

# THE ROLL CALL



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The Boldest Family on July 10th paid final respects to Correction Officer Robert Boom at his funeral in Jamaica, Queens. The fallen hero, who proudly served DOC for 13 years, died in the line of duty on June 18th.

## The Heroes We Lost



Special Tribute  
Inside



## BOLD THOUGHTS

To my Boldest family,

These last few weeks have been a challenging time for us as we continue to mourn the sudden and tragic loss of Officers Robert Boom, Andre Knight, and Antonio Aponte. The sudden passing of our beloved colleagues is a painful reminder of how short and precious life is, and how we must take care to treasure it, and each other, each and every day. Each of our fallen brothers leaves behind a legacy of integrity, professionalism, comradery, and positivity. I urge you to keep their spirits alive by upholding these standards in your own work, as I will. As we process our grief in the days and weeks that lie ahead, please make time to take of yourself both mentally and physically.

We need you here at your very best.

If you need extra support, do not hesitate to reach out to the Correction Assistance Response for Employees (C.A.R.E.) Unit at [DL-CAREStaff@doc.nyc.gov](mailto:DL-CAREStaff@doc.nyc.gov) or 718-546-5000 and the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) at 212-306-7660 or [Vanessa.Walton@olr.nyc.gov](mailto:Vanessa.Walton@olr.nyc.gov). They are here to support us.

This month also held moments of excitement and joy. The newest members of our Boldest Family were sworn in this month as Recruit Correction Officers on July 18. I am so proud to see a new class of men and women choosing to join us in our mission of improving conditions in our jails and ensuring the safety of everyone living and working in our facilities. These new Recruit Correction Officers have demonstrated a commitment to public safety, and I am confident they will bring fresh energy and dedication to our team.

I also want to take the opportunity to thank the staff who planned Independence Day cookouts for their commands. These events are a vital part of the fabric of our community and cement us as one Boldest family. I truly enjoyed spending time with you on July 4th and am grateful to everyone who spent the holiday ensuring operations ran smoothly and our jails remained safe. An extra thank you to our IT Division and to all of the staff for managing the unprecedented situation caused by the CrowdStrike outage-kudos to all of you who worked hard to make sure operations continued without a hitch.

In closing, I want to again encourage you all to take care of yourselves and one another. Thank you for your continued hard work and service to this Department! #LETSDOTHIS!

Commissioner Lynelle Maginley-Liddie

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# Heroes Work Here

*This month's Heroes Work Here spotlight goes to Deputy Warden Rivera, Captain Allen and Correction Officers Mekawi, Myrthil, Sansculotte and Williams for their bold display of professionalism, compassion and teamwork during an attorney's visit to the Eric M. Taylor Center last month.*



*From left are* **Officer Mekawi, Officer Williams, Deputy Warden Rivera and Officer Myrthil.**

On June 5, Attorney Stephen G. James did not clear security due to his Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD), but our six heroes remained determined to help him complete the process and meet with his client.

Led by Captain Allen, calls were immediately made up the chain of command and clearance was granted to conduct both a manual and K-9 search to resolve this very rare occurrence at the facility's front gate.

"The attorney couldn't clear the front gate procedures due to his pacemaker, so the decision was made to trans frisk him, with the exception of the chest area, and for K-9 to pass him while he was seated. Once he cleared our security procedures, he then proceeded to his attorney visit," explained Deputy Warden Rivera. "Captain Allen was the supervisor that day and he called for clarification and we all worked together to assist the attorney. Regardless of rank, we worked together to help him."

"A situation like this doesn't happen every day, so it helps us sharpen our tools and stay on point while working here at DOC. We collaborated as a team to help him make his appointment with his client," Officer Myrthil added.

On June 7, James sent a heartfelt email to Commissioner Lynelle Maginley-Liddie to commend the members for handling the situation with care as dedicated correctional professionals.

"These members are the type of staff and brass that make me proud to be a New Yorker and to know that men and women of such integrity and high work standards are here on the job every day doing a difficult and often thankless job. They should never be taken for granted and I believe they will continue to perform their duties at the highest levels," James said.

