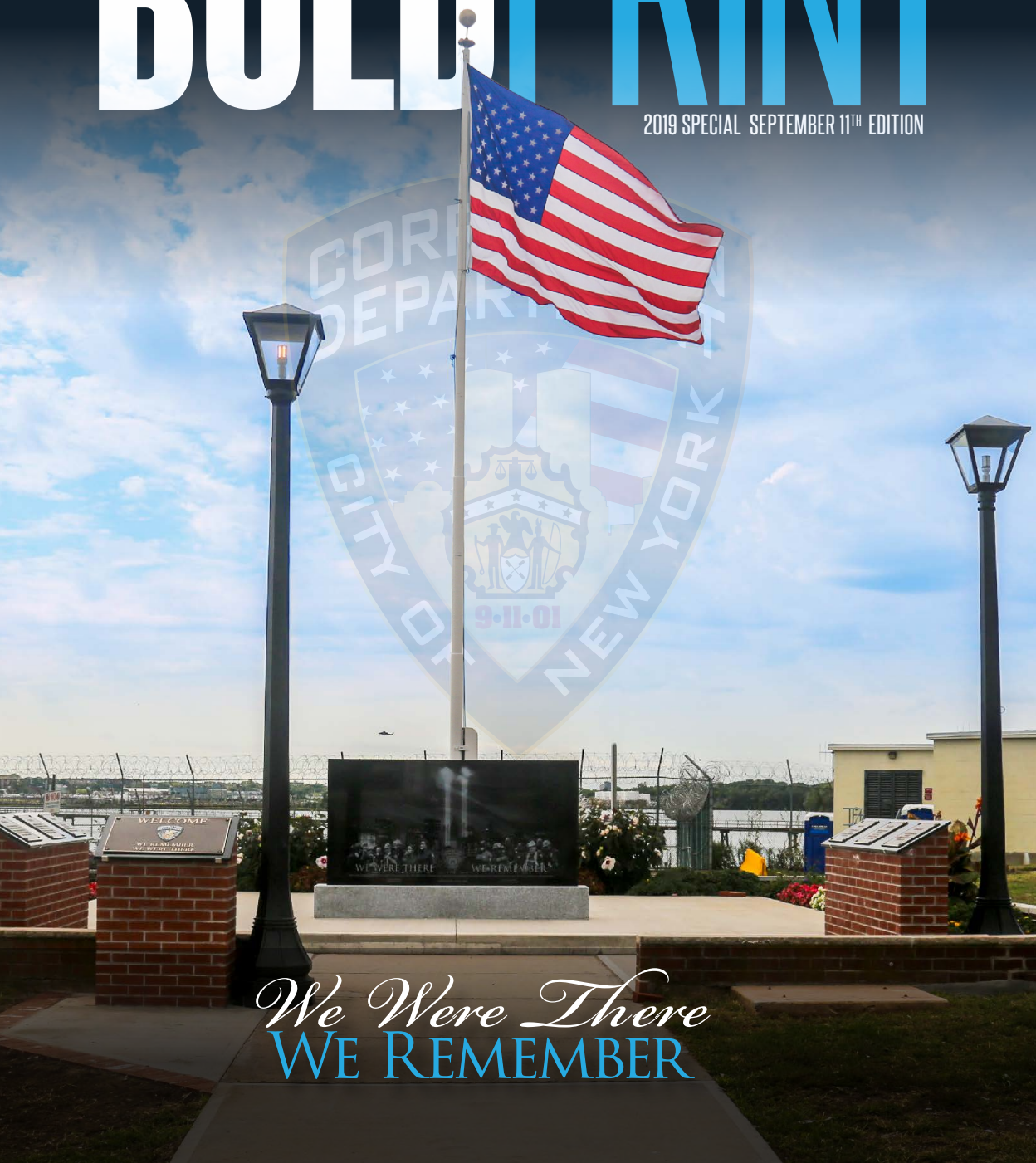


# BOLD PRINT

2019 SPECIAL SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> EDITION



*We Were There*  
**WE REMEMBER**



## Commissioner's Message

Eighteen years later, we remember and we remain committed to never allowing current or future generations to forget the men and women of DOC who assisted in the rescue, recovery and support efforts after September 11.

