LGBTQ+ Pride Month Cont’d

In celebration of LGBTQ+ Pride month, the Brooklyn Re-entry team put together a resource table hanging eight flags to represent the LGBTQ+, Transgender, Non-conforming and Non-Binary (TGNCNB) communities. Each flag had a definition of what they stand for to educate and create awareness for staff. The Department continues to foster an inclusive workspace and provides ongoing education through awareness, visibility and compassion to all staff it represents.

Members of the incarcerated individual organization “US United,” recently held a Pride Event at Mohawk Correctional Facility. Participants were given snacks, played card games, viewed the movie Selena and shared posters created by the organization.

The incarcerated individual organization “Alliance Pride,” recently held an event at Mid-State Correctional Facility where incarcerated individuals enjoyed candy sold by the organization and a viewing of the movie Mama Mia. Those who participated also took part in small group activities including Pride themed coloring packets, word searches and crossword puzzles.
Sing Sing Correctional Facility held their Annual Fallen Officers Memorial to commemorate and honor staff who have passed away while on duty. DOCCS Executive Team members, local superintendents and government officials were in attendance of the ceremony which featured the Sing Sing Color Guard, a 21-gun salute by the Rifle Squad, a reading of the names of the fallen and a beautiful wreath laying.
Annual Memorial Day Ceremony

With the support of Greene Correctional Facility’s EAP and Diversity Inclusion Committees, the facility honored Correctional employees who lost their lives during their service to the Department at their Annual Memorial Day Ceremony. Speakers included Superintendent Brandon Smith, ADS Steve Young, EDC Daniel Martuscello, Deputy Commissioner Jeff Mckoy and Airman First Class Aimee Cluever. Central Office staff, neighboring facilities, Greene County Sherriff’s Department, NYS Troopers, The Protectors Motor Brigade, Emerald Society Pipe Band and family members of those being honored were in attendance.
For the past 10 years, Eastern NY Correctional Facility has held a ceremony in remembrance of Correction Officer Casimiro “Maxi” Pomales. Officer Pomales started his career with the Department in 1988, but on January 28, 2011, that all changed. Officer Pomales died in the line of duty transporting an incarcerated individual when the van was forced off of the highway and down an embankment. Pomales succumbed to his injuries that day and will forever be remembered for his bravery and dedication as an officer. The Department holds these ceremonies so that individuals who have lost their lives in the line of duty will not be forgotten. We again want to acknowledge our appreciation and gratitude for those who take on the risks of this job every day. May we continue to honor those we have lost and never forget the sacrifices they had made.
Correction Officer and Employee Appreciation Week

Central Office celebrated Employee Appreciation Week by providing staff with a complimentary lunch! DOCCS thanks its staff members for their commitment and dedication not just during this week, but throughout the year.

Sing Sing Correctional Facility celebrated Correction Officer and Employee Appreciation Week by cooking a complimentary lunch for their employees. We want to thank staff for everything they do to
Queens Area Parole Office took the time to show their appreciation to all its employees for Correction Officer and Employee Appreciation Week by hosting a luncheon to honor their hard work and dedication. Thank you for your diligence!

Sullivan Correctional Facility took the opportunity to recognize their amazing staff by providing them with two days of breakfast and barbecue meals cooked primarily at the QWL BBQ pit. Numerous staff donated their time, recipes and cooking skills to commend the ongoing dedication of their staff. Everyone left full and appreciative of the opportunity to be
As May was recognized as Nurses Month, the Department thanked our dedicated, hard-working professional nurses, who greatly contribute to the health care delivery system of our correctional facilities, as well as our state and nation. Nurses continue to perform their essential duties in this especially challenging time. Now more than ever, they leave their homes and families each day, knowing the real risks they face while on the job, and yet they do so selflessly, to provide care.

Nursing is an honorable profession, which many consider to be the heart and soul of the health care system. Nursing continues to be one of the most trusted professions, providing high standards and a strong sense of public service, and has done so for over 150 years. Each year the demands on nurses increase as patient care becomes more complex, and the needs of the health care system expand. The incarcerated patient population creates even more complexity due to the significant burden of coexisting mental illness and chronic medical conditions. The ability to successfully address these conditions within the correctional environment, requires a sophisticated level of nursing skill and knowledge, not typically required in many community health care settings.

