors to the children of their neighbors, serve as sports coaches, volunteer their time at food banks and houses of worship and hold countless fund-raisers for those in need.

The Central Park North community has come on board as well. They assist staff on a daily basis trying to help ensure that the soon-to-be-released Lincoln inmates have the tools and knowledge to succeed on the outside.

Registered volunteers come in to meet and speak with inmates, often operating independent of staff. Their offerings are varied and geared toward providing inmates with even more tools and skills and offering them from a different perspective.

Among other things, 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. Those efforts could include such things as setting up job interviews or making sure of a continuum of appropriate aftercare.

Lincoln has indeed come a long way since it opened to skepticism and even furor 27 years ago. During the early years of its existence the residents in the area embraced the work of Lincoln staff and the supervised community crews. Many were so impressed that they joined the Lincoln Advisory Board and have been active and dedicated allies in helping the facility meet its mission. 📖

Facility Highlights

Victims of '71 Attica riot remembered, honored at annual ceremony

It was once again a day of solemnity and remembrance at Attica on September 13.

Every year for the past 32 years, a memorial service has been held at a stately monument on the grounds of Attica to mark the end of the 1971 Attica riot and remember those Department employees who lost their lives.

The monument was the passionate brainchild of several Department employees who went about the arduous task of financing it to honor their fallen colleagues.

Some 200 people attended the observance, including family members of those killed, hostages, other survivors, Department employees and members of the local community. Most of them, escorted by a Color Guard unit from Wyoming, walked to the service from a local park a short way down Exchange Street from the prison. Earlier, that park was the site for a separate remembrance service by local officials, survivors of the riot and family members of those killed.



Former hostages G.B. Smith (left) and Dean Wright lay a wreath at the memorial.



Former hostages and survivors of those killed light candles during the memorial ceremony.

change Street from the prison. Earlier, that park was the site for a separate remembrance service by local officials, survivors of the riot and family members of those killed.

“As it has been for 32 years, ours was an extremely dignified and well-attended service, a fitting tribute to those who lost their lives on that horrible day,” said Attica Superintendent James Conway. “We’ve done this for the past 32 years and it’s highly appropriate that we gather each year to remember those 11 employees who died in 1971.”

The eight-foot-tall granite memorial is located in the front of the facility about 100 feet from the road it faces. Many of those being escorted from the park to Attica held the hands of somewhat-overwhelmed little children in tow. Others sported colorful carnations and candles.

Line staff from Attica and across the state who were at the park ceremony marched in separately, following a bagpiper.

Two armed Correction Officers stood at attention on each side of the memorial. Officers had been posted at the monument in 30-minute shifts. In front of the Officers were 11 votive candles encased in red plastic, positioned behind individual photographs of the 11 employees killed in the riot.



DOCS Emerald Society pipe and drum unit performed at the ceremony.

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Attica COs Shawn McIntyre (left) and Shawn Kelly stand their posts at the monument.

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A twelfth candle was lit in remembrance of those hostages who have since died.

The monument features a simple yet powerful inscription. Underneath the state seal on the upper portion of the monument reads this phrase, which is followed by the names of the 11 employees who lost their lives:

“In memory of the employees who gave their lives in the riot



Emerald Society piper Robert Wagner plays during the ceremony. At right is John Smith, his fellow Attica CO.



Attica Supt. Joseph Conway (left) and ex-hostage G.B. Smith.

of September 9-13, 1971. Man’s inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn”

The monument was erected one year after the uprising and has been the focal point of subsequent memorial services.

After the colors were posted, Mr. Conway greeted the visitors, reminding them that they must never forget those who lost their lives 32 years ago.

Following an invocation, several of the surviving hostages placed a wreath at the base of the memorial. “Taps” was then played and “Amazing Grace” performed by the New York State Corrections Emerald Society.

Afterward, family members and survivors placed flowers near the individual photos of those killed, and extinguished the 12 flames – a ritual that will be repeated next year. 📖



Security Dep. Randy James (left) converses with guests that included representatives of the California and the Massachusetts prison systems.

