



STATE OF NEW YORK  
**EXECUTIVE CHAMBER**  
ALBANY 12224

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
GOVERNOR

June 13, 2019

Dear Friends:

I join to express my deepest gratitude and respect as you gather for the Annual Memorial Service and Medals Ceremony of the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS).

This ceremony is an important tradition in our state and a profound reminder to staff, honorees, and all New Yorkers, of the sacrifices made to ensure the safety and security of New Yorkers. I want to thank the Department and its dedicated team for their conscientious service and tireless commitment.

All DOCCS employees – security staff and the brave men and women who supervise those on parole – face daunting challenges and unforeseen risks each day. Additionally, the state's facilities and parole offices could not adequately operate without excellent civilian staff complimenting the officers and others within the ranks who provide necessary and appropriate treatment and programming to approximately 48,000 inmates in correctional facilities, and 35,000 parolees in the community.

On behalf of all New Yorkers, I salute the families of those who have died in the line of duty. Those fallen are among the most courageous individuals to work within our state's public safety community, and we honor them for their immense sacrifices on this difficult and emotional day, while holding their memories in our hearts each day of the year.

I proudly join in congratulating this year's *Medal of Honor* recipients: OSI Senior Investigator Charlotte Meigs, Investigator Kevin Salemo, Community Supervision Parole Officers Ingrid Cannonier and Maxelliot Correa, OSI Assistant Deputy Chief Investigator Richard Hotaling, and Investigator Lance Crossett. I also would like to congratulate *Medal of Merit* honorees Marcy Correction Lieutenant Timothy Corey, Mid-State Correction Officer Jason Ploss, OSI Investigator Timothy Meyers, Fishkill Correction Officer Timothy Zeller, and Willard Correction Officers Michael Denkenburger and Todd Benton.

This year's honorees exemplify the character, professionalism, and courage of the entire staff at DOCCS, as well as the greater law enforcement of New York State. All of the honored employees and their families can be proud of this well-deserved distinction, and I thank them for maintaining such high standards of public service.

Warmest regards and best wishes for a memorable ceremony.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Andrew M. Cuomo, written in a cursive style.

ANDREW M. CUOMO

**WE WORK FOR THE PEOPLE**  
PERFORMANCE ★ INTEGRITY ★ PRIDE