These dedicated professionals work tirelessly to care for the incarcerated population and keep our correctional facilities safe. We could not carry out the Depart-
DOCCS hosted their Annual Memorial Service & Medals Ceremony to once again recognize staff who have selflessly gone above and beyond the call of duty by coming to the aid of someone in dire need. Dating back to 1861, we also pay tribute to the 43 men and women who have lost their lives on duty while demonstrating extraordinary bravery to protect those around them. We acknowledge our Officers’ continuous dedication and

At Empire State Plaza Memorial Park, DOCCS held their annual ceremony to honor both Parole Officers and Correction Officers who have died in the line of duty. Attendees were asked to take a moment of silence while Executive Team members and Union officials placed their ceremonial wreaths in front of the memorial to commemorate those we have lost. We recognize the bravery, dedication and risks our Officers take on every day and honor

(Medal of Honor and Medal of Merit recipients Christopher Mulvey, Shawn E. Reynolds, Karen S. Hoth, Nicholas J. Pontillo, Marie G. Frunzi, Sean L. Santiago, Rachel C. Johnson, Mary Jenkins, Aaron T. Lang, Stacey Dorsey and Timothy R. Sheldon)
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Altona Correctional Facility’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee conducted a training that highlighted Black History Month and Women’s History Month. The training honored women’s accomplishments throughout history and left an open discussion for participants to share stories of women who have impacted their lives. Other topics included the adversity in which both parties overcame throughout time and the importance of the local historic sites which guided enslaved people to freedom.
Veteran’s Canine Training Program

Mid-State Correctional Facility works closely with the Wanderers’ Rest Humane Association, Inc. to give second chances to sheltered dogs and strengthen the possibility that some of them get adopted.

Mid-State’s Veteran Canine Training Program held their fourth canine session where Kody, Paulie and Rufus graduated and celebrated with Central Office Administration and their community volunteers. Canine Trainer John Rose helped to provide basic obedience training and socialization skills so the canines have a higher chance of adoption. In addition to the training component for the canines, the program also taught viable canine handling skills and provided secondary social/emotional benefits to the Incarcerated Veterans. Each Veteran was provided with tools such as journals and weekly evaluations to assist in enhancing the therapeutic benefit for each participant.

(Kody, Paulie and Rufus excited to start their training in hopes of finding their forever homes)

(Kody, Paulie and Rufus graduated and celebrated with Central Office Administration and their community volunteers.)

(Kody, Paulie and Rufus’ graduation pictures)
Collins Correctional Facility’s Pawsatives for Heroes Canine Training Program began on May 19th. The program works in conjunction with Western New York Heroes and a Certified Canine Trainer to provide specialized obedience training and socialization skills to canines.

The program began with three rescue dogs, Bordeaux, Hank and Luna. Hank and Luna were rescued just days before they were scheduled to be euthanized. Shaina has been the newest addition, but is just as eager to learn as the rest.

The training started immediately and will continue for approximately 10 months. Each dog will have a primary Incarcerated Individual canine handler and a secondary handler to provide 24/7 care and training. After completion of their program, the dogs will go to a Western New York Veteran in need of a service dog.
Private Citizen Facility Tours

Attica Correctional Facility conducted an annual tour for private citizens in conjunction with Wyoming Correctional Facility. Attendees were members of the Attica Lions Club and included the Attica Village Mayor, the Town of Attica Judge, the Town of Attica Court Clerk and a member of the Attica Village Police Department. The areas toured were a mess hall, industry programs and other areas of the facility which highlighted the history of the facility and provided information regarding its newest changes. All who participated were very appreciative of the tour!

Hale Creek Correctional Facility recently held their annual tour by private citizens which included attendees such as Assemblyman Smullen, a Captain and Lieutenant from the local police department, Fulton County Judge Brown and Judge Preston as well as representatives from the Fulton-Montgomery Community College. The tour began with a meet and greet in the visiting room and continued to the mess hall, education building, medical building, gym, recreation areas, library areas, maintenance, commissary, a dorm, stateshop and laundry. Participants of the tour expressed how they were glad to have been a part of this opportunity and gained a great deal of knowledge!
DOCCS recently welcomed the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation’s Second Chances Program to Wyoming Correctional Facility. With the horses scheduled to arrive in October, the horse farm grounds currently show the completion of two barns, one for stables and the other for classrooms and administrative offices. The Horse Handling and Care program already has four incarcerated individuals enrolled, with the anticipation of more enrollees to come.
February 4-6th, 2022, DOCCS participated in The Nave Law Winter Fair inside the Expo Center on the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse, New York. DOCCS staff spoke to attendees about security and civilian opportunities to help jumpstart their future as an employee with New York State.