



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, the citizens of the Empire State recognize 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, as 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, on duty protecting New Yorkers, Americans, and people in other countries of the world, with many of them stationed in the Middle East as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

**Whereas**, among these bravest of Americans was Inspector General Investigator Michael L. Williams, who was activated as an Army Specialist in the 105<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company based in New York; the entire family of New Yorkers pays solemn tribute to Specialist Williams who was killed on October 17, 2003, when an improvised explosive device detonated beneath the vehicle carrying him and other soldiers outside of Baghdad; and

**Whereas**, thousands of DOCS co-workers proudly stepped forward to perform additional prison duties in the absence of these "citizen soldiers" as part of their contribution to our Nation's security; and

**Whereas**, DOCS employee professionalism has guided more than 56,000 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 record lows; and

**Whereas**, this year, the Department will posthumously award Specialist Williams its Medal of Honor and bestow the Medal of Merit upon seven current employees while observing the memory of 35 employees who lost their lives as a result of inmate actions, while in the line of duty and service to New York State; nearly three years after the events of September 11, 2001, New Yorkers remain grateful to all members of our law enforcement community who have accepted additional responsibility for the safety of our communities and together achieve this intended goal by strictly upholding the laws of this State and Nation; and

**Whereas**, as the fifth 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 6-12, 2004 as

### CORRECTIONAL SERVICES EMPLOYEE WEEK

in the Empire State.



**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 four.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor