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2025

Special Edition The ROLL CALL

Issue No. 11

THE BOLDEST CELEBRATED A YEAR OF BRAVERY AND VALOR.

The annual Medal Day Ceremony, held on November 14 at Queens College, recognized the Boldest for acts of extraordinary bravery, exemplary service, educational achievement, and perfect attendance. The event welcomed hundreds of guests and featured performances by the DOC Band.

The Medal Day award recipients represent the very best of what the Department of Correction delivers every day.

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

The bravery and heroism of the Boldest are on display 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Yet Medal Day gives us, as a Department, the opportunity to reflect on and recognize just how extraordinary this job is.

Committing to our mission is nothing short of heroic. But even among heroes, there are giants — people who act selflessly and those who have demonstrated a remarkable level of commitment to our DOC community.

The people we honored this year demonstrated incredible bravery and overcame challenges that truly inspire.

Some saved lives or responded in moments of crisis. Others put their noses to the grindstone to complete complex but critical projects. And many others dug deep to carry out an operation or task that made our facilities safer.

All performed their duties so exceptionally that their colleagues nominated them for recognition.

There are also those whose consistency of performance has reached legendary status. For example, we honored our champion for perfect attendance: Correction Officer Garlien Jenkins, who has achieved an incredible 46 consecutive years without a single absence, and Officer Walter Nelson, who has served this Department for more than 52 years.

This year, we also welcomed the family of our late Boldest hero, Officer Horen Sterling, to celebrate his legacy and remember his service to our city and our country.

While we honor the great work of this Department, there is no time to bask. Shortly after the celebrations ended, the Boldest were back to work — promoting security and accountability or supporting the community by serving Thanksgiving meals to veterans.

Congratulations to the honorees of this year's Medal Day ceremony, and please know that I am proud of every single member of this Department.

MEDAL OF HONOR

The Department's highest honor went to an officer who saved a life while completing EMT training, and to a group of officers who rescued an individual in custody who attempted to jump over a stairwell railing—preventing serious injury and possibly even death.

Officer ANGELA GONZALEZ, assigned to the Correction Academy, was part of the Department's Emergency Medical Technician training program that certified 15 uniformed and non-uniformed staff members as EMTs. On June 23, during a ride-along, her team responded to a call at a bar where someone was suffering a seizure. By the time they arrived, the victim had gone into cardiac arrest. Officer Gonzalez and her team used an AED to deliver a shock and began alternating in providing lifesaving care.

The patient regained a pulse after several minutes. Officer Gonzalez then jumped into the ambulance and used a Bag-Valve-Mask to keep him alive as they raced to the hospital.

She later said, *"Receiving the Medal of Honor is truly meaningful, but the greatest reward was knowing that someone lived to see another day. In that moment, all I could think about was helping them make it home to their family. I'm grateful I was able to be there when it counted, and proud to serve this Department."*

On February 25, at OBCC, an individual in custody being escorted through a vestibule suddenly wrapped institutional linen around his neck and threw himself over a stairwell railing. Officer KASEEM MARTIN immediately grabbed the individual's arms and upper body, preventing the perilous fall. Officer ROY DAIF rushed over and grabbed the other arm. Despite the weight of the individual nearly pulling them over the railing—and the individual yelling, *"Let me go!"*—the officers held on.

Officer ROBERT PANTON then responded and, reaching over the railing, grabbed the individual by the belt line and pulled him safely onto the landing.

This heroic act saved the man from very serious injury and possibly even death.



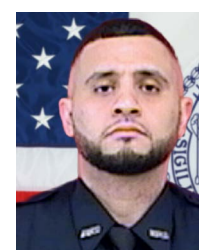
CO Angela Gonzalez, CORRECTION ACADEMY



CO Kaseem
Martin
OBCC



CO Robert Panton
OBCC



CO Roy Daif
OBCC

EXCEPTIONAL MERIT

On the morning of July 5, Officer **STANLEY SAINT-PHARD** was driving to work on the Belt Parkway when he came upon a horrific multi-vehicle crash. He immediately pulled over, called 911, and began assisting victims.