## TRAINING

On March 27th, the LGBTQ+ Affairs Unit hosted an impactful LGBTQ+ Resource Fair at RMSC. People in custody had the opportunity to connect one-on-one with 15 different LGBTQ+ Community Providers, ranging from healthcare organizations to LGBTQ+ specific shelters and legal services. LGBTQ+ Project Coordinator Mr. Sazo prepared a toolkit with information on each organization and common questions for people in custody, and RMSC staff members were able to connect with the providers to build up their referral networks. The LGBTQ+ Affairs team thanks the entire RMSC Leadership and Programs staff, with special shout outs to Dep. Morales for her creativity regarding movement, and to Captain Edwards and the Program Officers for their seamless escorting. The LGBTQ+ Resource Fair was a triumph for the LGBTQ+ people in custody and for RMSC as a whole.

If you have any questions, please contact Director Thompson at [sara.thompson@doc.nyc.gov](mailto:sara.thompson@doc.nyc.gov) or call her at (718) 546-0674.





# Boldest Spotlight

## Video Teleconferencing Unit Honors 7 Members of Service

Employees in the Video Teleconferencing (VTC) Unit play a vital role in making sure persons in custody can connect quickly with their lawyers and the courts.

VTC's work enables persons in custody to attend meetings with their attorneys, attend virtual court hearings, and meet with social workers and probation officer

The sum of all this work is that court cases move faster, persons in custody access reintegration programming a lot sooner, therefore rejoining their communities in a timelier fashion.

Members of Service in the VTC Unit, which is part of the Criminal Justice Bureau (CJB), were recently honored at the GMDC Wellness Center. They were presented with certificates of appreciation and there was also a masseuse on hand at the private event. It was the first of what will be quarterly events to recognize the Members for their incredibly important work.

Captain Justina Corporan says one of the best aspects of the VTC program is that attorneys, no matter where they're located, can confer with their clients. Just as importantly, persons in custody can be produced in court without having to leave Rikers Island. They're escorted to the VTC booth in their facility a half-hour before their scheduled appointment.

Captain Corporan says sometimes, an in-person court date for a person in custody yields a fifteen-to-ten-minute hearing before a judge. A video appearance is less taxing for them.

"I think VTC is a good program to have for persons in custody to speed up the judicial process," she said, adding that VTC is not only for courts and attorneys, but also affords persons in custody the opportunity to meet virtually with probation officers and social workers to prepare for release.

The greatest challenge VTC faces as she sees it, said Corporan, are staffing challenges but she says that her supervisors always make sure she has the staff needed to keep the program at her assigned jail, RNDC, running smoothly.

The VTC program has been in existence for several years, but there was a marked increase in the use of video teleconferencing during the pandemic, recalled Captain Corporan, who said that there are now two to three times as many VTC calls at her facility as there were before the COVID-19 pandemic.

VTC participants must be escorted, and sometimes alarms or special needs of a particular detainee in custody can slow down the process a bit, said Corporan, but the VTC officers working at the facility do everything in their power to make sure persons in custody can connect.



"I THINK VTC IS A GOOD PROGRAM TO HAVE FOR PERSONS IN CUSTODY TO SPEED UP THE JUDICIAL PROCESS" said Captain Corporan.

## PROGRAMS



The Division's Tablet Operations and Recreation units are collaborating to present "Who Got Talent," a tablet-based talent show. Both teams toured the island, auditioning hundreds of PIC to find the best contestants. Talent showcases ranged from singing, dancing, rap, and poetry. Some PIC even did comedy. Contestants were recorded and PIC can watch those performances on their tablets. Video clearance was completed by the Correction Intelligence Bureau. Individuals in custody can vote for their favorites directly on their tablets. Winners will advance to the next round. A live watch party will feature the top three performers battling it out for the crown!



On July 6, the DOC family and many others gathered at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park in Queens for the Bengali American Boldest Association's Annual Picnic.



The family-friendly event featured public service recognitions, activities for kids, giveaways and more as part of the fraternal organization's celebration of the 2024 summer season.



In celebration of Eid al-Adha, members of the Bangladeshi Correction Society joined Mayor Eric Adams and New Yorkers on July 11 for a special reception at Gracie Mansion.

The festivities included honorary citations, a toy distribution for kids, performances and more in observance of the Muslim holiday.

## C.A.R.E.

Going through a tough time at work?  
Try C.A.R.E.

Issues at home?  
Try C.A.R.E.

Feeling lost? Depressed? Frustrated? Try C.A.R.E.

