

# FRONTLINE NEWS

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Photo credit: Darby Baham

## Congressman John Lewis and Andrew Aydin visit Juveniles

On Tuesday, February 23, Congressman John Lewis and Andrew Aydin joined the juvenile program's Free Minds Book Club session for a conversation about the graphic novel series they co-authored entitled, *March*. Free Minds normally meets twice-weekly with the juveniles to read, write, and discuss how the books they've read reflect their own lives.

The event included discussions not only of the graphic book, but also of the congressman's involvement in the Civil Rights Movement and how those experiences continue to influence him today. Rep. Lewis spoke with the juveniles about the over 40 times he was arrested protesting non-violently and answered questions about what keeps him motivated now and what he would tell the youth of today.

"Find something that is so dear, rich and necessary to follow your dream," said Rep. Lewis. "And when you get knocked down, you get up. You must never give up. Never get lost in a sea of despair. You've got to be happy."

After posing several questions to both Rep. Lewis and Aydin, a group within the book club then recited an original poem they wrote for him. The poem was called "Free Minds March" and was inspired by Rep. Lewis' fight for freedom during the Civil Rights Movement. When the book club session ended, each juvenile had the opportunity to get his book signed by both authors and speak with them one-on-one for a few minutes.

By Darby Baham

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*"Find something that is so dear, rich and necessary to follow your dream. And when you get knocked down, you get up. You must never give up. Never get lost in a sea of despair."*

- Congressman  
John Lewis



# 2016 Black History Month Spoken Word Contest Has 3 Winners



Photo credit: Darby Baham

This February, D.C. Jail hosted its first Black History Month Spoken Word contest in which nine guys participated. Of those nine participants, three winners were awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place on February 17 in the Chapel.

“This was the first time we held the contest,” said Sgt. Goldman Kinsey. “But we’re looking forward to doing even more activities like it in the future.”

Participants were given three weeks to write their content and then two minutes to recite it on the day of the contest. After reciting, each contestant’s entry was judged by a panel of five people based on the

following five criteria: subject matter, craftsmanship, composition, use of space, and balance and symmetry.

The 1st place winner of the contest, Tyree Brox, wrote a poem entitled “Black Lives Matter.” 2nd and 3rd place winners were Tyron Sweeney’s “What is Black?” and DaVon Davis’ “The Way of the World” respectively.

Each winner was presented with a certificate by Deputy Warden Lennard Johnson that was signed by Director Tom Faust and Warden William Smith. Included with the certificates were also photos that the men could share with family members. They also participated in a photo shoot that was shared on the Department’s Facebook and tumblr pages.

*By Darby Baham*

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## Mayor Bowser Visits Work Readiness Program on SaferDC Tour

Speaking to many of the inmates in DOC’s Work Readiness Program, Mayor Muriel Bowser laid out her proposal for the expansion of Good Time Credits (GTCs) as part of the anti-crime legislation she wanted the city council to pass. The proposal would increase the number of good time credits inmates with misdemeanor sentences could receive from eight to 10 per month for participating in similar programs.

The visit was part of the Mayor’s “Safer, Stronger DC” Tour held on January 4 to highlight the package she proposed in August. It was her final stop after visiting the Department of Forensic Sciences, WAMU’s Kojo Nnamdi Show, and Mama’s Kitchen in Ward 8 (which had been robbed five times and forced to buy cameras for security). She was joined on the tour by Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice Kevin Donahue.



Photo credit: Darby Baham

After speaking with the inmates on the unit, Mayor Bowser was presented with a sketch drawing of a photo of her in The Washington Post by one of the residents of the housing unit. “You made me look better in this one than they did,” she remarked to the artist.

Mayor Bowser’s visit to the Work Readiness Program was her third visit to the jail since being elected in November 2014.