Within hours after the attack, members of DOC worked alongside NYPD, FDNY, PAPD and so many first-responder agencies, helping with rescue and recovery operations. It was DOC staff that built and managed the Ground Zero communications system that would prove invaluable in the months that followed. It was DOC staff who helped set up the morgue at Bellevue Hospital. And it was also DOC staff who joined other responders at the Fresh Kills landfill to collect and identify remains to help provide some type of closure for the families.

As Americans, we will carry the memory of what happened on September 11, 2001 with us always. That painful time bound us together in strength, as we refused to let it divide us.

It was not until I came to the agency in 2015 that I learned of DOC's role in the 9/11 events. As an American, I was shocked to find out there was a large portion of history that had not been told. As a DOC staff member, I was angry and appalled that your story had never been told. The boldness and bravery our staff displayed has been an inspiration to me and sent me on a mission to right a wrong.

I am pleased that thanks to a growing partnership with the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, DOC Recruits in June, –for the first time ever- participated in educational programming at the museum that was designed specifically around telling DOC's 9/11 history. As part of our ongoing Training & Development courses, future recruits, uniform and non uniform staff will have the opportunity to attend these educational programs as well.

On September 7, 2019 we unveiled DOC's first-ever 9/11 Memorial that is dedicated to all the members of service who served and to all those we have lost. This memorial will serve as a constant reminder of their sacrifice during those incredibly challenging times.

We honor the courage of each and every one of our staff who came together to serve their city and our nation during this difficult time.

Thank you for your service.

**Cynthia Brann**  
Commissioner

**BOLDPRINT**  
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NYC DOC  
Recruitment



@JoinTheBoldest  
@CorrectionNYC



NYCDOCTV



@JoinTheBoldest



NYC Department  
of Correction

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Graphic Designer: Willy De Los Santos

**If you want to talk to anyone regarding 9/11-related issues come to the Wellness Center. Don't work on Rikers Island? Contact us and we'll come to your command.**



**LOCATION:**

Rikers Island inside the former  
GMDC visit house

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

**Sunday** 1300-2100 hrs

**Monday** 24 hours

**Tuesday** 24 hours

**Wednesday** 24 hours

**Thursday** 24 hours

**Friday** 24 hours

**Saturday** 0900-1700 hrs



# We Were There, We Remember

By Shaleem Thompson- Bush

Every year on 9/11, Americans across the nation come together in service and remembrance. Eighteen years later, the staff at DOC who assisted in the rescue, recovery and support efforts after September 11, 2001 remember, and will never forget their service and sacrifice.

**Retired Emergency Services Unit (ESU) Correction Officer Erika Vernon, had just finished her physical training run on the Rikers compound when she noticed a group of officers gathered on the deck of the female locker room staring at the New York City skyline. She was shocked to learn that a plane had hit the World Trade Center and immediately went inside. As she stood watching the TV and talking to her colleagues, the second plane hit. Instantly, her training and instinct kicked in.**

"I called my grandfather and told him to pick up my son from kindergarten, and said I didn't know what time or how many days I would be gone. Then I went straight to work,

calling everyone and telling them to report to work," Vernon said. "I didn't have time to cry. I knew the magnitude of it but I also knew that whoever was in Manhattan at the time and around that area needed help."

The Department of Correction set out to do just that. Hours after the planes hit, Vernon and other members of the ESU team were deployed to Ground Zero where images seen in movies about war zones came to life.

"Imagine driving down the street and there was not an ounce of color on the trees, vehicles, buildings and roads because of all the ash that had come from both towers," retired ESU Correction Officer Lora Green said.



ERIKA VERNON

LORA GREEN

JOHN RYAN

BRIAN HANBERRY

HECTOR FERNANDEZ



*Watch Their Stories  
On Our Youtube Channel*



Most of the team spent the night at Ground Zero, helping to look for survivors in the buildings. The Department of Correction worked hand in hand with NYPD's Emergency Services Unit and the Fire Department on the massive, 15-foot piles, using buckets to remove the bricks and debris.

