



# Corrections and Community Supervision

## LINE OF DUTY DEATHS 1861-2011

### **Augustus T. Wright**

Keeper

Clinton State Prison

July 11, 1861

Mr. Wright was struck with an iron bar during an attack at the iron ore processing plant when seven inmates escaped from the prison.

### **Edwin A. Craft**

Keeper

Sing Sing State Prison

March 18, 1869

Mr. Craft was escorting five inmates to work in the mess hall when he was overpowered and strangled during an escape from the prison.

### **Samuel Calvert**

Keeper

New York House of Refuge

March 1, 1872

Mr. Calvert was securing inmates in their housing area when an inmate stabbed him in the leg, which severed his femoral artery causing his death.

### **Harry A. Casler**

Keeper

Auburn State Prison

February 1, 1877

Mr. Casler was supervising an inmate work detail outside of the prison when an inmate delivered a fatal blow to his head with a shovel.

### **George McKelvey**

Principal Keeper

Elmira Reformatory

May 6, 1880

Mr. McKelvey entered a cell to handcuff an inmate for a disciplinary infraction when he was fatally stabbed in the heart with a knife.

**Archibald W. Benedict**

Prison Guard  
Auburn State Prison  
January 9, 1901

Mr. Benedict was supervising 17 inmates in the cloth shop when he was struck with an iron bar and then shot with his service revolver.

**Dennis O'Brien**

Officer  
Clinton State Prison  
January 11, 1904

Mr. O'Brien was posted to a railway station in search of two escaped inmates. As he approached a train on a siding to search it, he was struck by a passing train and killed instantly.

**Nellie Wicks**

Head Attendant Matteawan  
State Hospital  
September 27, 1906

Miss Wicks had been employed at the hospital for the criminally insane one year when she was stabbed by an inmate. She had planned to leave the hospital in four days to enroll in nursing school.

**Daniel J. McCarthy**

Officer  
Sing Sing State Prison  
June 22, 1916

Mr. McCarthy was shot to death by an escaping inmate who was awaiting execution. The inmate was recaptured and executed eight days later.

**Dr. Charles H. North**

Superintendent  
Dannemora State Hospital  
December 12, 1917

Dr. North, Superintendent for 13 years at the hospital for the criminally insane, had finished speaking with an inmate when the inmate stabbed him in the back with a chisel.

**Charles J. Gunter**

Officer

Clinton State Prison

April 17, 1919

Mr. Gunter, assigned to the prison TB hospital, was struck on the head during an attempted escape by two inmates.

**Joseph A. Weitekamp**

Shop Foreman

Clinton State Prison

March 29, 1922

Mr. Weitekamp fought a fire alone in the shop until staff responded. He died from burns and smoke inhalation.

**Jesse Christian**

Guard

Institution for Defective Delinquents

July 24, 1923

Mr. Christian was a guard at the institution, later known as Eastern Correctional Facility, when he was struck on the head during a mess hall riot.

**James B. Durnin**

Principal Keeper

Auburn State Prison

November 17, 1927

Mr. Durnin was attacked and fatally stabbed by an inmate with an improvised knife as he stood outside the mess hall door.

**George A. Durnford**

Principal Keeper

Auburn State Prison

December 11, 1929

Armed inmates took the prison's warden hostage in an escape plot. Mr. Durnford confronted the rioters and was shot.

**Edward B. Beckwith**

Principal Keeper  
Auburn State Prison  
March 5, 1930

Mr. Beckwith was in the mess hall when he was suddenly attacked and stabbed seven times by an inmate.

**Daniel J. Nickerson**

Guard  
Clinton State Prison  
March 25, 1934

An inmate stabbed Mr. Nickerson to death when he came to assist other Guards under attack.

**James H. Donovan**

Keeper  
Auburn State Prison  
March 21, 1940

Mr. Donovan was killed by an inmate who struck him on the head with an eight-pound iron handle from a machine.

**John Hartye**

Guard  
Sing Sing State Prison  
April 14, 1941

Three inmates, armed with smuggled revolvers, shot Mr. Hartye during a morning escape from the prison hospital.

**William E. Quinn**

Correction Officer  
Attica Correctional Facility  
September 11, 1971

Mr. Quinn was struck on the head and killed by inmates during the first day of the Attica riot.

**Edward T. Cunningham**

Correction Sergeant  
Attica Correctional Facility  
September 13, 1971

Mr. Cunningham died while being held hostage by inmates during a prison riot.

