

Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall strive to be a global leader in progressive correctional practices and partnered re-entry initiatives to support responsive evidence-based practices aligned to law-abiding and accountable behaviors. Safety and security shall be a priority component of this responsibility as it pertains to staff, victims, citizens and offenders.

Happy Thanksgiving

As we prepare for Thanksgiving and the holidays that follow, we should pause and reflect on the many blessings that we are fortunate enough to enjoy.

I, for one, feel incredibly blessed to work with such a dedicated, compassionate, and talented group of people.

As I have said in the past, and will continue to say to anyone willing to listen, none of what this agency has accomplished would be possible without you – the best correctional professionals anywhere.

We also cannot forget that behind our remarkable staff are our loving friends and families whose support, sacrifice, and understanding is invaluable to all of us. This truly American holiday also reminds me of the freedoms we enjoy. I am grateful to the men and women who selflessly serve to protect our country and the American way of life.

However, of the many blessing I am truly thankful for this Thanksgiving, there is one that is foremost on my mind - I am thankful for your giving.

I am especially proud of how you responded to the devastation caused by the recent hurricanes. In life, we are not defined by the challenges that confront us, but how we respond to those challenges, and respond, we did. As an example, the agency wide Pay-to-Park to aid Puerto Rico raised nearly \$12,000, which was donated to the American Red Cross.

Whether it is a colleague, or a colleague's family member that is ill, what strikes me time and time again is how quickly you spring into action to help. This is not the first time, nor will it undoubtedly be the last, I have witnessed (in awe) our staff step up to help those in need. Your generosity of time, spirit, and energy seems to know no bounds.

It is my honor and privilege to work beside such an outstanding group of individuals.

May you have a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving holiday with the people who mean the most to you.

With Great Appreciation,

Scott Semple
Commissioner

October 5, 2017
through
November 22, 2017

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Help for Puerto Rico

In the devastating wake of hurricane Maria, the staff of the Department of Correction have once again shown their generous nature and have stepped up to the plate to help the people of Puerto Rico. With as many as 15% of the agency's staff having some ties to Puerto Rico, many were anxious to help out in whatever way possible. As a result, Commissioner Semple approved an agency wide Pay-to-Park on October 13, 2017 to assist the relief efforts in Puerto Rico. The event raised nearly \$12,000 but we were not done yet – not by a longshot.

Osborn's Efforts

Due to downed power lines, destroyed cell phone towers, and a heavily damaged infrastructure, many staff members were unable to get in contact with their loved ones on the island for weeks on end. They were also dismayed to see the full extent of the damage the hurricane had inflicted. That is when the staff at Osborn Correctional Institution decided that they had to pull together to help. Officer Maria Ayala and other staff members worked in conjunction with Pastor Edgardo Herrera and 27 churches throughout Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, and New Hampshire to organize a donation drive to collect various items including: non-perishable food, first aid and personal-care products, household items, and summer clothing.

“We couldn't just sit by and not do anything,” said Officer Ayala. “We asked everyone to help us, and they responded.”



Filling the bus with donations at Stop & Shop.



Osborn's Officer Ortiz drops off collected supplies for Puerto Rico.

Captain Luis Colon accompanied Officer Ayala to a multi-church meeting where they coordinated with other volunteers and the owner of a shipping company who initially agreed to donate two 2-ton bins that he would ship when they became full. He then donated two more 2-ton bins to the cause. With the assistance of 25 volunteers and first responders, the donated items were shipped to churches in Puerto Rico where they were distributed to people in need. The supplies will help people in Puerto Rico, starting at the point where they eye of the hurricane first touched land: Humacao, El Yunkue, Manati, and other towns as well. Many members of the Osborn CI staff volunteered for the effort: Captain John Manning and Lt. Stewart e-mailed other facilities to make them aware of the donation drive so that they could participate and arranged pick-ups; Officer Samuel Alejandro and Officer Ayala walked through their neighborhoods, handed out flyers, and collected items; Officer Ortiz, the catalyst of the effort, created posters and flyers advertising the effort and picked up and delivered supplies to a warehouse in Waterbury; Lt. Seneca Spruill ordered and is selling two different kinds of pins which staff can wear on their uniforms throughout the year.