Oneida CO spends 2 years on duty as one of America's 'citizen soldiers'

Oneida Correction Officer Robert Wolff is also a proud "citizen soldier."

He is an Air Force security staff member.

He said he can't begin to explain the feeling of elation that came over him when he was reunited with his wife and three children after being away from home for a nearly two-year military assignment.

"I just love being back with my family and they love having me back," said CO Wolff. "It's so good to be home. Two years is a long time to be gone."

From September 2001 until this August, CO Wolff spent time overseas with his unit, the 174th Fighter Wing out of Syracuse.

He was also assigned to intermittent security detail at 174th Fighter Wing base.

And even though he and the other men assigned to the units longed for home and their families, CO Wolff said he'd do it again if and when the need arose.

"All in all, I loved it and I'd do it again," said CO Wolff. "Me and the other men are proud of what we did for our country."

CO Wolff's overseas duties took him to hot spots like Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Romania, Crete, Spain, "and a lot of other places that I can't tell you about," he said.

CO Wolff's assignments were varied.

Among his duties, he had ground security details at military air bases, war rooms and Air Force bases. He said he and his fellow airmen particularly enjoyed the Air Force base assignments. He said they put on USO-type shows for the men, "and they even brought in cheerleaders."

His memories of Saudi Arabia, however, are quite another story.

"We put in 16-hour days, three days on and one day off, during the hottest time of the year over there," said CO Wolff. "I wound up losing 55 pounds."

CO Wolff was shuttled back and forth between overseas and



CO Wolff at work in Oneida.

Syracuse during his assignment, along with the other airmen assigned to security detail.

CO Wolff is an escort Officer when at Oneida, whose duties include interviewing new inmate arrivals from reception centers at Ulster and Watertown.

He began working for the Department in 1985. He started working at Oneida when it opened in 1988 but only began his assignment as an escort Officer on September 10, 2001.

"The next day the twin towers came down," CO Wolff said. "And off I went. I really haven't been in my current assignment all that long."

"The people at this facility have just been great and it's so good to be working

with them again," said CO Wolff.

"The Department has been really good about this (extended military deployment) and so has the Governor."

Oneida Superintendent Susan Connell said that CO Wolff has a special quality about him.

"A lot of kids from the schools in the area wrote him letters when he was on military leave overseas and he answered every one of those letters," said Ms. Connell.

"I think that's pretty impressive and commendable," she said.

CO Wolff said he and the others in his unit really appreciated the concern and generosity of the schoolchildren.

"They'd be sending us beautiful letters, pictures, candy and books," he said. "It really picked us up when we received those shipments. A lot of us were down from being away from our families for such a long time."

CO Wolff said he fears he will again be looking forward to shipments of goodies from schoolchildren in the near future.

"I love being back with my family and friends but there's a good chance that we'll be going back in about a year," said CO Wolff.

"I've already geared my family up for that." 

"All in all, I loved it and I'd do it again," said CO Wolff. "Me and the other men are proud of what we did for our country."

Sing Sing does windows – but of the stained glass, chapel variety

Sing Sing inmates, working under the tutelage of a gifted craftsman, are going through the time-consuming but rewarding task of restoring the magnificent stained glass windows that adorn the prison's Catholic and Protestant chapels.

In the late 1930's, inmate Carmelo Soraci was transferred from Sing Sing to Clinton for the sole purpose of creating stained glass windows for a chapel then under construction. Although Soraci was a trained artist, the inmate had never worked with stained glass. But a representative of the prestigious Rambusch Decorating Company of New York City went up to Dannemora to train him for the project.

Upon successful completion of the Clinton project in 1943, inmate Soraci was returned to Sing Sing to create stained glass windows for that facility's Catholic and Protestant chapels. The project took five years. It resulted in five, five-foot-by-14-foot windows of Biblical scenes in the Protestant chapel and five windows of identical dimensions depicting the seven Sacraments in the Catholic chapel. Both chapels also received a large rose window, eight feet in diameter, and two smaller windows for the side offices. Altogether, there



Blank or white areas show where stained glass panels have been removed for restoration.

were 494 panels (each measuring 12-inches-by-18 inches) of stained glass in the two chapels.