"While waiting for help to arrive, I used my training to help the victims in any way that I could without moving anyone," he recalled.

Officer **JOE STANISLAUS**, also on his way to work, saw the scene and stopped to assist the victims and with traffic control.

"It was a lot going on with the drivers and passengers hurt," he said. "When Officer Saint-Phard told me briefly what happened, I let him know I got his back and started helping too. That's how it is in the jails. We're a team and we help one another."

He added, *"An accident like that can happen to any of us at any time, and we have to help one another. We have to take care of one another because we're all that we have sometimes."*



Stanley Saint-Phard
SOD



Joe Stanislaus
OBCC



MERITORIOUS DUTY

Associate Commissioner **BRIAN CHARKOWICK** has been instrumental in modernizing the Department. His accomplishments include establishing tele-visits during the pandemic, expanding tablet usage, rolling out ID cards for people in custody, implementing body-worn cameras, and more. AC Charkowick consistently brings the "Let's do this" spirit to his work.

In July, Officer **AKEEM COLLYMORE** rushed from the EMTC pharmacy to assist in a medical emergency. He performed textbook CPR until relieved by medical personnel, then continued to support the scene by retrieving supplies and assisting resuscitation efforts.

As the sole Forensic Investigator for the Department, Officer **JIMMY GRANTHIER** responds to serious emergencies, works with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and supports suicide-prevention efforts, hospital outposts, and more. His work requires him to be on call 24/7.

Officer **JULIEN SAMPSON**, Officer **MATTHEW LANDOW**, and Officer **CESAIRE SMITH** launched an operation that intercepted drug-soaked court papers destined for DOC facilities. Their work led to the arrest of the scheme's architect, who was later sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Officer **MARIO GARRASTEGUI**, Officer **ORVILLE HALL**, Officer **DANIEL HUNT**, Officer **KAREEM CLAXTON**, Officer **STEVEN DELGADO**, and Officer **PATRICK BROWN** disrupted a contraband operation that dismantled a drug-smuggling network.



Brian Charkowick
IT/HQ



CO Akeem Collymore
EMTC



CO Jimmy Granthier
HA



CO Julien Sampson
SIU

CO Matthew Landow
SIU

CO Cesaire Smith
SIU



CO Mario Garrastegui, SIU
CO Orville Hall, SIU

CO Daniel Hunt, SIU
CO Kareem Claxton, SIU

OPERATIONS RIBBON

The Genetec Unit deployed body-worn cameras across the Department, inspecting every new device and programming systems to ensure seamless integration. They also implemented security and surveillance technology for the new Bellevue Hospital Correctional Center.

The Strategic Initiatives Unit advanced modernization and efficiency-focused efforts across the Department, collaborating with staff at all levels.



GENETEC UNIT



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES UNIT

EXCELLENT DUTY



Officer **WALTER NELSON** continues to serve with distinction after more than 52 years — an extraordinary tenure that has strengthened public safety over more than a half-century.

Executive Director **REKHA NAGPURKAR** has modernized operations through innovations such as the Electronic Infractions Reporting System, Electronic Logbook, Support Team Search Tracking, Good Guy Letter processes, and more.

Officer **KORAB HASANGJEKAJ** processed 64 arrests involving contraband smuggling attempts by people in custody and visitors. He also pursued arrests for assaults on staff and secured 15 Bronx Supreme Court indictments related to acts of violence within the facility. His work to promote accountability helps DOC ensure safety for all.

Assistant Commissioner **ALEXANDRIA MALDONADO** and her team demonstrate urgency, collaboration, and deep institutional knowledge. She has spearheaded major projects including person-in-custody ID cards, the Public Safety Academy, and the Clinic Dashboard.

Executive Agency Counsel **AJAYI** has strengthened the Department's legal operations by managing the Subpoena Unit, leading the Litigation Support Team, and helping establish the Giglio Unit. Her expertise and leadership have made her indispensable.



