

Remember Our Troops



P.R.I.D.E. at Work



Our motto: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, Excellence

Bill Cosby Speaks at CT-Prison Graduation



Continued on Page 10, See
Bill Cosby

In everything Bill Cosby has ever done in entertainment, he makes us laugh. And while you are disarmed by the humor, he sends an unequivocal message. That message was delivered to a packed visiting room at the Willard -Cybulski CI in late July . Cosby, at the invitation of Principal Pat Stamidas of Unified School District #1and Willard-Cybulski CI Warden Esther Torres, ignited the room with his words and antics. “Don’t give up” Cosby said, “Don’t be ashamed of what you were” if you have changed.

Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz smiles as Bill Cosby imparts words of wisdom mixed with humor to the GED recipients at the Willard-Cybulski CI graduation ceremony.

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**Our Mission**

The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and provide safe, secure and humane supervision of offenders with opportunities that support successful community reintegration.

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About and for
correctional
professionals

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July 22, 2007 -  
August 31, 2007

## Agency Awards Top Honors



2007 Unit of the Year - Manson Youth Institution

Correctional Employees often are the invisible partners in the public safety picture. Because prisons

are places that society generally don’t want to think about, correctional staff do not always

receive the recognition they deserve. Commissioner Lantz stated, “ Correctional employees play an integral part in protecting the public and ensuring public safety. DOC employees have a challenging job, that is why it is important to recognize my staff, whose job is much more dangerous and complex than the average person. ” It is for these reasons that we honor the best of our agency during our annual awards recognition ceremony. Here is a re-cap of some of the top honors that were given this year.

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# New Supervisor Class 23 Graduation



July 19<sup>th</sup> was a momentous occasion for the twenty-two members of New Supervisor Class 23. On this day they completed their managerial-supervisory training and celebrated with a graduation ceremony at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development.

Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz delivered the graduation address and stressed to each newly promoted staff, "CT-DOC staff are the best correctional professionals in the country. You have excelled in your areas of training and stood out among the rest to be recognized and because of this, you were promoted. Go back to your respective facilities and show them why you are the best of the best."

The graduates are listed below along with their respective facility location. Congratulations on your accomplishments and Good Luck in all you future endeavors.

- Lt. Eva Agathos - York CI*
- Lt. David Beswick - Robinson CI*
- CS Clarence Blackman - Central Office*
- Lt. Brett M. Connor - Maloney CTSD*
- CS Carlene Davis - Manson YI*
- CS Lisa Dean - Corrigan-Radgowski & New Haven CC*
- CMS Thomas V. DelMastro - Bridgeport CC*
- CS Robyn DiGennaro-Spence - MacDougall-Walker CI*
- CMS Richard I. Hardy - Osborn CI*
- Lt. Robert Hartnett - Northern CCS*
- CS Tracy L. Hartshorn - North District*
- CS Patricia Kupec - Bergin CI*
- Lieutenant Carbet J. Meyers - York CI*
- CS Giuliana Mudano - Manson YI*
- Lt. Carlos Nunez - New Haven CC*
- Lt. Rex Perkins - Garner CI*
- CCS David Robinson - MacDougall-Walker CI*
- Lt.. Fahd Syed - Bridgeport CC*
- Lt. Bangie Vazquez - Garner CI*
- Lt. Brian Viger - Bridgeport CC*
- Lt. Robert L. York - Corrigan-Radgowski CC*

Distributed to 7,000 staff and via the internet throughout Connecticut and the nation by the Department of Correction.

Theresa C. Lantz,  
Commissioner

24 Wolcott Hill Road  
Wethersfield, CT 06109

M. Jodi Rell,  
Governor

Web address:  
[www.ct.gov/doc](http://www.ct.gov/doc)

Public Information Office  
Phone: 860.692.7780  
Fax: 860.692.7783

# Top Honors Cont'd

## *Unit of the Year*

Over the last fiscal year, MYI underwent tremendous changes. Warden Christine Whidden noted that it was her distinct honor and pleasure to nominate this outstanding work site operation and its staff members, each of whom contributes to its success.

