

Recognizing corrections professionals

IN A TIME OF UNIMAGINABLE CHALLENGE



Photo courtesy Ellis Williams

On May 5, 1984, former President Ronald Reagan signed Proclamation 5187. This officially began National Correctional Officers Week, first celebrated from May 6-13, 1984. Later, it was expanded to National Correctional Officers and Employees Week (NCOEW). Now, dedicated men and women in the entire corrections field would be recognized for their hard work and stalwart sacrifice.

In 2020, in what would be the 36th NCOEW, the world dealt with a global pandemic unlike anything seen before. With COVID-19 necessitating change in all aspects of daily life, it was no surprise that the corrections field was affected as well. In fact, corrections professionals joined the list of our nation's first responders. Fighting an

insidious foe and walking that forever thin line between protecting our communities and keeping those in our care safe, took its toll. Personal worlds were upended and lives were lost.

But despite what has become an ongoing battle, this year's NCOEW, held from May 3-9, was celebrated. Of all years, it had to be. While celebrations couldn't be as big and extravagant as past events, efforts were made, and appreciation was heartfelt. Corrections Today invites you to see how various departments of corrections, sheriffs' offices and other institutions recognized and honored the men and women who are now, and forever will be heroes.

BY ALEXANDER CARRIGAN

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