

As prepared for delivery

Commissioner Brann's 9/11 Run/Walk Remarks
September 8, 2018

Good morning. It is a privilege and an honor to be here today as we pay tribute to the men and women of DOC who assisted in the rescue, recovery and support efforts after September 11.

I want to thank everyone for joining us at the *2nd annual Rikers Run-Walk to Remember*. And I want to particularly recognize our honored guests and all the heroic staff, many who are retired, who came back to be a part of this special tribute.

I also want to acknowledge all the City Agencies that are here.

- Chief. Brian Johnston from FDNY
- Captain Stewart from NYPD
- Capt. David Ehrenberg and Lt. Nick Federico from NY/NJ Port Authority

And John Feal from the FealGood Foundation.

I come here today not just as your Commissioner but as an American, filled with pride at the courage of my fellow citizens and saddened by the loss many of you endured that day.

Seventeen years later, we remember, and we will never forget.

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

WE WERE THERE.

Your boldness and bravery has been an inspiration to me. As your Commissioner, I am working to ensure that our history is known. For the first time, DOC has been

invited to participate in the September 11 anniversary commemoration ceremony on the Memorial plaza. We are also working in close partnership with the National September 11 Memorial & Museum to ensure that DOC is recognized and our story and memorabilia added to their exhibits.

I know to some this recognition may seem long overdue, and I am mindful that no words or deeds can ever truly ease the pain of this, but I want you to feel encouraged by these changes and know I am committed to making sure our story is told.

Across our country this upcoming week, Americans will come together in service and remembrance. This will be a solemn time but also a reminder that **together** there is nothing we cannot overcome. To help our first responders, I am pleased to announce that the Department will be starting a 9/11 support group. We must look out for each other, united as DOC.

The words of Pulitzer Prize author Geraldine Brooks rings true, “September 11, 2001, revealed heroism in ordinary people who might have gone through their lives never called upon to demonstrate the extent of their courage.”

Thank you again for your service to this Agency, to our city and to this great nation.