"We saw a lot of things that you wouldn't expect to see as a Correction Officer, but we were willing to take the task at hand to bring some closure to the families," retired ESU Officer Brian Hanberry explained.

Detective Lieutenant John Ryan of the Port Authority Police Department was a Commander of the rescue efforts. He believed that the Officers he worked with during that time contributed tremendously to the recovery operation.

"I can tell you as somebody that has spent more time on that pile than anybody, there was no greater service performed by any group than that of the New York City Department of Correction," Ryan said. "I'm proud of what they did because their service and their efforts made me a better Commander and it was a source of confidence that I knew that they were going to be doing that very difficult task."

When resources and donations poured in the days that followed, retired ESU Officer Hector Fernandez helped set up a tool crib and issued safety equipment to ensure workers were properly protected while working on the pile.

The selfless acts and dedication of people who worked around him touched Fernandez.



# We Were There, We Remember

"Everybody was your brother or your sister; not only my peers in the Correction Department, not only the uniformed forces—but every person that was down at Ground Zero. We were each other's keeper from the beginning of the day to the end of the day. And that was very significant to me," Fernandez said.

DOC staff also built and managed the Ground Zero communications system that would prove invaluable in the months that followed and joined other responders at the Fresh Kills landfill to collect and identify remains to help provide some type of closure for the families.

"I noticed Department of Correction here with their canine units and it really bolstered us to see the assets of New York City, to see how everybody wanted to be part of this mission," said Retired Port Authority Police Department (PAPD) Lieutenant William Keegan.

"It filled us, it gave us more strength to see that we weren't alone, that there were people here who were equally skilled and ready to contribute in any way they could," he added.

Going above and beyond the call of duty, DOC personnel were the primary support at the Bellevue Hospital temporary morgue. Retired Captain Edwin Brea said his experience volunteering at the morgue was one of the reasons why he decided to join the Correction Assistance Response for Employees (CARE) Unit.

"The Department of Correction really took over, and as a unit and team we went in there almost like a military force," Brea said.

"I remember one day we found a body of a mother holding her child and it is something you never forget.



WILLIAM KEEGAN



EDWIN BREA



REVEREND CATO



WAYNE LAMONT



ELIAS HUSAMUDEEN



*Watch Their Stories  
On Our Youtube Channel*



So I focus on helping people and do as much as I can."

Reverend Cato also worked at the morgue but in another capacity. As a DOC Chaplain, he helped counsel and console detainees, DOC staff and first responders.

"At Bellevue hospital in the morgue area the Chaplains had a makeshift tent and we were supposed to do our best to talk to them, to encourage them and to inspire them and be a point of contact religiously. We told them how admirable the things they were doing was and how they were making a difference."

The heroic work of Reverend Cato and all DOC staff who assisted will never be forgotten thanks to a growing partnership with the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. This year, DOC Recruits—for the first time ever—participated in educational programming at the museum that was designed specifically around telling DOC's 9/11 history. And as part of the Department's ongoing Training & Development courses, future recruits, officers, and staff will also have the opportunity to attend these educational programs at the museum.



**Represented by Commissioner Brann and Chief of Department Jennings, DOC was once again invited and attended the annual September 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony at the Memorial Plaza.**







**9/11**  
**MEMORIAL**  
**& MUSEUM**

## **THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM INVITES YOU TO JOIN THE 9/11 MEMORIAL MUSEUM RESCUE & RECOVERY WORKERS REGISTRY.**



Visit <https://registries.911memorial.org/#/registration/worker>  
to register an account

**BENEFITS:** Free admission to 9/11 Memorial Museum. Your story will become a part of the digital archive and your name will also be included in the Scroll of Honor, a digital scroll that lists the names and affiliations of registered workers and is located near the Last Column in the 9/11 Memorial Museum's Foundation Hall.

**CONTACT:** [911registry@911memorial.org](mailto:911registry@911memorial.org) or (212) 857-0152 for any questions or concerns.