Drinking too much and it's affecting our home/work life balance?  
Try C.A.R.E.

In need of a quick prayer or meditation?  
Try C.A.R.E.

Worked a double or more and don't want to drive? Try C.A.R.E.

C.A.R.E. is staffed with qualified Correction Officers, Captains and nonuniformed staff to help you in multiple ways. They have peer counselors who will lend a listening ear when you need one and when necessary, help guide you towards rectifying situations on the job and at home. C.A.R.E. is available for uniformed and nonuniformed staff. They have people of diverse backgrounds who can help you spiritually with prayer and there is a Mosque inside to perform daily required prayers for the Muslim faith. They have resources for therapists and psychologists to help us deal with life's issues. C.A.R.E. has access to rehab centers to help bring us back when we have gone too far down the road of alcoholism. C.A.R.E. has sleeping quarters that is complete with rollaway beds, clean sheets and blankets. They offer many classes such Medical Mondays, Wellness Wednesdays, a financial education series called Treasure Thursdays and a fitness course held on - you guessed it - Fitness Fridays. There is a gym there and a shower room. C.A.R.E. is located on the island at 15-15 Hazen Street in the Wellness Center which used to be GMDC's Visit House. C.A.R.E. is staffed 24 hours a day and 365 days a year! If you ever feel you are hopeless and at your wits end, please don't make rash decisions. Call C.A.R.E. or drop by let them help you along the way. 718-546 5000/5001.

## HR NEWS

### Hardest words in the English Language?

"I need help"

No matter how bold you are, no matter how tough,

Everyone... **EVERYONE** needs help at times.

Be bold enough to ask for help.

The higher our stress level, the more support we need.

Check in with each other on a regular basis.

Be present. Notice things.

Be earnest in the offering of support.

Do not judge.

**KEEP YOUR WORD;** discretion and privacy is imperative

to ensuring an environment safe enough to ask for help.

Be thoughtful, sympathetic, empathetic.

Follow up once someone has indicated they might need help.

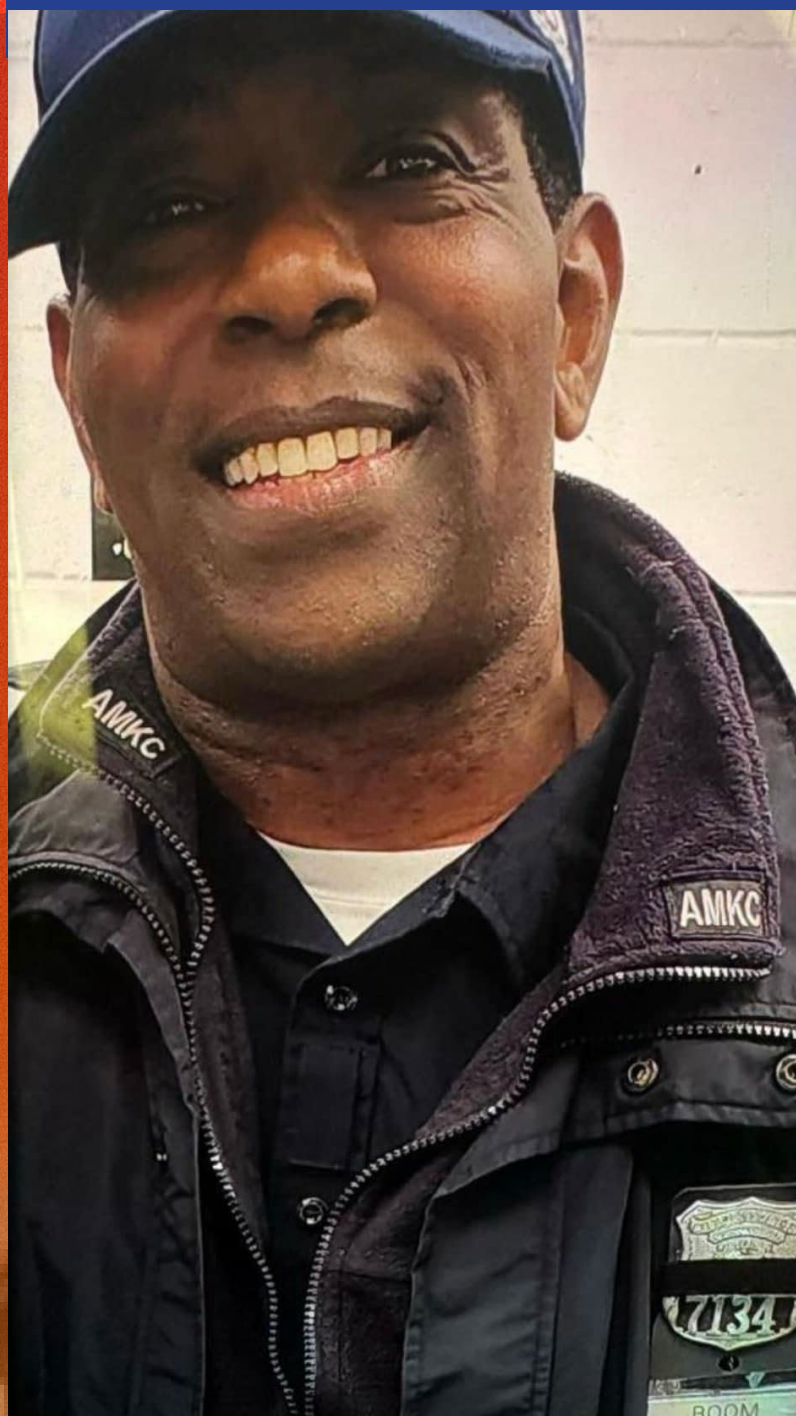
We must take care of each other.