There are ever-changing challenges presented when providing services to a youthful offender population. Staff members at MYI are fully engaged in being role models in the lives of children. The facility has been resilient, adapting to a number of operational changes, a culture shift and a new administration. Its approach has epitomized a favorite agency credo - the concept of "one vision, one mission, one team." For this and the many other reasons noted above, MYI was selected as this year's unit of the year.



Deputy Warden Valerie Light  
Manager of the Year  
Northern CI

## *Manager of The Year*

Deputy Warden Valerie Light has been with the Connecticut Department of Correction since 1988 and is currently assigned to Northern CI, where the agency's most troublesome, violent, assaultive, high-risk population are managed. Valerie has excelled in her responsibilities in the area of Programs and Treatment.

Valerie possesses excellent interpersonal and public relations skills, and those who know her view her as a true leader. She has an extremely strong work ethic and tremendous professional integrity, and these traits transcend to her subordinates. She possesses commitment and dedication, and these character traits have been an invaluable asset in this challenging environment.

Deputy Warden Light is a dedicated professional who is an asset to Northern CI and the Department of Correction.

## *Supervisor of The Year*

Lieutenant Anthony Cusano, a 17½ - year veteran of the Department has worked at Bridgeport CC, Manson YI, and is currently assigned to the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development. His supervisors and peers throughout the Department acknowledge Lt. Cusano as a tenacious and dedicated professional. His leadership abilities are demonstrated on a regular basis as commander for the

# Around The Cell Block



**Michigan-** In a move to save \$6-million, 1,500 inmates will no longer provide labor for local governments and the state.



**Mexico -** The Mexico City prison system has begun allowing gay conjugal visits in response to a recommendation from the National Human Rights Commission.



**Illinois-** At age 78, after 61 years behind bars, longer than any other state inmate, a triple murderer is being considered for parole.



**Rhode Island-** As part of a court settlement, a convicted murderer will be allowed to conduct religious services under the supervision of a chaplain.

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Total<br/>Supervised<br/>Population<br/>on<br/>August 1, 2007<br/>23,581<br/>On August 1, 2006<br/>the population was<br/>23,124</b></p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Pomp and Circumstance



(l-r) Dr. Cathy Levey, Enrica L. White RN, MSN, CCHP, and Dr. John Gitzus.

On April 26th, Enrica L. White RN, nursing supervisor for Northern CI and Willard-Cybulski CI, was presented an award from Quinnipiac University's Graduate Nursing Program, "The Forensic Nurse Clinical Excellence Award." The award honors the student who has demonstrated exceptional talent, dedication and skill in the clinical setting. Enrica stated, "I enjoyed all my clinical sites such as State's Attorney Office in New Haven, PSE (Protective Services for the Elderly), Office of Chief Medical Examiner, QU Law Clinic, New Haven EMS, DCF, DMR, and East Hartford Police Department."

Enrica, who is in her 19<sup>th</sup> year with DOC/Uconn Health Services, will continue her education at Quinnipiac University this fall to obtain her Post Graduate Certification as an Adult Nurse Practitioner. Congratulations!

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## Did You Know?...



*Did you know is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at 860.692.7554. This article was written by Plant Facilities Engineer I Kevin Roy. If you have any questions or comments, he can be reached at 860.692.7558.*

Electrical Service

Just like any part of the home, your electrical system gradually deteriorates with use, age and increased demand. Any electrical service installed in the 70's or earlier probably was not sized to handle today's equipment such as microwaves, hair dryers and air conditioners. Do your lights flicker or dim from time to time? Is your electrical service original to the home? If you have answered yes to any of these questions, then you should evaluate the electrical service of your home.