***The National September 11 Memorial & Museum is also asking DOC staff and officers who were part of the rescue and recovery (R&R) efforts at Ground Zero if they could loan/donate any R&R-related artifacts or items. The items will be displayed at the museum and help tell our story.***

**NO DAY SHALL ERASE YOU FROM THE MEMORY OF TIME**

**Virgil**



## New Memorial honors and recognizes DOC's 9/11 first responders

**As we mark another year after the devastating 9/11 attacks, these questions always arise: How do we preserve the legacy of those we lost? How do we live up to their example? And how do we keep their spirit alive in our hearts?**

As your Commissioner, several years ago I set out to ensure that the history of the women and men at DOC who assisted in the rescue, recovery and support efforts after September 11th was known. And recognized.

Hundreds of DOC Members of Service (MOS) unselfishly answered the call during that critical time, and since then we have lost approximately 20 MOS due to 9/11 related illnesses and more than 65 of our Boldest brothers and sisters are currently suffering from illnesses related to toxins from Ground Zero that we know of.

On September 7th, 2019, it was with great reverence, honor, and privilege to be able to pay tribute to you all with the dedication of this 9/11 Memorial.

We at DOC remember and will never forget your courage.

We at DOC remember and will never forget your strength.

We at DOC remember and will never forget your commitment to New York City and our nation.

**The new memorial is across from the front entrance of the Samuel L. Perry Control Center on Rikers Island.**

Without hesitation, you stepped forward to serve during those incredibly challenging times and this memorial will serve as a constant reminder of the sacrifices you made.

And when we have a new location for our Academy, the memorial will be relocated for all staff and for all the world to see, we were there.

To everyone who assisted and to all the people we have lost, we honor and thank you.

– Cynthia Brann, *Commissioner*







*We Were There*  
WE REMEMBER







*We Were There*  
WE REMEMBER



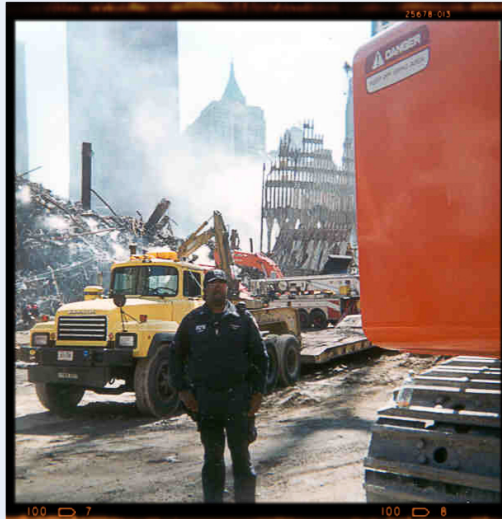




*We Were There*  
WE REMEMBER







*We Were There*  
WE REMEMBER





# SONGS OF REMEMBRANCE

By Alice See Kee Du

**“At one point, we thought the Department of Correction was being forgotten in the 9/11 recovery effort. We were not invited to join with the other agencies to perform in the 9/11 memorial events,” said Officer Corbett, the pipe major for DOC’s pipe band.**

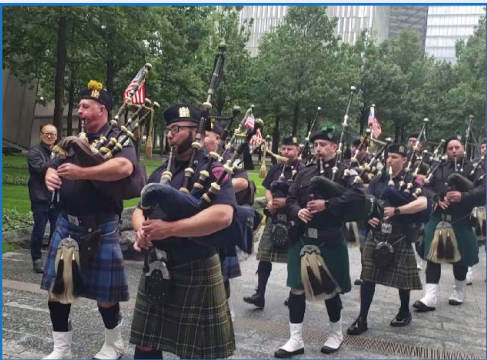
The situation began to take a massive turn in 2019. April 28<sup>th</sup> marked a significant chapter for the DOC’s pipe band. The band was invited to perform at the 9/11 Memorial & Museum’s seventh annual 5K Run/Walk and Community Day for the first time. The event was dedicated to commemorating the victims and those who sacrificed their lives in the rescue efforts of the 9/11 attacks. It brought hundreds of people together, cheering and waving banners while others were racing through the finish line. A total of 10 DOC pipers and drummers played along with the pipe bands from other City agencies, including FDNY, NYPD, and PAPD. Together, they performed a string of tunes on bagpipes, bass drums, tenor drums

