

# DOC NEWS ONLINE

A Publication of the DC Department of Corrections

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May 2005



## WE STILL REMEMBER THOSE LOST IN THE LINE OF DUTY...

- MICHAEL G. HUGHES - *Correctional Officer* - 2/13/58
- MICHAEL ROY KIRBY - *Correctional Officer* - 11/30/73
- RONALD RICHARDSON - *Correctional Counselor* - 10/07/91
- AMOS WILLIAMS - *Correctional Officer* - 12/31/96

## DOC CELEBRATES NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEES WEEK

National Correctional Employees' Week recognizes the many noteworthy and unique contributions corrections professionals make to the workplace and community. It provides an opportunity to annually acknowledge the men and women who comprise this critical component of the criminal justice profession.

a wreath laying ceremony in tribute to the men and women who sacrificed their lives to uphold public safety. The ceremony's highly anticipated Honor Guard competition, which displays the discipline, pageantry and pride of the corrections' workforce, was postponed due to inclement weather.

The DC Department of Corrections celebrates the week with a host of activities that honor, educate and entertain staff, their families and other persons interested in learning more about the responsibility corrections employees hold as public servants. This year's events began on April 30<sup>th</sup> with local corrections jurisdictions holding

The DOC/FOP Labor Management Council, along with the DOC Executive and senior staff, and the Employee Recognition Committee coordinated a full American breakfast for DC Jail. Titles and positions gave way to relaxed chitchat over coffee, pastries, bacon and eggs when the Director, senior executives, and line staff gathered for an early morning meal. Worship services were offered at the jail. The 1.5-mile Walk/Run brought out the competitive spirit, while the Health Awareness Fair served as a reminder to many to keep their blood pressure and other health issues in check. Other activities included an agency-wide "Mardi Gras" themed cookout at Grimke Headquarters, a family picnic, fish fry, bowling night,

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Anthony A. Williams, Mayor  
District of Columbia Government



S. Elwood York, Jr., Esq., Interim Director



A Message from the Interim Director

## CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEES WEEK: CELEBRATING DEDICATION AND PERSISTENCE



I am truly honored to serve as Interim Director for the DC Department of Corrections. I am fortunate to work side-by-side with staff that dutifully works with courage, pride and true professionalism. The many individual and collective contributions they provide as public servants deserve the recognition that is emphasized during the annual celebration of National Correctional Employees' Week each May.

Corrections work is not an easy task. This department's correctional employees extend themselves every day in numerous ways to ensure the safety and security of our facilities, inmates, colleagues and the citizens of the District of Columbia; to provide administrative support to their colleagues in the various offices within the agency; and to provide leadership to those who report to them.

Today's correctional employees are well-trained professionals who continually respond to the expected and the unexpected with equal reliability. They are the uniformed officer, administrative support personnel and managers who daily extend themselves in numerous ways to ensure the safety and security of life and property. They work in the cellblock, the office and in the community striving to improve the conditions of employment for staff; enhance conditions of confinement for inmates; and increase quality of safety for citizens of the District of Columbia.

Some within the agency must be familiar with the law, policy, rules and jail regulations. Others must possess knowledge of human psychology, negotiation skills, conflict resolution, self-defense and tactical operations. Still others focus on the administrative support, timekeeping and payroll, effective communication with local and national media, timely training, and maintaining state-of-the-art technology. All must maintain a level of sensitivity in order to reach people who are not normally given to trusting or honoring human relationships or tolerating vulnerability. They must be mindful of the teamwork necessary to coordinate the needs of offenders, taxpayers, victims, elected officials and the entire criminal justice system.

I want to commend the entire workforce for their service to the DC Department of Corrections. I'm extremely proud of the dedication and hard work that I see coming from the men and women of this organization.

*S. Elwood York, Jr.*

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### GOVERNMENT ENDORSED DRIVER'S LICENSE NO LONGER REQUIRED

The DC Department of Motor Vehicles has recently eliminated the requirement that DC government employees obtain a "G" endorsement on their driver's license, or hold a DC government driver's license in order to operate a DC government vehicle.

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**Your input is important.**  
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**Every DOC employee is  
invited to suggest and/or  
submit articles for the  
DOC NewsOnline .  
Let us hear from  
**YOU**  
for the next issue!**

**Alice Holland**, Management Liaison Specialist wasted no time in buckling down to work upon her return to the agency in April. Taking her position in the Office of Human Resources at Grimke, one of her first tasks was the preparation this list of new DOC employees. Joining her on DOC's April hires list are Correctional Treatment Specialists **Pamela Simpson** and **Letita Spellman**; Correctional Officers **Ronald Hatem** and **Lawrence Henly** and Chaplin **Edward Cole**.