There are certain things that a homeowner can look for that may help determine the condition of the service. Water tends to be the biggest culprit in creating problems with electrical equipment. Water leaks into the cables, meter sockets and electrical panel creating rust and corrosion that will deteriorate the condition of the service equipment.

There are two common types of electrical service installation, overhead and underground. Overhead services tend to be the most common and problematic.

Start at the top and visually examine the service where the power companies wires are connected to the service cable. There should be a loop in the wires at that point so water cannot run directly down the inside of the cable. Examine the entire cable for worn and frayed cable insulation. Follow the cable down the house to where it enters the meter socket. If that connection is not tight or has deteriorated, water may enter causing rust and corrosion inside the meter.

Continued on Page 5, See *Did You Know*

## Rolling Thunder Motorcycle Ride - A Memorable Memorial Day



Captain Evelich and his son at the Rolling Thunder Ride in Washington DC.

*This article was written and submitted by Captain Brian Evelich of the Manson Youth Institution, who stated, "Based on the high percentage of military veterans within the Department of Correction, I wrote this article about the "Rolling Thunder" Memorial Day Rally my son and I participated in during the Memorial Day weekend in Washington DC. It was a meaningful journey for me as a veteran and I felt compelled to share the experience."*

The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Rolling Thunder Motorcycle Ride into Washington DC took place on Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup>. As a veteran of the U.S. Navy, I had never participated in such a tribute previously, and I didn't know what to expect. Accompanied by my 15 year old son, we made the 700 mile round trip ride to join this tribute in remembering those missing and unaccounted American service personnel.

As we visited the monuments for four different wars, I was shocked to find out that in addition to the 2330

plus MIA/POWS from Vietnam, there are over 609,000 Americans listed as Prisoners of Wars and 165,000 Americans listed as Missing in Action. This includes all of the military actions from the American Revolution through the current Iraqi War. What a staggering number! Over 1,138,000 American lives have been lost in combat throughout our 228 year history as a nation, and these don't include those deaths incurred after released from active duty where death could be attributed to war time injuries or exposure.

When we arrived at the Pentagon parking lot Sunday at 8:30 a.m., we were greeted by well over 250,000 motorcycles many with both a rider and passenger.

Continued on Page 6, See *Rolling Thunder*

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## Did You Know Cont'd

As the cable leaves the bottom of the meter, it heads into the house to the electrical panel. As the cable passes through the wall this penetration can also create a water problem. If the penetration is not sealed properly it can allow water to travel straight into the electrical panel. Look for signs of rust or water. If water or condensation has made it into the electrical panel, the breakers or fuses could have operational malfunctions.

Now that we have made it down to the electrical panel you should know that if you have fuses, the service should be changed to meet today's standards. There are also several types of electrical breaker panels that have been deemed unsafe, the most common being Federal Pacific Stab-Lok panels. If one of these panels is in your home, it should be replaced immediately.

When a service change is performed at your home the grounding system is upgraded to meet today's codes and standards. This is one of the most important aspects of the service, but it is often too difficult for a homeowner to visually inspect and know if their grounding is adequate. If you have questions or concerns with any electrical in your home, you should have a qualified and licensed electrician evaluate the electrical system.

## Rolling Thunder Cont'd

By the time the Rolling Thunder tribute began at noon the motorcycle count was believed to have exceeded 500,000 motorcycles and 750,000 participants. The riders began leaving the Pentagon at 12:00 noon, 2 or 3 motorcycles abreast. At roughly 35 miles per hour, the last riders pulled out at 3:20 p.m. A quick math calculation suggests that in single file, there were about 750 miles of motorcycles.



Bikers line-up to take part in the the Rolling Thunder Ride.

The riders ranged from veterans and active duty personnel to concerned citizens and family members of those who served. The mood and behavior was sober and respectful. There was a curious buzz when Marine Corps One flew overhead, apparently transporting the President to do his annual fly over. We had an Army specialist attached to an anti-terror unit in the African continent along with an Air Force air traffic controller behind us and a Marine in full dress uniform with 7 hash marks to our right. The camaraderie and fraternity was overwhelming seeing the regimentation of the active soldier melding with the long haired throwbacks to the sixties, and the moms and kids blended with the battle hardened combat veterans. It was a modern day Rockwell painting.

