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Saying thanks for your professionalism, dedication and courage

Florida Department of Corrections

Since a Presidential Proclamation in 1984, the first week in May has been a time set aside every year to honor the hard work and professionalism of America's correctional officers and employees.

All across the country, a host of local governments, correctional facilities and groups of citizens gather to recognize the outstanding work done by correctional officers and employees in a variety of ways.

In these pages, we have compiled some of these moments of recognition from just a small cross section of the hundreds of moments from this year's National Correctional Officers and Employees Week.



For example, you can experience the impressive ceremony held by Illinois Department of Corrections on their main campus in Springfield, Illinois and see the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction honor one outstanding individual with the Ronald C. Marshall Award and the title of Correctional Officer of the Year.

Hopefully, these faces of corrections, from San Luis Obispo in California to the Texas and Oklahoma Departments of Correction will show how important it is to honor the important work corrections officers and employees do.

That's also why it is worth remembering the words of Presidential Proclamation 5187, issued on May 5, 1984, which made the first week in May the important week it is for corrections officers and employees.

Speaking about correctional officers and employees, the proclamation reads:

“Their position is essential to the day-to-day operations of these institutions; without them it would be impossible to achieve the foremost institutional goals of security and control.”

Furthermore, the Presidential proclamation recognizes the many different and dangerous duties borne by correctional officer and employees:

“The duties of these officers have become increasingly complex and demanding. They are called upon to fill, simultaneously, custodial, supervisory and counseling roles. The professionalism, dedication and courage exhibited by these officers throughout the performance of these

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National Correctional Officers and Employees Week

demanding and often conflicting roles deserve our utmost respect. The important work of correctional Officers often does not receive the recognition from the public it deserves. It is appropriate that we honor the many contributions and accomplishments of these men and women who are a vital component of the field of corrections.”

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.

The official resolution is an excellent summary of the field of corrections and how it is a crucial part of public safety:

- Whereas the operation of correctional facilities represents a crucial component of our criminal justice system;
- Whereas correctional personnel play a vital role in protecting the rights of the public to be safeguarded from criminal activity;
- Whereas correctional personnel are responsible for the safety and dignity of human beings charged to their care; and
- Whereas correctional personnel work under demanding circumstances and face danger in their daily work lives: Now

It is with great honor we continue the tradition and keep this first week in May as the National Corrections Officer and Employees Week.

These seven days give us a unique opportunity to recognize 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