**John J. D'Arcangelo, Jr.**

Correction Officer  
Attica Correctional Facility  
September 13, 1971

Mr. D'Arcangelo died while being held hostage by inmates during a prison riot.

**Elmer G. Hardie**

Industrial Training Supervisor  
Attica Correctional Facility  
September 13, 1971

Mr. Hardie died while being held hostage by inmates during a prison riot.

**Herbert W. Jones, Jr.**

Industrial Account Clerk  
Attica Correctional Facility  
September 13, 1971

Mr. Jones died while being held hostage by inmates during a prison riot.

**Richard J. Lewis**

Correction Officer  
Attica Correctional Facility  
September 13, 1971

Mr. Lewis died while being held hostage by inmates during a prison riot.

**John G. Monteleone**

Industrial Training Supervisor

Attica Correctional Facility

September 13, 1971

Mr. Monteleone died while being held hostage  
by inmates during a prison riot.

**Carl W. Valone**

Correction Officer

Attica Correctional Facility

September 13, 1971

Mr. Valone died while being held hostage by inmates during a  
prison riot.

**Elon F. Werner**

Industrial Account Clerk

Attica Correctional Facility

September 13, 1971

Mr. Werner died while being held hostage by inmates during a  
prison riot.

**Ronald D. Werner**

Correction Officer

Attica Correctional Facility

September 13, 1971

Mr. Werner died while being held hostage by inmates during a  
prison riot.

**Harrison W. Whalen**

Correction Officer

Attica Correctional Facility

October 9, 1971

Mr. Whalen died from injuries he sustained while being held  
hostage by inmates during a prison riot.

**Barry Sutherland**

Parole Officer

New York City

December 13, 1976

Mr. Sutherland, a Parole Officer with the Division of Parole and Department of Correctional Services, was shot while apprehending a parolee.

**Nancy Vial**

Food Services Cook

Attica Correctional Facility

August 5, 1977

Mrs. Vial had been employed less than one year when she was strangled by an inmate in the food service area.

**Donna A. Payant**

Correction Officer

Green Haven Correctional Facility

May 15, 1981

Mrs. Payant was strangled by an inmate less than one month after becoming a correction officer.

**Raymond Rinaldi**

Parole Officer

New York City

May 22, 1981

Mr. Rinaldi was killed in a highway accident while driving to Rikers Island to lodge a parole violation warrant for a recently apprehended fugitive.

**Claude W. Cromie**

Correction Officer  
Clinton Correctional Facility  
February 6, 1982

Mr. Cromie was escorting a disruptive inmate from the dayroom of a housing unit when he was assaulted and suffered a fatal heart attack.

**Brian Rooney**

Parole Officer  
New York City  
October 10, 1985

Mr. Rooney was shot and killed on a street in Queens while performing his Parole Officer duties.

**Anthony Libertone**

Parole Officer  
Syracuse  
June 12, 1986

Mr. Libertone was driving a vehicle en route to conduct field investigations when a tire fell from a truck, striking his windshield, and killing him instantly.

**P. Michael Petrosino**

Correction Officer  
Auburn Correctional Facility  
October 24, 1991

Assigned to a hospital ward to guard inmates with drug-resistant tuberculosis, Mr. Petrosino also contracted the disease and died.



**Theodore Clark**

Parole Officer  
Elmira  
April 22, 1993

Mr. Clark was on duty, driving a vehicle, when he was struck by another driver who had lost control of the vehicle.

**Frank J. Mydlarz**

Correction Officer  
Great Meadow Correctional Facility  
August 1, 1999

Mr. Mydlarz had assisted in subduing and escorting an inmate, following an inmate assault on staff incident in the mess hall, when he suffered a fatal heart attack.

**Sharyn DeBose-Dover**

Parole Officer  
New York City  
October 13, 1999

Ms. Debose-Dover was killed in an on-duty automobile accident on the Taconic State Parkway.

**Jeffrey Woolson**

Parole Officer  
Syracuse  
March 19, 2009

Mr. Woolson was traveling in a vehicle en route to an assignment in Oswego County when he lost control of his vehicle on an icy road, striking a tree.

**Casimiro Pomaes**

Correction Officer  
Eastern New York Correctional Facility  
January 28, 2011

Mr. Pomaes was transporting an inmate when the van was forced off the highway and down an embankment.