and snare drums. “Amazing Grace” was among the songs on the playlist. This anthem had significant importance to the uniformed services when honoring the fallen. “We are honored to be part of this meaningful event as we pay tribute to the people we lost through music,” said Officer Corbett. Music is a universal language. One does not need to master musical techniques to appreciate music. These incredible music notes have the abilities to put smiles on people’s faces and to provide comfort to the distressed as demonstrated by DOC’s pipe band performing at numerous official DOC occasions, including graduations, promotion ceremonies, parades, and funerals.



The band was formed in 1980 by several DOC members who wanted to celebrate Celtic heritage. It has since played in community events including the annual National Night Out Against Crime, and more recently the Make Music New York Day on summer solstice, June 21<sup>st</sup>. The event was a collaboration with the 9/11 museum in honor of those killed in the attacks, in which DOC pipers played with their fellow pipers and drummers from PAPD and DSNY at the Memorial Plaza. Captain McCarthy, whose father was also a member of the pipe band from its inception through the late 90’s, was one of the pipers representing DOC at the event.

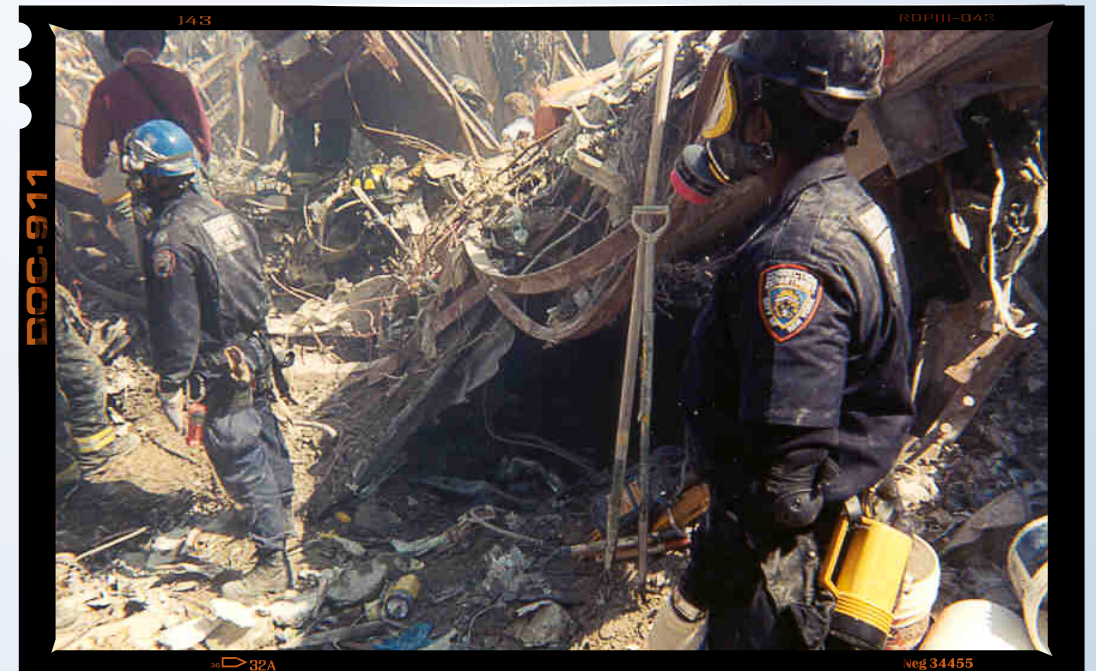
“I always consider it an honor to represent the Department in the pipe band because of my deep-rooted connection with the City. I was born and raised in Greenwich Village, and I was in lower Manhattan on the day of the attacks,” said Captain McCarthy. As of today, the DOC’s pipe band has grown to 35 members including active, retired and non-uniformed DOC employees. The band was the first NYC civil service band to advance to Grade 3 competition at the Eastern United States Pipe Band Association. It has won the first place in its grade twice and has finished regularly among the top ten of its grade in the competitions.