Parole Appreciation and Awards

On the beautiful autumn day of Friday, October 13, 2017, the Division of Parole and Community Services held its 5th Annual Staff Appreciation Day and Awards Ceremony. The ceremony was held on the serene National Guard Base, Camp Niantic in Niantic. A special thanks went out to: the members of the awards committee for their hard work, dedication and commitment to recognize and appreciate their co-workers; Director Haggan and Deputy Director Ellison for their ongoing support and encouragement; the National Guard for allowing the Division to use the facility; Parole Manager Jason Bedard, Tracey Wheeler and Deputy Director Ellison for helping to organize the lunch being provided by Brown Smoke, and Department of Correction's (DOC) own, LT. Noel Brown for his continued investment in supporting the Department and P&CS staff and providing a delicious barbecue lunch extravaganza again! Director Haggan offered opening remarks and introduced new P&CS staff members to those gathered, he recognized those who worked hard to achieve promotions, and those that retired. He then called the Parole Managers and Supervisors to the stage. He spoke about the group that he often takes for granted and seldom publically recognizes. He wanted everyone to know that he constantly relies upon them, on a daily basis, and recognizes their efforts and dedication. He then offered a token of appreciation - a rose boutonniere –which members of the Awards Committee pinned on the Parole Managers and Supervisors.

Commissioner Semple and members of the Executive Team were in attendance. The Commissioner offered opening remarks to the Division. During his remarks, he acknowledged that he is fully aware of how complex the work of the Parole Officer can be. He and members of the Executive Team joined Director Haggan and Deputy Director Ellison in handing out the awards.

Parole and Community Services Award Recipients

DoC Circle of Merit Award: Kurt Schaab

Parole Officer of the Year: Lindsay Carrington

DoC Medal of Valor: Dan Barry

Professional Partner Award:

Internal: Bridgeport CC

External: Bridgeport Police Department

Dana Laudati Award: Reuel Parks

District Awards

Support & Treatment Services: Barbara Derouin

Hartford District Office: Dean Parracino

Bridgeport District Office: Joe Gessaroli

New Haven District Office: Netasia Jones

Norwich District Office: Rodney Blais

Waterbury District Office: David Byrne

Leadership Award: Dan Barry

Director's Award: Sheila Thompson

Superlative Awards: Ray of Sunshine – Rich Gibbons and Larry Bransford



(L to R): Commissioner Scott Semple; the Dana Laudati Award Recipient, Parole Officer Reuel Parks; Deputy Director Eric Ellison; and Director Joseph Haggan.

The ceremony ended with Director Haggan reading the Governor's Proclamation recognizing Parole Officer Appreciation week and then the Commissioner offered closing remarks. The event closed with a delicious barbecue lunch prepared by Smoking Chef Sensation, DOC's own, Lieutenant Noel Brown.

Hispanic Heritage Honored at Osborn CI

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month the staff of the Osborn Correctional Institution was treated to a special guest speaker. Connecticut State Police Lt. Col. David Rosado, the highest ranking Latino ever to serve in the CSP spoke to the Osborn staff about his professional career and his personal life. David, as he prefers to be called, was the youngest of eight children as he grew up in Hartford's Charter Oak Terrace. He talked about the importance of sports in his life and how he played football and



Connecticut State Police's Lt. Colonel, David Rosado.

baseball in neighborhood pick-up games with friends, in high school, and later on in college. Col. Rosado told the staff of the hours he spent at his local Boys' Club playing pool before going home to dinner with his family. He also spoke about the importance of family, of being raised with a mother and a father in the same house, of being "wealthy in family" and how the importance of education was strongly stressed in his house.

Upon joining the Connecticut State Police, Lt. Col. Rosado worked in a variety of capacities including: Labor Relations,

Troop Commander, Internal Affairs Commander, District and Bureau Commands. David believes that this versatility was key to his rise through the ranks, and encouraged the Osborn staff to, "...do things that make you uncomfortable to increase your level of confidence."

Lt. Col. Rosado holds a J.D. degree from the University Of Connecticut School Of Law, and is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy. Mayor Luke Bronin has selected State Police Lt. Col. David Rosado, a Hartford native, as the favored successor for outgoing Hartford Police Chief James Rovella. Back in September, Rovella announced his retirement, which will take effect in February of 2018. If Rosado were to be selected as Hartford's next Chief of Police, he would be the first Latino to hold that position.

Certainly, Lt. Col. Rosado has had an extraordinary career with the Connecticut State Police that has taken him to an historic milestone for the state's Latino community.

Around the Cell Block



CALIFORNIA – Charles Manson, a cult leader whose followers committed heinous murders that shocked the nation almost a half century ago, died of natural causes at the age of 83 on November 20, according to the California Department of Corrections.

