

# A Tribute to Professionalism, Dedication and Courage

## NATIONAL CORRECTIONS OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WEEK 2022

The first week of May marks National Corrections Officers and Employees Week as it has since it was fully inaugurated in 1984.

It is the time set aside specifically to honor the day in and day out sacrifices made by corrections professionals all over the country.

Because no matter the situation, be it pandemic, be it short staffing, be it difficult situations, corrections professionals go about their critical business of keeping the public and their populations safe and secure.

We believe these brave women and men deserved more than ever to be celebrated for their tireless efforts to keep us safe.

That's why we celebrate the work done by Correctional Officers and Correctional Employees — in all sorts of ways.

We have compiled some of these celebrations from all across our great country. They show how corrections officers and other employees were honored for their professionalism, dedication and courage in the past year.

The official start of this celebration came on the first Saturday in May 1984, when then-President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation calling upon the country to pay tribute to corrections professionals. This proclamation

created a week of commemoration of the work done by correctional officers — an honor many felt was long overdue.

In 1996, Congress changed the name of National Correctional Officers Week to National Correctional Officers and Employees Week to rightfully credit all of the women and men who serve by working in corrections.

This is truly a special week to celebrate and bring awareness to the importance and significance of our profession. National Correctional Officers and Employees Week is a fitting occasion to honor, specifically, the dedicated public servants in our nation's correctional systems.

"The professionalism, dedication and courage exhibited by these officers throughout the performance

of these demanding and often conflicting roles deserve our utmost respect," stated Reagan in his May 5, 1984, proclamation 5187.

We dedicate these seven days annually to recognize these great public servants, but we should not hesitate to make every day an opportunity to honor, praise and cherish all of the women and men in corrections.

BY KIRK RAYMOND



Photo courtesy Denver Sheriff Department

## ACA HOSTS WEBINAR ON STAFF WELLNESS

**A**s part of National Corrections Officers and Employees Week (NCOEW) the American Correctional Association hosted a webinar on staff wellness.

The webinar, titled Staff Wellness: A Candid Conversation With Your Peers was moderated by Lieutenant Mike Real of the Snake River Correction Institution in Ontario, Oregon.

Members of the panel included: Lieutenant Marcus Marvin of the Shawnee Correctional Center in Vienna, Illinois; Dan Steely of the Davidson County Sheriff's Office; Tami Fullerton, LCSW of the Utah Division of Juvenile Justice Services; and Tracy Canaday of the New York Department of Corrections and Supervision.

The webinar explored staff wellness in a correctional context by looking at stressors correctional officers face that are unique to their work environment, how correctional officers handle these stresses and exploring staff wellness programs that have benefitted correctional officers.

Lt. Marvin highlighted a high workload and “wearing many different hats” as a major stressor in his experience while Terry Canaday cited pandemic stressors and a general feeling of “compassion fatigue” among staff.

Tami Fullerton gave some examples of how she deals with stress through physical activity, walking her dog and eating healthy. Dan Streely echoed her suggestions including camping and hiking with his family as ways to combat the extreme stressors faced by staff.

 **VIDEO**

### STAFF WELLNESS: A CANDID CONVERSATION WITH YOUR PEERS

*In Case You Missed It!*

**National Correctional Officers and  
Employees Week Webinar**

[View the Webinar Replay](#)

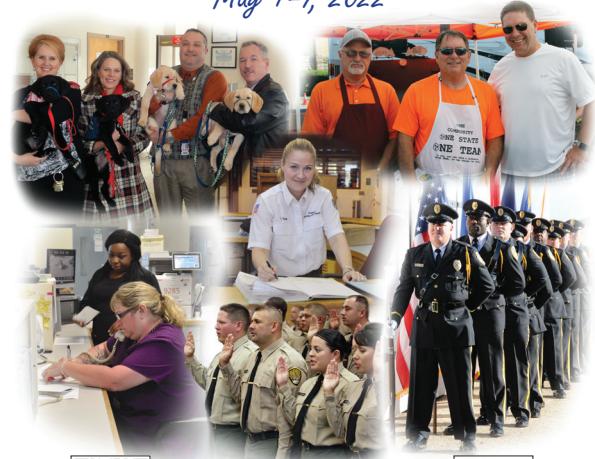
**CLICK HERE**

## BE STRONG, STAY PROUD, KEEP MOTIVATED

*Thank you ... this week and always!*

### National Correctional Officers and Employees Week

*May 1-7, 2022*



Scan here to register for a candid conversation webinar with your correctional peers on May 4, 2022 or visit <https://tinyurl.com/2022COWeekRegister>



Scan here after May 4, 2022 to view the webinar replay or visit <https://tinyurl.com/2022COWeekReplay>

ACA offered a free, downloadable poster commemorating National Correctional Officers and Employees Week 2022.

Terry advised to “Make sure you make time for yourself. Our jobs can be very fulfilling but can also be very stressful.”

Lt. Real wound up the webinar by issuing a call for all corrections professionals to help out if they see a colleague struggling with stress. “Corrections is not an individual effort,” he said. “It takes a team and we are stronger together.”

The entire webinar is currently available at the American Correctional Association’s You Tube page. We encourage all corrections professionals check out this important information and join the community helping corrections professionals have a healthier workplace.

BY KIRK RAYMOND

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