Over the years, the windows gradually deteriorated. Exposure to the elements took its toll. Lead and cement broke off and panels began to buckle with some falling off and shattering.

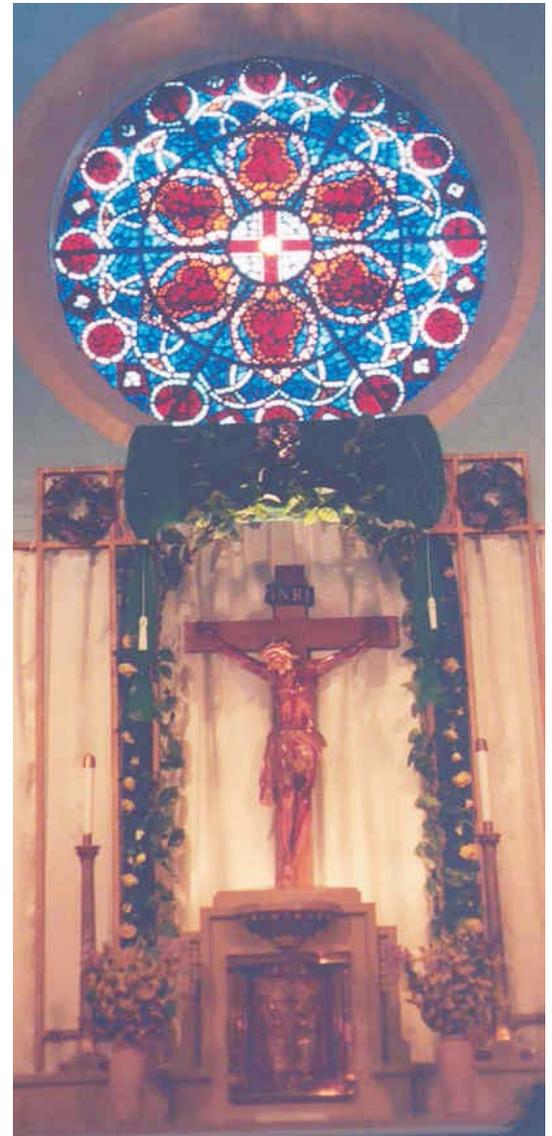
Upon his arrival at Sing Sing in 1995, Father Ronald Lemmert was naturally impressed by the magnificent windows, but was also concerned about their failing condition. He knew that if steps were not immediately taken, the windows would be lost forever. And that concern prompted the ongoing restoration project, which is expected to take about another year to complete.

A few years ago, one of the volunteers at the chapel gave Father Lemmert a copy of a book on stained glass windows penned by inmate Soraci. He told the story of his work and mentioned the invaluable training he had received from the Rambusch Decorating Company.

Father Lemmert then contacted the company, a family-run business for over 100 years. A descendant of the family founders – Viggo Bech Rambusch, who was retired from the company at the time – agreed to visit Sing Sing to check on the famed stained glass chapel windows.

Impressed by what he saw, Mr. Rambusch – whose company has restored stain glass windows for many years – decided he wanted to ensure that the windows would be saved.

The company donated the materials needed for the restoration. Mr. Rambusch also provided the services of his son, Martin, to train inmates to restore the stained glass windows.



The weathered, stained glass rose window above the altar in the Catholic chapel will be restored.