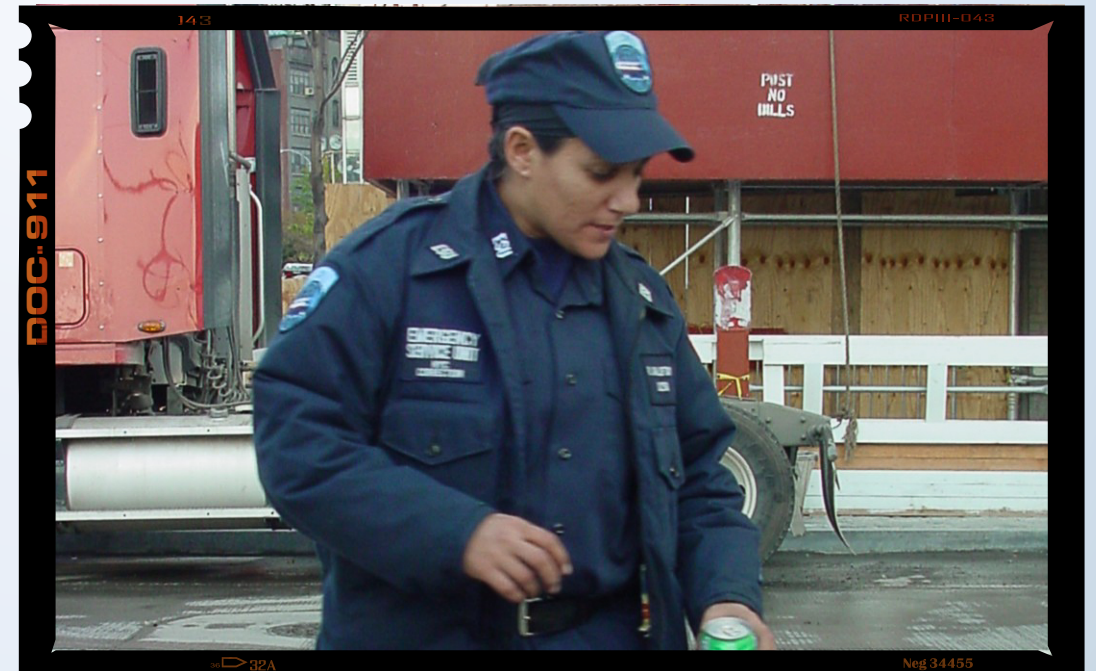
*We Were There*  
WE REMEMBER



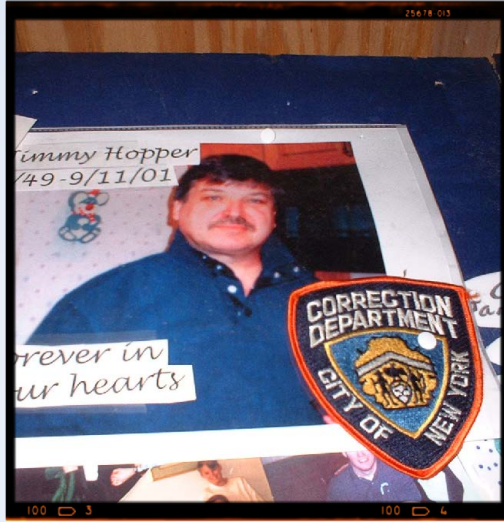




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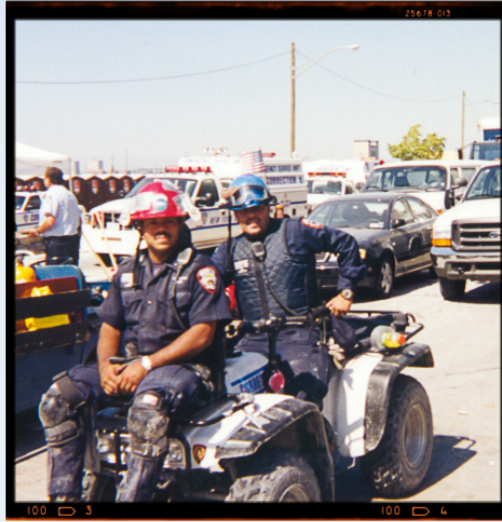




*We Were There*  
WE REMEMBER







*We Were There*  
WE REMEMBER





# ON A NEW YORK CITY SUMMER'S DAY

By Deb Stewart

It is the first week of summer, a Wednesday. And although it is not yet 10 a.m., the blistering city heat is already making its mark on the millions of New Yorkers bustling through the streets of lower Manhattan.