Retirees for the month of April included Correctional Officers **Betty J. Footman** and **Nathaniel Williams**, and supervisory sanitarian, **Aniceto Charles**.

### EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: MARCH 2005



Senior Correctional Officer **Wayne Taylor** was selected as the Employee of the Month for March 2005. Corporal Taylor joined the Department of Corrections in 1990 and is currently assigned to the Male Receiving and Discharge Unit on the number two shift. He is responsible for processing new intakes and court returns into the facility, and for searching each inmate and their property.

By initiating aggressive searches, Cpl. Taylor has, on numerous occasions, prevented contraband from entering his post. In July 2004, he encountered an inmate attempting to enter the facility with a walking cane that disguised an 18-inch blade sharpened to a point. Cpl. Taylor's focused performance of his duties kept the dangerous weapon out of the facility.

"Cpl. Taylor is level headed and always uses good common sense," said Captain William Burns. "He is very conscientious. Because of his alertness, he resolves most of the conflicts before they get out of hand." In presenting Cpl. Taylor with his award, Interim Director, S. Elwood York, Jr. praised him as a "highly competent officer who performs his duties with cautious zeal, always giving his best effort."

## Personality Profile

This month we profile and applaud three significant and highly effective personalities who keep this DOC organization running successfully.

### Mr./Ms. Correctional Employee

This personality works in a correctional facility. Each individual who holds this title has a vested interest in maintaining the security and safety of the facility. All staff in the DC DOC, no matter what their job specialty, are correctional workers first and specialists in a particular occupational area second. Under this concept, all staff members are provided a common base of training in fundamental correctional skills, such as accountability procedures, key control, searches, and other tasks.

### Mr./Ms. Senior Correctional Employee

This person is an employee normally assigned to the most responsible line assignments within a correctional facility and throughout the agency, such as the control center, entrance posts, high security, correspondence unit, and the records office. This personality may serve as the officer in charge of living quarters for a specific group of quarters, or the team leader with a particular unit of the agency. The primary responsibility for some includes orienting and supervising new inmates and supervising the disposition of personal property and funds of newly committed inmates. Others are assigned to head up particular projects and offer guidance to team members to assure that projects are completed successfully and in a timely manner.

### Mr./Ms. Supervisory Correctional Employee

The third personality to be spotlighted this month is the supervisory correctional employee. This person is responsible for overseeing the main work shifts for security, professional and administrative staff. They may also be responsible for an area of the DOC such as special housing, large recreation areas, public affairs, or information technology. Although paperwork is a vital part of the supervisory correctional employee's responsibility, they are most effective out of the office among the employees and the inmate population.

### SALLIE D. THOMAS MOVES TO A NEW OFFICE AND NEW ASSIGNMENT

**Sallie D. Thomas**, who joined the Department of Corrections in May 2000 as the Administrative Specialist Supervisor to the Director, has been appointed as Acting Executive Assistant.

In this position, Ms. Thomas serves on behalf of the Interim Director as liaison to the Executive Staff, Office of the Mayor, community groups and criminal justice partners to ensure the appropriate delivery of services reflecting the best image of the agency. Prior to joining the Department of Corrections, Ms. Thomas served 28 years as a state lobbyist for a Fortune 500 company. She was involved in various legislations that resulted in significant savings for the company.





*“Correctional Employees’ Week is a time for staff and management to take off their hats and titles, enjoy activities as a family, and to always remember our fallen officers.”*  
Lt. Karen Holmes-Gray  
DOC Training Academy



### 1.5-MILE WALK/RUN BRINGS OUT THE HEALTHY SPIRIT OF COMPETITION



In recognition of National Correctional Employees Week, the DOC Labor Management Partnership Council sponsored Employee Wellness Day, an all day “Check It Out” health awareness fair, on May 3, 2005 at the Central Detention Facility Armory. In addition to health screenings, fitness demonstrations, and educational information, the day’s events included yoga, relaxation, and deep breathing sessions; relaxation and stretching techniques; and a 1.5-mile walk/run.

Prizes were awarded to the following first and second place winners in each event: (left to right) 1st place runner Cpl. Richard Glenn; 2nd place runner, Cpl. Gregory McKnight; 1st place walker, Violet Hicks (Health Services); and 2nd place walker, Marian Sanders (Human Resources).