SOUTH CAROLINA- The staffing crisis at South Carolina prisons has gotten so dire that the state plans to begin recruiting efforts in Puerto Rico, a storm-battered island still recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Maria.

OKLAHOMA - The State's Department of Corrections Agri-Services division maintains over 20,000 acres of farm and rangeland throughout the state and around 2,000 head of commercial beef cattle.

**Total
Supervised
Population
on
November 22, 2017**

18,485

**On November 22, 2016
the population was
19,471**



Did You Know?

“Did You Know” is an informational column aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. This article was compiled by Public Information Officer Andrius Banevicius. Any questions related to this article may be answered by contacting him at 860-692-7780. If you have any questions, or have an idea for a future column, please leave a message at 860-692-7780.

The Jones Act

Shortly after hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, it was reported that relief efforts to the island were being hindered by a nearly century old shipping-law known as the Jones Act.

President Donald Trump’s administration has temporarily suspended the Jones Act, in large part because of the request of Puerto Rico’s Governor, Ricardo Rosello.

Just what is the Jones Act, and why did it come to be, and why is it still in effect?

The Merchant Marine Act of 1920 – more commonly known as the Jones Act was designed to create a safe network of merchant mariners within the U.S. after World War I, in reaction to the U.S. fleet being destroyed by the German navy. The protectionist economic law was designed to create American jobs in the years after the First World War. The law requires that all goods transported by water between U.S. ports be carried on U.S. flagged ships; be constructed in the United States; be owned by U.S. citizens; and crewed by U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents. The Act was introduced by Senator Wesley Jones (thus the name).

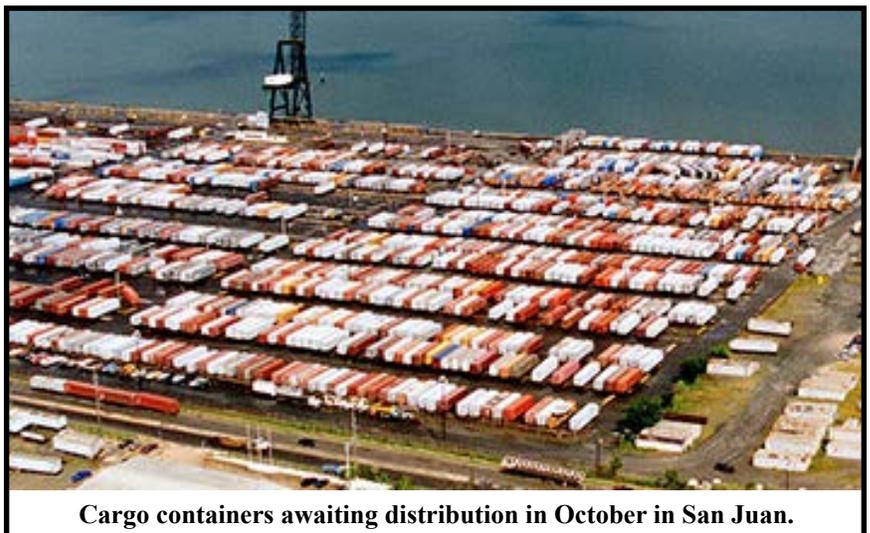
In essence, it calls for providing the nation with a merchant marine that can transport goods between U.S. ports, increase national security during war times, and support of a U.S. maritime industry.

Under the Jones Act, any vessel can enter Puerto Rico. In fact, many foreign vessels enter Puerto Rico regularly, importing goods from countries around the world. However, transportation of goods between two U.S. ports must be carried out by a vessel that was built in the U.S. and operated primarily by Americans. This law does not single out Puerto Rico — it applies to all U.S. ports, the only exception being the U.S. Virgin Islands.

While much of the current attention on the Jones Act is focused on shipping

regulations, the law also contains important information about the maritime industry’s responsibilities regarding safety and well-being of the crew. It safeguards the rights of sailors from being exploited, requiring compensation for injuries due to negligence by their employers. It requires employers to maintain safe environments and provide medical care, and also sets standards for vessel maintenance, safety equipment such as lifeboats, and crew qualifications, training and licensing. And, this all-encompassing law has something to say about the environment too, requiring all U.S. ships to comply with EPA regulations.

While foreign companies can ship goods to any U.S. port, supporters of the Jones Act say restricting shipments between U.S. ports to American-run vessels strengthens the economy. It’s also a matter of national security, they argue, saying that abolishing it could put control of U.S. ports, domestic shipping, and shipbuilding in the hands of a foreign country.