When we finally pulled out of the parking lot for the several mile ride, I was awash with emotion seeing thousands of spectators waving, cheering and holding signs and waving flags thanking the veterans in attendance for their service. The emotion of the moment seemed undeserved and inappropriate since Memorial Day is about those who made the ultimate sacrifice, not those who were blessed to serve without needing to pay the realistic price for freedom. The cheers were supplemented with high fives and the offer of cold drinks to the riders as they passed by. There was a politically untainted appreciation for those who served our country.

As my son and I discussed his approaching choices in weighing college, military service or entering the workforce, we discussed the level of commitment serving his country would entail. We came to a cumulative understanding that whether the divine hand of God keeps you safe or calls you to lay down your life, by signing up to serve, you are stating that you are willing to die for your country. I think he understood that there is honor in the willingness regardless of the outcome. I think of a quote from General George Patton best reflects this when he stated, "It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived."



Headstones adorned with US Flags at the Arlington National Cemetery.

The Rolling Thunder ride happens every year on the Memorial Weekend Sunday. The atmosphere in Washington is amazing and the recognition of what it means to be "one nation" is unmistakable.

## Calendar



**September 6** - Retirement Party in honor of Officer Mark Stanwich from 6pm-11pm at Villa Rosa (The Ponte Club). For tickets contact 203.598.2641.



**September 14** - Retirement Party in Honor of Lt. James "Tiny" Wilkins will be held at La Renaissance in East Windsor from 7:00 pm -Midnight. Dinner served from 7-9. Tickets are \$40 which includes gift and dinner. Music provided by Super Joe. For tickets contact Pat Silva at 860.692.6852, Lt. Wood at 860.240.1969 or CO Green at 860.240.1886.



**September 20** - Retirement Party in Honor of Major Melvin Wells at the Coutry House Restaurant in East Haven from 6:30 pm -10:30 pm. Tickets are \$40 and include gift, DJ and buffet dinner. For tickets contact Captain Brian Evelich at MYI at 203.806.2560.



**September 27** - Retirement Party in honor of Lt. Jose Reveron at Anthony's Ocean View Restaurant in New Haven from 7 pm - 11pm. Tickets are \$45 and include gift, open bar, DJ and buffet dinner. For tickets contact Officer D. Smith at 203.579.6131 2nd shift, Officer J. Newson at 203.974.4111 - 1st shift or CTU Sec. Ayesha Camano at 860.623.0269.



**September 28** - The Ethel Lee McCreary Memorial Foundation is hosting an All White Attire- Casual Affair at the American Legion in Enfield CT, located at 566 Enfield Street-Route 5, from 8pm - 1 am. The cost is \$20. Scholarships will be awarded to 3 freshmen who are attending a historically black college/university (HBCU). For more info contact Officer Barbara Hawkins at (860) 566-7500.



**September 29** - Retirement Party in honor of Lt. Chappella Wilks, Lt. Ben Blue and Officer Bobby Hull will be held at the Inn at the Villa Bianca located at 312 Roosevelt Drive, Route 34 in Seymour, CT. Tickets are \$45 and include buffet style dinner, open bar, and dancing. The event will be hosted by DOC's very own "funny man" Lt. Danny Gibbs. For tickets contact Officer Tisdale or Officer Meeker - 1st shift, Captain Keel- 2nd shift or Captain Campbell -3rd shift at 203-579-6131.

