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**14TH ANNUAL PAROLE MEMORIAL CEREMONY HONORS FALLEN NEW YORK
STATE PAROLE OFFICERS**

ALBANY –Deputy Secretary to the Governor for Public Safety Rachel Small, Department of Corrections and Community Supervision Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci, and Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Deputy Commissioner and State Director of the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives Robert M. Maccarone, gathered today at the New York State Parole Officers Memorial for a ceremony honoring Parole Officers who have died in the line of duty and to recognize the key role community supervision professionals play in keeping New York residents safe.

In issuing a proclamation, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo designated July 17-23, 2016 Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision week, noting that those who supervise offenders are the bedrock of our justice system and instrumental in upholding the interests of justice, and maintaining law and order at state and local levels. Dedicated in 2002, this is the 14th annual ceremony at the Parole Memorial which is located at the Empire State Plaza, honoring seven Parole Officers who died in the line of duty. The ceremony is normally held in July during Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision week, but was postponed due to construction near the memorial site.

The dedicated professionals of pretrial, probation and parole in New York State supervise almost 150,000 offenders. Their supervision work involves a myriad of duties including home and office visits, drug testing, ensuring attendance at any counseling sessions, family reunification, and assisting with the offender's efforts to find employment, thus offering individuals a second chance.

Almost 1,300 Community Supervision professionals utilize evidence based practices, in addition to their knowledge and experience, to develop the right plan for each of the approximately 35,000 parolees. This plan is designed to give the correct level of supervision and programming for each specific parolee, thus increasing the chances of success in life after incarceration, and decreasing the rate of recidivism in New York.

Nearly 3,000 Probation Officers in New York State supervise 100,000 adult probationers, including 26,000 offenders convicted of DWI, 5,000 sex offenders and 5,200 offenders convicted of crimes associated with domestic violence. They also provide intake and adjustment services that divert cases from Family Court and

supervise 6,000 juveniles. In addition, Probation Officers conduct approximately 60,000 pre-sentence investigations annually; these investigations are used by judges in family and criminal courts to assist with sentencing decisions.

Pretrial Service professionals in New York State oversee the pretrial release and supervision of over 170,000 individuals each year, ensuring their timely return to court, while reducing the need for costly jail detention services.

Deputy Secretary for Public Safety Rachel Small said, “The granite Parole Memorial wall in Albany serves as a constant reminder of the courage and sacrifices of New York State parole officers. As we remember those who have lost their lives keeping New York safe, we must also acknowledge those who are hard at work today and every day supervising people as they struggle to successfully reenter the community. The work of parole officers is critical and we offer our appreciation for their service and sacrifices.”

Department of Corrections and Community Supervision Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci said, “The job of a parole officer is demanding and dangerous. Every day DOCCS staff are placed in potentially deadly situations. Fortunately it’s been seven years since we have had to add a name of a fallen colleague to the memorial wall. My message is and always will be “never forget” all those who protect and defend us every day.”

Michael C. Green, Executive Deputy Commissioner of the state Division of Criminal Justice Services, which oversees county probation departments, said, “Probation and Parole officers play an important role in both holding offenders accountable and helping them to start a new chapter in life. They are the connection many of these individuals require and rely on to receive the critical services they need to change life patterns and become productive, law-abiding citizens. These officers are on the frontlines of our efforts to reduce victimization and lower recidivism throughout the state. I applaud their valuable contribution toward keeping New York the nation’s safest large state.”

Added Robert Maccarone, DCJS Deputy Commissioner and State Director of the Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives, “Probation officers, Parole officers and Community Corrections professionals play a crucial role in our efforts to help individuals change their behavior and lead law abiding lives in their communities. These officers often work in difficult and sometimes dangerous situations to help offenders obtain treatment or counseling, secure employment, maintain or re-establish family ties, and make the positive changes necessary to be contributing members of society. We acknowledge their important work in keeping New York safe and among the states with the lowest incarceration rate in the nation.”

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