Cargo containers awaiting distribution in October in San Juan.

Garnering Awards at Garner CI

Staff members at Garner Correctional Institution were honored on September 29, 2017, at the facility's Annual Employee Recognition Ceremony. Warden Denise Dilworth recognized staff with awards for their exceptional work and honored staff members that have 20 years or more of state service. Warden Dilworth also expressed her appreciation to the staff for their dedication to ensuring the safety and security of the facility and protecting the citizens of the State of Connecticut. Warden Dilworth also thanked the attending family members and friends who provide the staff members with their support.

Garner Facility Awards

Correction Officer of the Year: 1st shift- Joseph Pagan,
2nd shift Peter Swan, 3rd shift Steven Sullivan

Supervisor of the Year: Captain George Hurdle

Counselor of the Year: Melissa Santiago

Correctional Treatment Officer of the Year: Colleen O'Donnell

Employee of the Year: Captain David Egan (now Deputy Warden)

Unit of the Year: Food Services

Food Services Employee of the Year: William Lefebvre

Medical Staff Member of the Year: Susan Gomes

Mental Health Staff of the Year: Michelle Demers



Warden Denise Dilworth (L) and Deputy Warden Kim Jones congratulate Garner CI's Supervisor of the Year, Captain George Hurdle.

All for Noto



Staff from the Bridgeport Correctional Center and Parole and Community Services teamed up to help Parole Manager Steve Noto and his family.

Warden Kenneth Butricks and the staff of Bridgeport Correctional Center hosted the Bridgeport Parole and Community Services Unit in a fundraiser for Brittany Noto (daughter of Parole Manager Stephen Noto) who was recently diagnosed with cancer. The staff of the Bridgeport facility provided the grill and space for the event, held on October 12, while Parole Manager Noto's staff provided their energy and grilling skills.

Parole Officers Beth Lorenzetti and Lindsay Carrington organized the event which was attended by staff members from parole offices across the state, the Bridgeport Correctional Center, the District 2 office, probation, local police, as well as some local politicians. The

event raised nearly \$3,000 - a testament to the respect and admiration we all have for Parole Manager Noto, and all he has done for countless people over the course of his distinguished career. His daughter Brittany remains in the thoughts and prayers of the entire DoC family as we all are hoping for a speedy recovery.

The Giving Cup

Commissioner Scott Semple, along with the members of the Commissioner's Cup Charity Golf Tournament Committee, led by Warden Scott Erfe, recently gathered at the agency's Central Office to present some of the proceeds from the event to this year's recipient the Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy (ACGT). On hand to accept the check for \$2,500 was ACGT's National Director of Philanthropy Barbara Gallagher.



Commissioner Scott Semple helps to present a donation of \$2,500 to Barbara Gallagher (blue/black dress) of the Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy.

The mission of ACGT is to seek out and support revolutionary scientific research into the causes, treatment and prevention of all types of cancer using cells and genes as medicine.

Cell and gene therapies are destroying tumors every day in the laboratory and in human trials, targeting only the cancer with few side effects to healthy tissue. ACGT's rigorous grant review process, under the guidance of a pre-eminent Scientific Advisory Council, have resulted in some of the most successful breakthroughs in the history of cancer treatments and led to many patients in complete remission.

100% of ACGT's funding supports innovation and translational science that is proving again and again to offer better treatment options than the traditional therapies of chemotherapy, surgery and radiation.

Thanks to the success of this year's Commissioner's Cup Tournament held on September 1, 2017 at the Blue Fox Run Golf Course in Avon, CT, there were two additional charitable donations made. As has become his tradition, Commissioner Semple requested that some of the event's proceeds be given back to benefit agency staff. As a result of a random drawing, the Hartford Correctional Center's QWL Committee was chosen to receive a check for \$2,500.

Last but not least, a third donation of \$1,000 was sent for the hurricane relief efforts in Texas.

The tournament's organizers wish to thank all those who participated, especially the volunteers who gave their time and effort to make the event such a wonderful success.



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A Busload of Help

from page 2

Despite their already sizable efforts, the Osborn CI staff is not done helping the residents of Puerto Rico recover from Hurricane Maria - they are also organizing a toy drive so that the children affected by the disaster can have as bright a Christmas season as possible.