Employee Assistance Program

1-800-252-4555

Available 24 hours a day - 7 days a week  
www.theEAP.com

### 2007 Commissioner's Cup



The 2007 Commissioner's Cup Charity Golf Tournament is scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup> at Stanley Golf Course in New Britain. The day will be filled with an unforgettable blend of sports enjoyment, staff camaraderie and fundraising success. Space for this event is limited to 144 golfers on a first come basis. Cost per person is \$120 and \$480 per foursome. This cost includes greens fees, golf cart, prizes, lunch and buffet dinner. Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place teams, closest to the pin, longest drive, and hole in one. For further information, please contact Tom O'Connor at 860.250.7492, Dianna Gesualdi at 860.692.7502, Sarah Fasano-Fernicola at 860.692.7496 or Don Cyr at 860.487.2723. Forward registrations to Sarah Fasano-Fernicola (Legal Affairs Unit) 24 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield CT 06109.

## Top Honors Cont'd

Department's elite Honor Guard Unit and as a highly experienced member and Operations Officer of the CERT team.

Lt. Cusano possesses exemplary supervisory skills and outstanding interpersonal communication skills. He has consistently proven himself as a positive role model and leader. He is a dependable employee and can be relied on to carry out his responsibilities with confidence.



Lieutenant Anthony Cusano  
Supervisor of the Year  
Maloney CTSD



CHNS Catherine Durato  
Health Services  
Employee of the Year  
Cheshire CI

### ***Health Services Employee of the Year***

Ms. Durato's wonderful attitude in overseeing and providing health care to inmates, and her professionalism with

our medical staff, DOC staff, and her peers is evident in all she does. After accepting the promotion to CHNS, she quickly became a valuable resource asset to all. In addition, because of her nursing skill and knowledge, she is held in high esteem by those she supervises.

Her work ethic is commendable. She works tirelessly to support CMHC staff and DOC operations. Ms. Durato models appropriate professionalism and clinical practice by

doing and not just saying. It is not unusual for her to come in on scheduled days off secondary to significant staffing issues to ease the burden in her unit.

### ***Excellence in Correctional Training & Staff Development***

Counselor Supervisor Gerald Wagner has devoted nearly 13 years of his career serving the Connecticut Department of Correction in the field of Training and Staff Development. His most recent accomplishment has been his collaborative work on the research, design and implementation of the agency's Leadership Excellence

and Development (LEaD) Program. The program has received accolades from the National Institute of Corrections for its visionary approach to the field of correctional education.

Jerry has also been instrumental in assisting with planning and development for different divisions and units in our department. His creativity shines with catchy phrases for workshops he has developed including "Whiners to Winners" and "What Happens to the Dinosaurs." He has been a true supporter of the agency's initiatives to invest in the success of our future workforce.



Counselor Supervisor Gerald Wagner  
Excellence in Correctional Training  
& Staff Development -Central Office



Suzanne Silengo  
Teacher of the Year  
Cheshire CI

### ***Teacher of the Year***

State School Teacher Suzanne Silengo has 18 years of teaching experience in Unified School District #1. She currently teaches at Cheshire CI and conducts classes there in Adult Basic Education, GED and the External Diploma Program. Ms. Silengo is a very dedicated educator, always ensuring that the needs of the student come first.

Continued on Page 9, See *Top Honors*



## Top Honors Cont'd

Students are given the individual attention and tailored instructional strategies that they each require. Ms. Silengo always goes the “extra mile” as a teacher. Her Principal, Ms. Green, states that “Ms. Silengo doesn’t have to say a word...her work speaks volumes for her excellence as an educator.”



Jennifer Sullivan  
Parole Officer of the Year  
Parole & Community Services

### ***Parole Officer of The Year - Parole & Community Services***

Parole Officer Sullivan’s service to the Parole and Community Services Special Management Unit has been outstanding. She has demonstrated an impressive ability to understand and implement the complex policies and procedures required to effectively supervise sex offenders in the community.

PO Sullivan performed these challenging duties with thoroughness, accuracy and completeness while assisting other officers and supervisors in a wide range of tasks and projects. One of her numerous contributions to the unit is her ability to locate and place offenders that have no viable sponsor.