Walter Nelson
MDC



Rekha Nagpurkar
INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY DIVISION



Korab Hasangjekaj
CIB



Alexandria Maldonado
HQ/STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



Katherine Ajayi
LEGAL DIVISION

UNIT CITATIONS

In 2025, a wildcat strike in the New York State prison system created a staffing crisis, preventing transfers to DOCCS and resulting in more than 1,000 additional people remaining in city custody. The Custody Management Centralized Movement Unit (CMCMU), led by Assistant Deputy Warden Raymond Sanchez, worked tirelessly to ensure safe, appropriate housing during this unprecedented period.

The Mail Screening Distribution Unit (MSDU) centralized the reception, logging, and screening of mail. Since its launch, it has intercepted nearly 300 pieces of drug-soaked mail.

Correction Academy Staff successfully completed the Assistant Deputy Warden and Deputy Warden Promotion Curriculum, meeting the highest professional standards under tight deadlines.

The Application Development Unit designed, developed, and maintained applications that streamline operations, including incident reporting systems and Electronic Form 22R: Programs Service Tracking.

The Facilities Maintenance and Repair Division (FMRD) maintained departmental infrastructure while managing a surge in high-priority projects, including expanding bed capacity to meet population needs.

The Special Investigations Unit (Intel) disrupted smuggling operations and contributed to major arrests, including that of Maya McIntosh, who shipped drugs into jails statewide and was recently sentenced to eight years in prison.



Custody Management Centralized Movement Unit (CMCMU)



Mail Screening Distribution Unit (MSDU)



Correction Academy



Application Development Unit (I.T.)



Facility Maintenance Repair Division (FMRD)



Special Investigations Unit (S.I.U) Intel



EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT



**Bureau Chief/Chief of Staff
SHERRIANN REMBERT:**
*Master of Science in
Cybersecurity, Southern New
Hampshire University*



ADW OCTAVIO SUBERVI:
*Bachelor of Science in Criminal
Justice, John Jay College of
Criminal Justice*



Officer KIANA JACKSON:
*Bachelor of Science in Criminal
Justice, John Jay College of
Criminal Justice*



Officer WILLIAM SIFONTE:
*Bachelor of Science in
Professional Studies,
Monroe College*

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Officer GARLIEN JENKINS: **46 YEARS** of perfect attendance since joining on April 23, 1979.
Officer Jenkins' continues to set a perfect attendance record that stands out in history.

Capt. LAKISHA IRVIN: **14 YEARS**

Officer RICK MEI: **12 YEARS**

Officer SAMANTHA REDDEN: **12 YEARS**

Capt. WALTER ROSS: **11 YEARS**

Capt. ELVIS RUIZ JR.: **10 YEARS**



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Acting Warden CHARISMA CARTER has strengthened staff morale through hands-on leadership and community-focused initiatives, including toy drives, sneaker giveaways, and back-to-school events.

Captain DEJESUS is a mentor and role model who consistently strives to improve morale.

Officer CHRISDENICE RODRIGUEZ-ARVELO revitalized the Youth Explorers Law Enforcement Program, fostering community engagement and interest in law enforcement careers.

Officer JAMES COMMANDER promotes conflict resolution and violence mitigation strategies, building trust among staff, people in custody, and external partners.

As President of the Disaster Relief Association, Officer JESSICA DAVIS demonstrates the Department's compassion through book drives, disaster response, and a bike giveaway that provided more than 700 children with bicycles.

Officer ZERENA KHAN provides vital support to the Program Development Unit, RNDC, Fatherless No More Initiative, and Chaplaincy Services, always ready to help with transportation and escorts.

Officer ANGIE WALKER goes above and beyond to raise staff morale — from serving warm meals to leading fundraising efforts.

Associate Commissioner SHERBREINA WATSON ensured the stability and effectiveness of Human Resources during a period of transition.

Director CHELSEA CHARD advances complex initiatives involving elected officials, legislation, and the Board of Correction, helping build public trust through clear and accurate communication.

Director DANA WILLIAMS showcases the heroism of DOC staff through writing, photography, and social media outreach that has even inspired some New Yorkers to pursue DOC careers.