Cheshire CI Fills the Bus

Not to be outdone, Cheshire CI's Diversity Council, coupled with the staff of the Central Transportation Unit organized a Fill the Bus drive to further help the people of Puerto Rico. They reached out to facilities across the agency to donate such items as hygiene products, toiletries, linens, bug repellent, baby diapers, non-perishable food items, batteries/flashlights, hand sanitizers and over the counter medications.

The Diversity Council members even teamed up with the Cheshire Police and Fire Departments to have a Fill the Bus event at the local Stop and Shop on Saturday, November 18, 2017.

All the collected contents from the campaign will be presented on Wednesday, November 22, 2017, to representatives from the San Juan Center in Hartford, who in turn will distribute them to the people of Puerto Rico. Additionally, Commissioner Semple will be on hand at Cheshire CI to present a check for \$11,487.86 to the American Red Cross for relief efforts to Puerto Rico.

Although the need is great, the staff of the Department of Correction can take pride in knowing they have stepped up to the plate for this important humanitarian effort and done their part.

A Reluctant Cowboy

Before the start of the NFL season, Warden Kenneth Butricks (an avid New York Giants fan) entered into a friendly wager with Officer David Roman, Jr. (an avid Dallas Cowboys fan) regarding the outcome of the season opening game on September 10.

The loser of the bet would have to wear the winning team's game jersey to the facility's roll-call.

Unfortunately for Warden Butricks, the Giants were trounced by the Cowboys by a score of 19-3. However, he took it like a champ and paid up on his bet while posing for a few pictures with several of the Bridgeport Correctional Centers Cowboy Fans.



Warden Kenneth Butricks (#88)
makes good on a bet.

Transporting Goods to Puerto Rico

from page 5

Criticism of the Jones Act is by no means a recent development, for years, Puerto Rican politicians have complained that forcing the U.S. island territory to rely on American-flagged ships — even with foreign ships in abundance in its ports — drives up the cost of basic goods there. The cost of living is higher on average compared with the mainland.

Unfortunately for the residents of Puerto Rico, getting supplies to the port is just a small part of the problem. At one point more than 10,000 containers of supplies were sitting in the Port of San Juan, ready to move out on trucks. Fuel shortages, lack of power, damaged roadways and a breakdown in basic communication infrastructure on the island prevented the trucks necessary to distribute the supplies that have arrived at the port of San Juan.

Coach of the Year



**Coach of the Year - Parole Office
Chris Watts.**

Congratulations to Parole Officer Chris Watts who recently was selected as Hearst Connecticut Media's Boys High School South-West Conference's (SWC) basketball Coach of the Year. In his first year as the head coach of the Notre Dame High School in Fairfield, Watts coached the Notre Dame Lancers to the SWC Class L State Championship game, and a record of 25-3.

In addition to the Coach of the Year honors, Watts - an 18 year veteran of the Department of Correction - also recently received the Fairfield County Swaffield Award for sportsmanship.

Parole Officer Watts was named the head coach of the Notre Dame team on May 6, 2017. His selection as the new coach for Notre Dame came as somewhat of a surprise – not because he lacked the credentials – but because it ended a more than three decade affiliation with his high school alma mater, St. Joseph's of Trumbull.

A 1987 graduate of St. Joseph's, Watts (a sharpshooting guard) garnered All-State honors after the 1986 and 1987 seasons, and was also selected as New England Player of the Year as a senior.

Off the strength of his high school career, Watts went on to play for four years at Providence College during the glory days of the Big East

Conference. After his college career was over, he even played professionally in Europe.

Once his playing days were over, Watts returned to St. Joseph's, where he served as an assistant from 1992-94 and 2006-12 to his former coach and mentor, Vito Montelli. In addition to his duties as an assistant coach, Watts also has spent time coaching boys at summer basketball camps.

He also learned a great deal from Montelli, a New England coaching legend who originally started, and went on to coach the St. Joseph's basketball team for 50 years.

It seemed only natural that when Montelli announced his retirement in 2012 that Watts would become only the second basketball coach the school had ever had. So it came to pass that in 2012, Montelli literally and figuratively handed Watts the basketball. Due to his long association with the school, there was every reason to believe that coach Watts was going to remain at the St. Joseph's for the long haul.

However, after four seasons at the helm of St. Joseph's, the Notre Dame job became available, and Watts saw it as an opportunity he could not pass up. He was selected from among 25 candidates who were being considered for the position.

He was announced as the new coach of Notre Dame on his 47th birthday.

"It was the best birthday present I ever got," said Watts after being named the new coach.



**Chris Watts #33, defends a UCONN player
during his playing days at Providence College.**