Continued on page 15

Transitions

September 2003

Name	Title	Facility	Retirements
Promotions			Benedetto N. Midea Painter Albion
Margaret DeLaune	Institution Steward	Arthur Kill	Ronald T. Kozlowski Quality Control Supervisor . . Albion
Thomas J. Krakowski.	Assist Industrial Supt.	Attica	Elsie G. Jarvis Calculations Clerk 1 Altona
Lyn A. Stockholm.	Calculations Clerk 2	Attica	Goldie Pitchford Senior Correction Counselor . Arthur Kill
Rosalie Bero	Calculations Clerk 2	Bare Hill	Dorothy A. Smith Calculations Clerk 1 Arthur Kill
Juanita E. Green	Clerk 2	Bayview	Lynne Fulton Keyboard Specialist 1 Auburn
David M. Weinstein.	Program Administrator	Beacon	Frank J. Randazzo Correction Counselor. Auburn
Michelle Harper	Clerk 2	Bedford Hills	Peter N. Wimett Plant Utilities Engineer 1 . . . Bare Hill
Yolanda L. Garcia	Health Info Mngmnt Admin 1 .	Bedford Hills	Suzanne M. Betros. Teacher 4 Beacon
Anne Boylan	Clerk 2	Bedford Hills	Sally Mason Clerk 2 Bedford Hills
David Stallone	Dep Supt Program 2	Butler	Harold Sweetland Motor Vehicle Operator. . . . Bedford Hills
Michael J. Deck	Food Administrator 1	Butler	Susan M. Snyder. Calculations Clerk 1 Clinton
R. C. LaBarr	Plant Superintendent B.	Eastern	Jacqueline C. Giesler. Secretary 2. Collins
Maryann J. Blazejewski	Teacher 4	Elmira	Carol A. Fairbanks Dental Hygienist Downstate
Florence E. Mattison	Head Cook	Fishkill	Jane F. Swain ASAT Program Assistant. . . Eastern
David Lee Sanders	Reg Coord Food Services . . .	Fishkill	Fannie Andersen Secretary 2. Eastern
J. R. Hayden	Assist Dep Supt	Fishkill	Luis A. Morales. Maintenance Supervisor 1 . . Five Points
John Williams	Plant Superintendent C.	Gouverneur	David M. Limoges General Mechanic Gouverneur
William T. Haggett	Assist Dep Supt	Green Haven	Nan Cobb Correction Counselor. Gowanda
Cynthia S. McMahon	Calculations Clerk 2	Hale Creek	Judith M. Feltz Nurse 2. Gowanda
Judith L. Kurtzworth	Commissary Clerk 4	Lakeview	Colleen A. Stephens Calculations Clerk 2 Green Haven
Christine M. Calkins	Clerk 2	Livingston	Despina D. Blakely Correction Counselor ASAT . Green Haven
Sherice R. Johnson	Calculations Clerk 2	Main Office	Peter W. Chmura. Ed Supvr (General). Greene
Janice L. Kelly	Head Account Clerk	Main Office	George T. Johnston General Mechanic Groveland
Richard C. Phillips	Commissary Clerk 4	Marcy	Henry Kolacinski Teacher 4 Groveland
Iola A. Yager	Nursing Assistant 2.	Mohawk	Joanne M. Laverde. Teacher 4 Groveland
Deborah Henry	Program Administrator	Moriah	Edward F. Cantwell. Chaplain Hudson
Deborah E. Drake	Correction Counselor ASAT .	Ogdensburg	Judith West. Calculations Clerk 1 Main Office
Sheryl L. Zenzen	Assist Dep Supt	Rochester	Rita Gavin Secretary 1 Main Office
Adegboyega Thompson	Counselor Trainee 1	Sing Sing	Judith Molinsky. Licensed Practical Nurse . . . Mohawk
Diane Cassidy	Principal Account Clerk.	Sing Sing	Catherine Archambault. Keyboard Specialist 1 Mt. McGregor
James Eve	Plant Utilities Engineer 1	Sing Sing	Artemis Lage Dep Supt Administration 3 . . Queensboro
Kathleen Baker.	Head Account Clerk	Southport	Thomas Bridges Vocational Instructor 4 Shawangunk
Angela Bartlett	Assist Dep Supt	Southport	Lois J. Dainack Nurse 2. Ulster
Barbara A. Butts	Clerk 2	Southport	William Connor Chaplain Watertown
Laura L. Adamspeary	Supvr IGP Trainee	Upstate	Willie L. Jernigan Nursing Assistant 2. Wende
Nancy E. Lunt	Institution Steward	Washington	Ronald J. Elvin Nurse Administrator 1 Wende
Lorie A. Handler	Nurse 2.	Wende	Douglas M. Wolcott. Plant Superintendent B. Wyoming
Rodger Hathaway	Asbestos Control Supvr	Woodbourne	Marilyn G. Hollobaugh Supvr Volunteer Tutors. . . . Wyoming
Michael Capra	Correction Captain	Main Office	Richard Faulkner. Correction Captain Adirondack
James Douglass	Correction Lieutenant	Bedford Hills	Steven Liberty Correction Lieutenant Lyon Mountain
Michael Perretta	Correction Lieutenant	Bedford Hills	Ralph Fielitz Correction Lieutenant Ulster
Donald Bushey	Correction Lieutenant	Green Haven	James Williams. Correction Sergeant Fishkill
Steven A. Duke.	Correction Lieutenant	Sing Sing	Paul Hansen Correction Sergeant Groveland
Bradley Bushey	Correction Sergeant	Green Haven	Gary L. Stearns Correction Sergeant Willard
Michael Gould	Correction Sergeant	Sing Sing	John Dewyea. Correction Officer. Adirondack
Leslie Norcross.	Correction Sergeant	Sing Sing	Judith Wright Correction Officer. Albion
Christopher Patrick.	Correction Sergeant	Sing Sing	David F. Decker Correction Officer. Altona

