



Corrections and Community Supervision

2019 Medal Recipients

Medal of Honor

The following employees will receive a Medal of Honor, presented to those whose actions, in the line of duty, evidence an extraordinary degree of courage, bravery or heroism.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

Senior Investigator Charlotte J. Meigs

Investigator Kevin M. Salemo

While traveling for work, Senior Investigator Charlotte J. Meigs and Investigator Kevin M. Salemo with the Office of Special Investigations came upon an accident involving a school bus and passenger vehicle. The car was engulfed in flames and the school bus was still occupied with a bus driver, an injured aide, and three children. The investigators immediately entered the bus and safely escorted the occupants off the bus. One of the investigators attempted to extinguish the fire while the other remained with the passengers until emergency first responders arrived.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS & COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

Assistant Deputy Chief Investigator Richard Hotaling

Investigator Lance C. Crossett

Parole Officer Ingrid Cannonier

Parole Officer Maxelliot Correa

Assistant Deputy Chief Investigator Richard Hotaling and Investigator Lance C. Crossett with the Office of Special Investigations and Parole Officers Ingrid Cannonier and Maxelliot Correa with Community Supervision were participating in a joint effort to capture parole absconders in Manhattan. They observed and recorded an unrelated dispute between two groups of males when one displayed a handgun and discharged shots striking two other males. The investigators and parole officers pursued the suspect and, after identifying themselves as law enforcement, ordered the suspect to stop. The suspect ignored their orders and fled into a housing complex. The investigators and parole officers called the New York Police Department (NYPD) and assisted NYPD in a 90-minute search. Their video recording and testimony aided in the conviction obtained by the District Attorney's Office.

Medal of Merit

The following employees will receive a Medal of Merit, presented for extraordinary performance in the line of duty, or for an exceptional contribution to the Department.

MARCY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Correction Lieutenant Timothy P. Corey

While on vacation, Correction Lieutenant Timothy P. Corey from Marcy Correctional Facility helped save the life of a 12-year-old boy. Lt. Corey realized that the boy had become trapped underwater by the pool's drainage pipe. He quickly notified maintenance workers to shut off the pool's pumps and then dove into the pool. When Lt. Corey, along with other vacationers, were unsuccessful in freeing the boy, they took turns giving the boy underwater lifesaving breaths for 8½ minutes until the pumps were shut off and the boy was pulled to safety.

MIDSTATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Correction Officer Jason W. Ploss

Correction Officer Jason W. Ploss from Midstate Correctional Facility responded to a vehicle accident that occurred outside his home. The SUV had flipped over several times and caught fire, and the driver was unconscious. As the officer's wife contacted 911, Officer Ploss ran to the vehicle and worked to free and move the driver to safety. He then went back to the burning vehicle to ensure no other passengers were in the car. He and his wife remained with the driver until emergency first responders arrived.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

Investigator Timothy J. Meyers

Investigator Timothy J. Meyers with the Office of Special Investigations was flagged down by a civilian at a gas station who sought help with a vehicle operator who was unconscious in a locked vehicle. Investigator Meyers immediately requested assistance from local law enforcement and proceeded to remove the victim from the vehicle. Realizing it was a possible overdose, he performed life-saving CPR as the local officer obtained a Narcan kit from the patrol car, which revived the driver. Investigator Meyers remained with the victim until emergency responders arrived and took over care.

FISHKILL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Correction Officer Timothy J. Zeller

Correction Officer Timothy J. Zeller from Fishkill Correctional Facility was on his way home from work when he observed a vehicle exit the highway, roll down an embankment, and burst into flames. Officer Zeller immediately proceeded down the embankment and assisted in removing three adults and a dog from the burning vehicle. He then moved the victims up the heavily wooded embankment to the safety of a parking lot, provided necessary first aid measures, and kept them calm until emergency responders arrived.

WILLARD DRUG TREATMENT CENTER

Correction Officer Michael E. Denkenberger

Correction Officer Todd M. Benton

Correction Officer Michael E. Denkenberger from Willard Drug Treatment Center was heading to work while Correction Officer Todd M. Benton from Willard Drug Treatment Center was returning home from his tour of duty. Officer Benton observed a pickup truck strike an embankment, roll over, and land on its roof in the middle of the road. As Officer Benton dialed 911, Officer Denkenberger arrived and saw a man attempting to drag himself away from the vehicle. Officer Denkenberger rushed to assist the man who had collapsed near the vehicle, which was now on fire, and dragged him to safety. Officer Benton approached the vehicle to check for other occupants. Realizing that Officer Denkenberger's vehicle was close in proximity to the accident vehicle fire, which was now intensifying, Officer Benton moved Officer Denkenberger's vehicle a safe distance from the burning vehicle. Both officers remained on the scene providing aid until emergency personnel arrived.