PO Sullivan routinely leads other parole officers in the coordination of remands in the community with effectiveness and safety. She has taken a leadership role in training parole staff in the classroom, field and office. She is always willing to share her extensive knowledge of the casenote system, Global Positional System Technology, electronic monitoring, and sex offender supervision. PO Sullivan is highly professional and is a role model for parole officers and offenders.



Jessica Bullard  
Parole Officer of the Year  
Board of Pardons & Paroles

### ***Parole Officer of the Year - Board of Pardons & Paroles***

Parole Officer Jessica Bullard joined the Board of Parole in 1999 and has distinguished herself as a model Parole Officer since that time. She is known for paying attention to detail and superb interviewing skills. Because of the high esteem in which she is held, Officer Bullard is often called upon to work with new officers and she has always handled this added responsibility without complaint.

Most recently, Parole Officer Bullard was assigned the responsibility of Victim Services Coordinator for the Board of Pardons and Paroles. Jessica works tirelessly to assure that the rights of crime victims in the pardon, parole and revocation hearing processes are adhered to taking the much needed time to allow victims every opportunity to voice their concerns. Officer Bullard works cooperatively with the Department of Correction Victim Services Unit and the Office of Victim Services and represents the Board of Pardons and Paroles with pride and professionalism.

### ***Parole Supervisor of the Year***

A 27 year veteran of the agency, Kevin Clifford has ascended through the ranks, having served as a Correction Officer, Correctional Counselor, Parole Officer and now Parole Supervisor, a position which he has held for the last eight years.

Continued on Page 10, See *Top Honors*

## Top Honors Cont'd

Parole Supervisor Clifford leads by example, demonstrating a work ethic that is second to none. Mr. Clifford came to the Board of Pardons and Paroles in October of 2004 and immediately took up the task of developing a new Revocation and Rescission Unit. This Unit was newly created by action of the Connecticut State Legislature. The Unit's purpose was to ensure that parolees returned on violations or detained pending rescission were afforded due process as required by federal law.

Fellow supervisors and officers look to him for valuable guidance knowing that he carries a wealth of knowledge, experience and that he is readily willing to help. He is a role model and a truly a distinguished correctional professional.

Congratulations to all of the award recipients. A complete list of all the 2007 Award winners will appear in the next issue of the PRIDE at Work newsletter.



Kevin Clifford  
Parole Supervisor of the Year

## Attention Connecticut Veterans

The Department of Correction is pleased to be working with the Veteran's Administration and the Connecticut State Police to honor those who were activated for military duty subsequent to September 11, 2001 with the Wartime Service Medal and a ceremony honoring the recipients.

The instructions and application have been posted on the DOC Intranet site at docweb and posted in each facility roll call room. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Marissa Mazzone at 860-692-6835.

***ELIGIBLE DEPT OF CORRECTION EMPLOYEES ARE REQUESTED TO SEND APPLICATIONS & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION BY SEPTEMBER 12, 2007 TO:***

Department of Correction - Human Resources Division  
ATTN: Marissa Mazzone (Wartime Medal and Registry Program)  
24 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109  
Fax: 860-692-6955 Phone: 860-692-6835

## Bill Cosby Cont'd

Never sitting still for a moment, the seventy-year old entertainment icon spoke bluntly to an assembly of inmates many of whom were bedecked in graduation garb for the GED presentations.

Throughout the talk, Cosby involved family members and staff into his routine; he even called Commissioner Theresa Lantz his "sista" after he learned that she received a degree from Coppin State University, which is the HBCU (Historically Black College & University) System.

Media attention was apparent with several newspapers attending the graduation and a press conference immediately following. Cosby said later that he was emotionally moved by the ceremony's pomp and circumstance.

When asked why he came to the prison Cosby, who lives in Shelbourne Falls, MA, said he lived close by and he was asked.

Just as he extolled his audience, "Activate the good to fight off the bad. Search for higher ground. But, you need to make contact. Your have to show up – somehow."