Rev. WILLIAM HART, a former Correction Officer turned chaplain, expanded chaplaincy services in RESH-ANNEX with empathy, integrity, and dedication.

REGINA MILLER, Disabilities Coordinator, ensures accessibility for individuals with disabilities and contributes generously to DOC events with her beautiful singing voice.

During the rollout of a new Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) program, Counselor RICHARD USHER played a key role by modeling scenarios during training and co-facilitating a chapter. Coordinator JASMINE COLLINS facilitated the most behavioral therapy sessions in the program, while Coordinator IFETOYA WILLIAMS led the program in the Veterans Unit at OBCC and organized a meaningful graduation ceremony.

UNION AWARDS

ASSISTANT DEPUTY WARDENS/ DEPUTY WARDENS ASSOCIATION AWARDS

THE WILLIAM HEIDENREICH OUTSTANDING CAREER ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Awarded to an Assistant Deputy Warden whose professionalism, integrity and commitment to duty, supervisors, peers, and subordinates has been consistent throughout their career.

THE DOMINICK SCHIANO OUTSTANDING CAREER ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Awarded to a Deputy Warden whose professionalism, integrity and commitment to their supervisors, peers, and subordinates has been consistent throughout their career.

CORRECTION CAPTAINS' ASSOCIATION AWARDS

COMMUNITY SERVICE MEDAL
Awarded for professionalism, personal achievement and commitment to outstanding community service.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL
Awarded for outstanding professionalism and commitment to duty.

CORRECTION OFFICERS' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION AWARD

ARTURO MEYERS AWARD/ MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Given to a Correction Officer for an outstanding act of gallantry at a time of imminent performance or achievement while on duty.



TAMIKA WHITE
Deputy Warden
Dominick Schiano Outstanding
Career Achievement Medal



LUIS MATOS
Assistant Deputy Warden
William Heidenreich Outstanding
Career Achievement Medal



CHRISTINE MASON JOHNSON
Captain
Correction Captains' Association
Community Service Award



NATASHA THOMPSON
Captain
Correction Captains' Association
Distinguished Service Award



STEVEN MAIORINA
Correction Officer
COBA Arturo Meyers Award/
Member of the Year



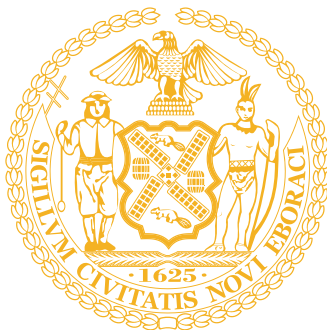
CHAD PETERS
Correction Officer
COBA Arturo Meyers Award/
Member of the Year

CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND SERVICE

After joining the Department in 2018, OFFICER HOREN STERLING enlisted in the U.S. Navy to learn new skills and expand his opportunities to serve. On March 24, while on active duty in Virginia, Officer Sterling tragically passed away in the line of duty. His drive, commitment to service, and heroism will forever be remembered by the Department.

The Department honored him alongside his father, Mr. Horen Sterling Sr., and his grandmother, Ms. Lela Hudson, at this year's Medal Day Ceremony.





CITY COUNCIL RECOGNITION

Council Member Gale Brewer celebrated the staff of the Nutritional Services Division for their work to provide healthy, delicious food to people in DOC's care.

Awards were given to

Food Service Manager NICOLE ROLSTON;

Food Service Administrator SALVATORE LOMBARDO;

Senior Cook CLAYTON AGEDA;

Senior Cook PATRICK COLEMAN and

Cook SHELDON WHYTE.









PRISON TIME FOR MAN WHO ATTACKED OFFICERS

A man who assaulted two Correction Officers on Rikers Island was sentenced to prison this month.

Anthony Taveras-Morales, 24, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for first-degree manslaughter and an additional two years — to run consecutively — for the assault. He pleaded guilty to both charges.

"This was a brazen attack on the officers who risk their lives every day to keep our jails safe," said Commissioner Lynelle Maginley-Liddie. "These officers showed tremendous courage under direct threat, and their actions prevented other people

from getting hurt. Thank you to Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark and her team for sending a powerful message with this prosecution: Violence against our staff will never be tolerated."