By all appearances, it is a normal day; yet for 147 New Yorkers making their way into the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, it is anything but. Department of Correction Recruit Officers are about to relive one of the deadliest days in US law enforcement history, as told by first-responder survivors, videos and museum curators.

This experiential learning program is the result of a new partnership between the 9/11 Memorial & Museum and the

Department of Correction, and aims to educate prospective correction officers about the critical role the agency played during and after the Twin Towers terrorist attacks. The program includes an extended visit to the museum; customized in-depth presentations; and guided tours, and is being delivered to every incoming Correction Academy class as of July 2019.

For most, this trip to the museum is the first time they will learn about the events of 9/11 in great detail – and about DOC’s invaluable contributions to the rescue and recovery operations.

Recruits watched video footage of retired ESU Officers Green and Hernandez recount their experiences at Ground Zero, and



listened with rapt attention to the story of ESU Captain Rizzo, who worked more than 700 hours at the site and was forced to retire in 2008 due to 9/11-related illnesses. A respectful murmur rippled across the room, and a few recruits even saluted when his uniform, now donated to the museum, flashed across the screen.

“Unfortunately, for years, these stories were unknown – even within our own agency – but I am pleased to say that this is no longer the case,” says Commissioner Cynthia Brann, who led the charge to ensure that DOC’s 9/11

service was officially recognized.

“I was going to fill out a 600AR to be excused from coming,” admits Recruit Officer Alford. “September 11 is my birthday, and for years afterwards I couldn’t celebrate my birthday because I was so affected by this tragedy. But I’m really, really glad I came.”

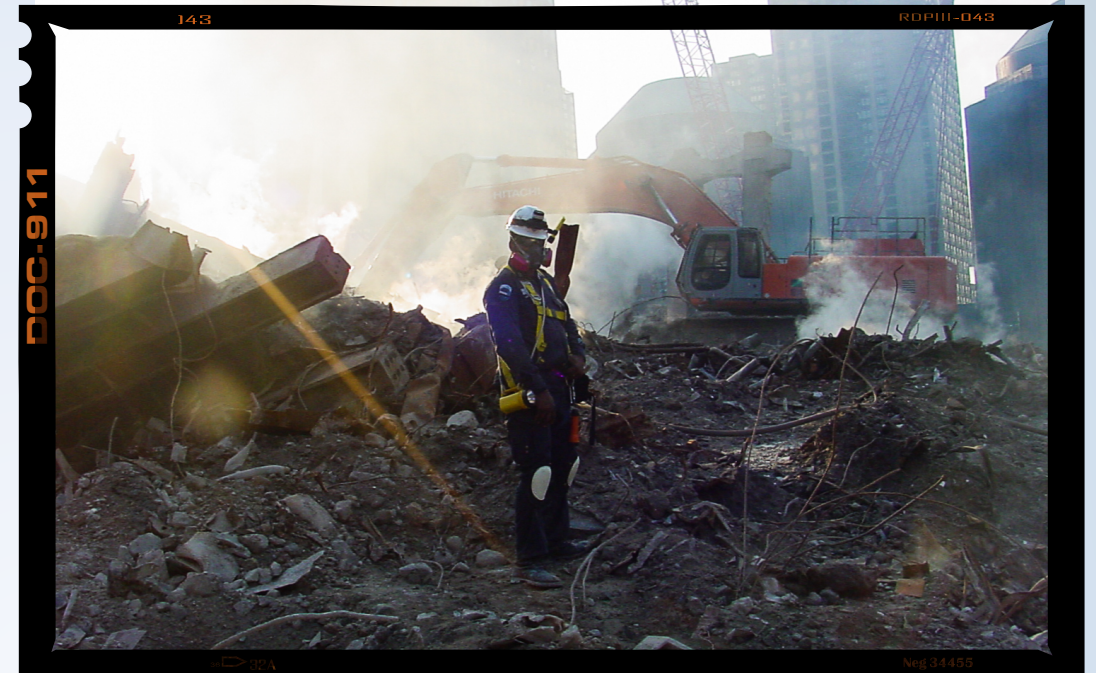
Recruit Officer Brown agrees. “I’ve always tried to avoid this area in my personal life. It was very difficult to hear and watch the presentation, but I’m glad to have had this experience.”