# IN MEMORIAM

## OFFICER

### ROBERT H. BOOM JR.



*I am deeply saddened by the passing of our Bold hero, Correction Officer Robert Boom. For 13 years, he dedicated his life to the NYC Department of Correction, serving with dignity and professionalism and keeping our city safe. Our Correction Officers have the most challenging job in law enforcement and Officer Boom was the quintessence of what it means to be one of New York's Boldest. His legacy will live on through our work, and he will forever be remembered by his DOC family.*

*Officer Boom was a humble giant with a heart full of love who made people smile wherever he went. Although he might not have expressed these words in recent times, we know his actions attest to how he adored his family including his wife Latoya Boom and his sister Jahanara Ullah. May God's love for Officer Boom, be felt in your hearts here on.*

Commissioner, Lynelle Maginley-Liddie



# In Memoriam - OFFICER BOOM



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, friends and colleagues of @CorrectionNYC Officer Robert Boom.  
May God grant him eternal rest. #NeverForget



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## OFFICER

### ANDRE KNIGHT

EOW: JULY 7, 2024



*"It was a privilege and honor to work with Officer Knight. I knew when he picked up the phone in the control room, he would have all the answers to the questions I was asking while multitasking all posts. He was always happy and energetic. Officer Knight always ended every conversation with me, 'I got you, Ma'am, always.'"*

*- AC Harvey*

*"I worked with him for 16 years, his whole career. Every year I do Toys for Tots and he was always the first person to give me a donation. He'd say, 'Always for the kids, Captain.' Even when he was here in the control room. I did it last year, and he was the first one. He said, 'Always for the kids.'"*

*- Capt. Elam*

*"I met Knight when I was first promoted to Captain in 2014 and I ended up being his steady Captain. He definitely welcomed me with open arms. 'Don't worry, Cap. You're going to be good, I got you.' He was warm, welcoming, happy, positive, inspirational. He liked to host parties. He loved traveling. Family and friends were everything to him. I miss him dearly."*

*- ADW Armstrong*



# IN MEMORIAM

## OFFICER

### ANTONIO APONTE

EOW: JULY 14, 2024



*"I worked with Officer Aponte at AMKC and OBCC. He was always full of life and full of energy. He was a good dude. He was a leader. He was always taking care of the Officers on his post, and I have so much respect for him."*

*- Officer Allen*

*"Officer Aponte was a great Officer. When he was here, he was present and very protective of his partners. He was always ready to do his job. He also loved his family. He would always talk so highly about his kids, his mother, and his roots. He was a team player and a good person."*

*- Officer Gonzales*

*"Officer Aponte was a good guy. He was very charismatic, and he was always ready to help all the Officers. Everyone knew him and he was a supportive Officer. Whenever we had issues, if we called on Aponte, he was always there to help from the beginning to the end. He was reliable and really an all-around good guy."*

*- Officer Randolph*