Continued on facing page

Sing Sing stained glass ...

Continued from page 13

The younger Mr. Rambusch continues to assist the inmate workers today, helping the state avoid what likely would have been a \$50,000 bill for the extensive restoration project.

The inmates have been painstakingly taking the windows apart, panel by panel, for cleaning and restoration. This is a tedious task, since the windows are cemented in place on both sides, and the workers only have access from the inside. It sometimes requires several hours of careful chiseling before a panel is freed. The inmates then soak and clean the panels of many layers of accumulated soot and grime.

Broken pieces of glass, some less than an inch in diameter, are either repaired or replaced. Missing panels must be recreated. Damaged lead is replaced and soldered before the panel is returned and cemented back into place in the window.

“We are indeed fortunate to have the ongoing assistance of Martin Rambusch, who patiently guides our inmates through this project,” said Sing Sing Superintendent Brian Fischer.

“Mr. Rambusch and the inmates are working tirelessly to restore a treasured part of Sing Sing’s storied past, and I think all will be pleased and impressed when the task is completed.” 

Continued from previous page

Thomas Gowett	Correction Officer.	Altona
Alan P. Emerson	Correction Officer.	Auburn
Ellsworth Hill	Correction Officer.	Bayview
Bryce G. Bissonette	Correction Officer.	Clinton
Stanley F. Tomkiewicz	Correction Officer.	Clinton
Arl Diaz	Correction Officer.	Downstate
Susan M. Pomerantz	Correction Officer.	Eastern
Christopher J. Applin	Correction Officer.	Elmira
Roger Dewitt	Correction Officer.	Fishkill
Henry D. McGrath	Correction Officer.	Green Haven
Donald E. Sherwood	Correction Officer.	Oneida
Jane Cole	Correction Officer.	Otisville
Miriam Espino	Correction Officer	Queensboro
Gary L. Hill	Correction Officer.	Sullivan
Thomas Farns	Correction Officer.	Upstate
Gail Doreo	Correction Officer.	Wallkill
William A. O’Sullivan	Correction Officer.	Wende
Ronald M. Kolbert	Correction Officer.	Wyoming

Deceased

Randy P. Lozier	Head Cook	Bare Hill
Wayne R. Morris	Vocational Instructor 1	Great Meadow
Frank Mastrianni	Senior Filter Plant Operator	Otisville
Vernon G. Genter	Correction Sergeant	Camp Pharsalia
Richard J. Considine	Correction Sergeant	Collins
James K. Earl	Correction Officer.	Bare Hill
Shirley Ebron	Correction Officer.	Downstate
Roger W. Barrett	Correction Officer.	Groveland 



Craftsman Martin Rambusch (second from right) displays a new stained glass panel. With him are (from left) inmates Stuart Kovacs, Michael Flood and Father Ronald Lemmert.