*We Were There*  
WE REMEMBER







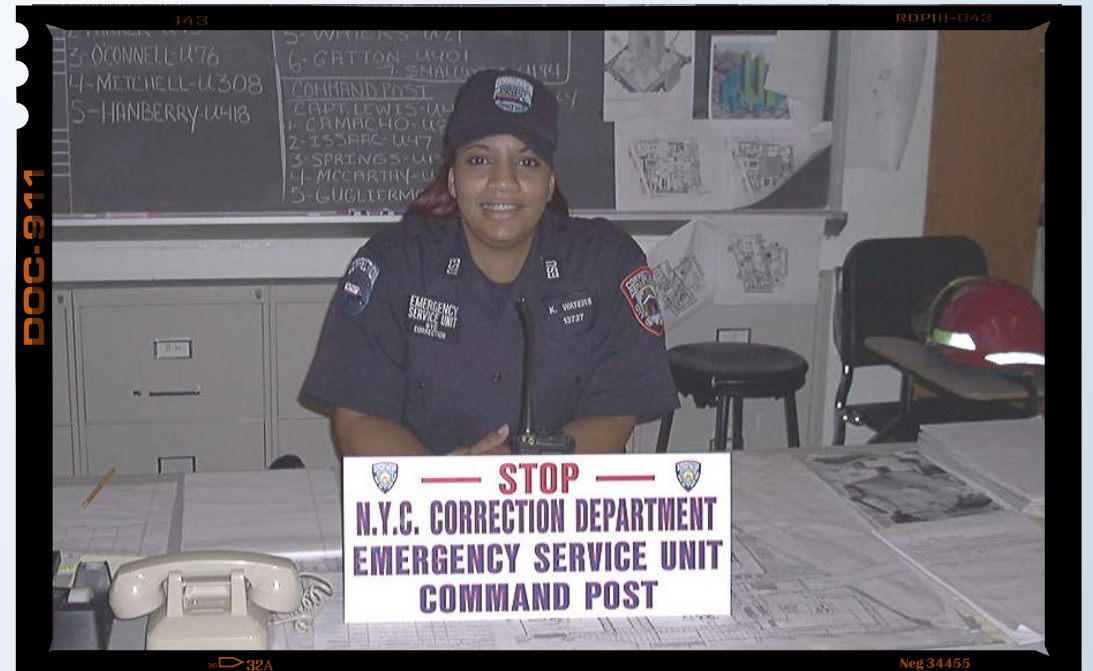
*We Were There*  
WE REMEMBER







*We Were There*  
**WE REMEMBER**



**STOP**  
**N.Y.C. CORRECTION DEPARTMENT**  
**EMERGENCY SERVICE UNIT**  
**COMMAND POST**





*We Were There*  
WE REMEMBER

## DOC hosts its Third Annual Rikers Run/Walk to Remember.

It is a privilege and an honor to be able to recognize and pay tribute to the hundreds of men and women of DOC and the many other first responders who assisted in the rescue, recovery and support efforts after September 11<sup>th</sup>. –DOC Commissioner Brann



Third Annual 9.11  
**5K 10K** RUN-WALK  
TO REMEMBER  
RIKERS ISLAND



# *Thank You*

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## FOR YOUR SERVICE



Peter Thorne | Deputy Commissioner  
Kwame A. Patterson | Assistant Commissioner