On December 17, 2024, at approximately 8:40 p.m., in the Enhanced Supervision Housing area of the Rose M. Singer Center, the defendant lit combustible material in the food slot of his cell. A Correction Captain responded and ordered him to extinguish the fire.



Instead, Taveras-Morales added more combustible material, escalating the situation. The captain used pepper spray and attempted to enter the cell along with assisting DOC officers. Upon entry, the defendant slashed two Officers' hands with a sharp object.

A sharpened piece of plastic, a six-inch nail, and a scalpel were later recovered from his cell.

HEROES NEED HELP TOO!

All DOC staff — along with up to five family members — now have access to a free and confidential wellness app created specifically for first responders and other high-stress professions.

The app is already installed on all departmental cell phones and is also available for download on personal devices through Google Play or the App Store.



Staff will have access to 24/7 wellness services directly from their mobile devices.

EMPLOYEE LOGIN

Department ID
NYDOC-A-NY

Department Code
NYCBOLDwell!

SPOUSE/FAMILY LOGIN

Department ID
NYDOC-S-NY

Department Code
NYCBOLDwell!

RETIREE LOGIN

Department ID
NYDOC-R-NY

Department Code
NYCBOLDwell!

Department ID
and Code
are case sensitive.

DISASTER RELIEF ASSOCIATION PRE-THANKSGIVING MEAL FOR VETERANS AT JAMES J. PETERS VA HOSPITAL

A New York City Department of Correction's fraternal organization, the Disaster Relief Association (DRA), got into the spirit of the holidays by hosting a pre-Thanksgiving luncheon for veterans in nursing facility at the James J. Peters Veterans Administration (VA) hospital in the Bronx.

The lunch served a hot meal to dozens of veterans from the Community Living Care (CLC) nursing facility within the VA a week before Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 20.

A total of 120 meals were made available, said DRA president Jessica Davis, including 75 for the veterans and the remainder for hospital staff.

The DRA dished out the food with the help of an honor guard from the U.S. Air Force, based out of Maguire Air Force Base in New Jersey.

"For me, the takeaway is that veterans understand that this agency cares for them," said Officer Davis, adding *"It gives me satisfaction to know they will be getting a hot meal this Thanksgiving."*

Davis said she particularly enjoys knowing that they are making a difference in the

lives of veterans in the nursing facility and seeing the smiles.

"The best gift you can get from someone is a smile," said Davis, who is assigned to Special Operations Division.

This is the 4th year the DRA had had this event, which featured a turkey dinner with salad and dessert.

For DRA member Captain LaTanya Brown, who is assigned to Bronx Courts, the event took on a special meaning because her deceased father, a Vietnam veteran, used to see doctors at the James J. Peters VA, and she used to take him to his appointments.

"It means a lot to them, and trust me, they are grateful; so many of our veterans are forgotten," said Brown, adding *"they matter a lot to me."*

One of the veterans at the event, Juan Martinez, the vice-president of CLC's resident council, said he was grateful for the DRA and other groups who come and put on lunches during the holiday season since many of the veterans in the facility cannot be with their families.

Retired Warden Rich Plamer gave each of the veterans a pair of new socks he purchased as a gesture of holiday warmth.

DRA members taking part in the event included DRA president Davis, DRA vice-president and retired C.O. Lisa Dawson, ADW Michael Nelson, retired Warden Palmer, C.O. Zurelys Latingua, Captain Brown, Administrative Manager Virginia Marie Rodriguez, and retired C.O. Allston Middleton.





JOIN THE BOLDEST

Connect With DOC Recruiters

Looking to speak to someone about becoming a NYC Correction Officer?

OUR RECRUITMENT TEAM IS HERE TO HELP.

Call (718) 707-2420 or e-mail careers@doc.nyc.gov

to become a step closer to joining The Boldest.

Our recruiters also visit events throughout the Tri-State area to share career information and answer hiring questions.

Be sure to also ask them when they will be visiting a community near you.

The ROLL CALL

The New York City Department of Correction

Interested in contributing to this publication?

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