Commissioner’s commentary ...

(Continued from page 2)

Our gathering here today – as much as the work we have performed over the past two years – tells terrorists that we will not allow them to succeed.

We remain united. We remain committed to our ideals and our professionalism. We remain dedicated to our goals as servants of the people of New York state.

Yet, despite all of our good efforts to date – they are not enough.

The best way to honor the victims of 9-11 is through personal resolve – a promise to ourselves that we will re-dedicate every day to our service to the people. We will remain dedicated to our democracy and our free society – even in the face of unconscionable horror.

We must consecrate 9-11 by a daily rejuvenation of our public spirit. 9-11 must mean more to each of us than just the date on which we gather annually to recall this attack upon our way of life.

We must reaffirm our personal commitment to the liberty and freedoms that the terrorists would steal from us.

The business of Corrections requires our professional vigilance each day in the work place.

9-11 must forever remind us of the daily need for personal vigilance – in defense of our precious individual freedoms.

Today, we pray together for the eternal rest of these murdered innocents. We ask solace and God’s grace for their families.

Let us each also seek the inner strength and personal resolve to turn this attack upon our nation into an even stronger United States.

God bless America! 

Clinton CO's memory lives on in efforts of colleagues to aid children

Clinton CO Kenneth Delisle died of brain cancer on September 9, 2002.

But his memory lives on, thanks to the efforts of coworkers and friends.

And the beneficiaries of the fund-raising efforts of those Clinton employees who used to work with CO Delisle are children who have themselves been stricken with cancer.

An avid golfer, CO Delisle worked 21 years for the Department and always looked forward to participating in Clinton's annual A Block annual golf tournament. The tourney started 12 years ago with a mere 12 competitors.

CO Delisle wasn't forgotten during this year's tournament in Rouses Point.

Clinton Officers Rick Vaughan and Mark Liberty, the driving forces behind the golf tournament, this year renamed it the Ken Delisle Memorial Tournament. More than 120 golfers participated. Through entry fees and associated fund-raisers, \$7,753 was raised in memory of CO Delisle. The money was donated to Camp Ta-Kum-Ta of nearby Waterbury, Vt., which caters to children who have or have had cancer.

Shortly after CO Delisle's death, Officers Vaughan and Liberty wanted to come up with a way to remember their coworker. They discussed the issue with a close friend of the Delisle family, and he spoke with CO Delisle's widow, Mary.

Mrs. Delisle said she thought that raising money to help children at Camp Ta-Kum-Ta would be a worthy cause.

Widow, friends determine best memorial would be to aid the children afflicted with cancer who meant so much to beloved Officer who was himself a victim of cancer.

CO Vaughan said he thought Mrs. Delisle's suggestion would be a fitting tribute as CO Delisle came upon some cancer-stricken children who attended the camp during his own cancer treatments.

Children of several Clinton employees also attend or have attended the camp.

"Kenny was a great guy and everyone came out to ensure the tournament would be a success," said CO Vaughan, who added proceeds from future tournaments will also be donated to Camp Ta-Kum-Ta. "It's nice to be able to lend a hand to kids who are in need of help and remember Kenny."

For northern New York children and others between the ages of seven and 17 who attend Camp Ta-Kum-Ta, it is an uplifting experience. There's a high degree of love and energy and a special bonding among those fighting the battle of their lives.

The roots of the camp's name is an interesting story. Volunteers conducted a contest to name the camp shortly before it



Kenneth Delisle

opened nearly 20 years ago. One day, it became a hot topic among children in the waiting room at an area hospital.

One child, distraught when finding out he was too young to attend the camp, said in frustration: "but I wanna camp ta come ta."

That child's wish became the camp's name – Ta-Kum-Ta.

That child is a cancer survivor, a long-time Camp Ta-Kum-Ta resident and, now, a camp staff member. 📖

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 the January 2003 edition, now appear on the DOCS website. Editions are posted as PDFs at the middle of the month prior to the cover date. 📖 On the web ...