*By Darby Baham*

## Getting to Know Major Kendall

Born in Melrose, Massachusetts to John and Sharon Kendall, Major Brian K. Kendall joined the United States Marine Corps upon completion of high school. During his 20 year career in the Marine Corps, he worked as a Correctional Officer, Correctional Supervisor, Case Management Counselor, Substance Abuse Counselor, ERT Supervisor, Programs Chief, Training Chief, Assistant Warden and Warden in military prisons throughout the United States, Japan, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Upon his retirement from the Marine Corps, Major Kendall worked with the Virginia Department of Corrections and began working at the Central Detention Facility in Washington, D.C. in December of 2013. He has held positions as a Lieutenant, Captain and Major. Major Kendall graduated from Central Texas College with an Associate's Degree in General Studies. He then went on to earn his Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice/ Corrections Management from Bellevue University.

Major Kendall is married to Shirley Kendall and has three children, Ashleigh, Tyler and Kirsten.

## Profile: Major Kendall

Brian Kendall joined DCDOC in December 2013 and was promoted to Major on December 28, 2015. Previously, he has held positions of Lieutenant, Captain, and Major. Please read below to learn more about Major Kendall.



### **Q: What influenced your interest in the position of Major?**

A: I like to be part of policy review and enjoy using my leadership experience, and I knew this would be a great opportunity for both. I also enjoy taking on new challenges.

### **Q: What are some of your short and long term goals?**

A: Short term, I would like to bring more of a professional atmosphere and more of a career shift into the culture of the officers in the jail. That's not saying that we are currently unprofessional, but I want to make sure everyone understands this can be a career and not just a job. Long term, I'd like to keep progressing in the agency and improving my knowledge. Ultimately, I'd like to be Warden some day.

### **Q: What have you enjoyed the most so far about working at DCDOC?**

A: Working with the officers, using my experience and leadership ability to help guide them. I have also really enjoyed learning from those in more senior roles within DOC.

### **Q: Tell us a bit about yourself—some of your hobbies and interests.**

A: One of my hobbies is motorcycle riding, and I used to run a lot before I joined DOC. I also really enjoy fresh water fishing.



## DOC Begins Language Access Video Filming

After months of planning with the Language Access Team, the Office of Government and Public Affairs, and the Language Access Program in the Office of Human Rights, DOC began filming its first D.C. Jail scenario-based training video in March 2016.

The video (which will feature DOC staff, officers, and inmates) will be used as part of the new training module to ensure the agency is in compliance with the standards set in the District’s Language Access Act of 2004.

“The Director believes that education and training serve to inform and empower staff and improve performance,” said Sylvia Lane, Government and Public Affairs Coordinator. “And this video is an especially effective training tool because it includes four scenarios highlighting situations that could very easily happen in any jail setting. With each scenario, there is the opportunity to observe what is taking place and to discuss strategies to enhance response and communication, and to make decisions that contribute to a more safe and secure environment for both staff and inmates.”

Once completed, the video will be shown as part of the new interactive training module on Language Access in the Training Academy, but it will also be made available on the agency’s website and YouTube pages.

*By Darby Baham*

## Masthead

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## D.C. Jail Inmates Compete In 1st Basketball Tournament

The 3-man team from SW-2 can officially call themselves winners of D.C. Jail’s first basketball tournament.

The tournament, which began with teams on each block vying to compete in the 3 day championship round, was started by a team of three itself: Corporal Rush, Corporal Dyson, and Sergeant Goldman Kinsey came up with the idea of having a March Madness-type event in the jail.

“We wanted to bring some comradery into the institution,” said Sgt. Kinsey. “And Lieutenant Williams was a big help with getting everything sanctioned initially. Then it was just about checking the separation orders and putting [the tournament] into place.”

After the guys in each block played each other, the top 6 men were picked to represent their housing units in Teams A and B with a total of fourteen teams playing in the 3-day championship round. By Wednesday, March 9, the tournament was down to the final two teams — one from SW-2 and the other from SE-3. SW-2 won with a score of 11 to 6.

“I was most proud of the fact that there were no incidents throughout the tournament,” said Sgt. Kinsey. “We had eight different blocks that were out at one time without any incidents.”

*By Darby Baham*



Photo credit: Bridget Reavis-Tyler