

# COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

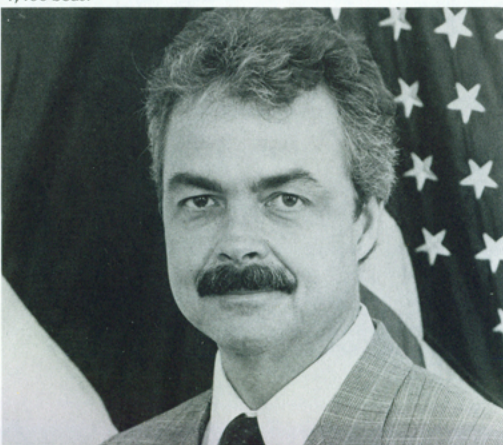
RICHARD J. KOEHLER

As 1988 ends and the New Year begins, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your outstanding performance during an extremely challenging year. Your dedicated service has become this agency's trademark and it makes being your Commissioner very rewarding.

As employees of this department, you have expertly managed unprecedented growth this year. At the beginning of 1988, our population was 14,006. We have entered December with 17,700. This represents a 20% increase since January. In the month of September, the population increased by 1,300 inmates which prompted an emergency declaration to accommodate the influx.

Our capacity at the beginning of the year was 14,782 and in just over 11 months, the capacity has grown to 17,022. We have added more beds to the system than ever before in the history of the agency. The second ferry, The Bain, with a 162-bed capacity opened in March. Also in March we started placing the inmates on our first barge, the Bibby Venture.

The Rose M. Singer Center with a 783 bed capacity opened in June. The two upstate jails opened in late summer enhancing our capacity by 1,400 beds.



In addition to a record inmate population increase and record capacity increase, this has been a record year of other major accomplishments. In August, we were granted legislative approval to implement a supervised detention program. This is an innovative, progressive program that will enable us, for the first time, to place detention inmates in work, education and drug treatment programs outside our jails. We have trained and graduated 30 correction officers for this challenging assignment. We congratulate these officers and I am confident that they will make this program a resounding success.

The field training officers program initiated this year to provide assistance for the newer officers with less than three years on the job, promises to be effective in training and developing staff during the coming year and beyond.

The new Central Punitive Segregation Unit which opened in March has already proven to be an invaluable management vehicle in reducing violence. The CPSU now houses 235. We estimate that violence system-wide will continue to decline even further in 1989 as a result of a better managed inmate discipline system.

We congratulate the family support group, athletic committee and morale committee for the outstanding contribution they made this year. We were able to involve families, especially children, of employees in more events than ever before. Again we are confident that these groups will continue to help in reducing stress on our jobs.

This message comes to you via the newsletter which premiered in May and has been received with enthusiasm. During the coming year we will make it even more viable as an employee communications vehicle. Through the Morale Committee, we are establishing a special column for inquiries and concern from the field. I urge you to utilize this vehicle as a means of creating more communications between the jails and central office.

Address your inquiries and concerns to Correction News, Morale Committee, c/o Deputy Commissioner Ruby Ryles, 60 Hudson Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10013. Broad-based inquiries and concerns will be addressed in the newsletter, others will be addressed individually.

I am sure all of you join me in thanking Mayor Edward Koch for his strong support during the year. The mayor made a record number of visits to the jails this year boosting staff morale. He also spent time addressing residents' concerns about their community being a target of our expansion programs. The mayor also continued to be in support of our budget this year, which is immeasurably helpful to us.

I wish all of you and your families the Merriest Christmas and the Happiest New Year.

## Public Service Awards

### Manhattan's Best

Officers James Arancio, John Bonilla Jr. and Edward Gavin on December 6 will represent the Department of Correction in the Third Annual Uniformed Services Awards program in Manhattan. The program will be held at 10 A.M. at the company's headquarters, 1095 Avenue of the Americas at 42nd Street, 23rd floor in the auditorium.

Officer Arancio, Special Operations Division, and Officer Gavin, Operations Division, on April 17 at about 1 P.M. the officers assisted an elderly man who had been hit by a truck. The victim, 81-year-old Sam Mancuso, had a head wound and was bleeding profusely. Officer Arancio fashioned a compress from his jacket to stop further loss of blood while Officer Gavin radioed for help. They were with Mr. Mancuso when the police and the Emergency Medical Service arrived. The officers accompanied Mr. Mancuso to the Beekman Downtown Hospital, whose representatives said that they saved the victim's life. Mr. Mancuso recovered from his injuries.

On July 27 Officer John A. Bonilla Jr., Anna M. Cross Center was driving on East 50th Street near Fifth Avenue. His five-year-old son, John A. Bonilla III was with him. Officer Bonilla heard a bang sound and saw through his rear view mirror a man with a gun running toward his car. The man, later identified as Angel Santiago, Richmond Hills, Queens, dived through his car window and

placed a gun in the officer's face. Officer Bonilla grabbed Mr. Santiago and fired four shots from his revolver. Mr. Santiago was hit and later died. He was escaping the scene of an attempted robbery of a video camera from tourists visiting St. Patrick's Cathedral.

### Brooklyn's Best

Officer James Palozzolo, Anna M. Cross Center, was the department's honoree at the Eighth Annual Uniformed Public Service Awards held October 24 at the New York Telephone Company, 101 Willoughby Street, Brooklyn.

On July 21, 1987 at about 9:45 A.M. on 60th Street and 18th Avenue Officer Palozzolo heard an explosion coming from the direction of 51st Street and 18th Avenue. The officer went to the site of the explosion where three buildings had collapsed. Officer Palozzolo immediately looked for victims and noticed fingers sticking out of the debris in front of 5005 18th Avenue. He removed the debris and saw a man pinned under a metal plate that covered his upper torso. Officer Palozzolo and a firefighter who arrived soon after the officer was on the scene removed the victim who survived the ordeal.

For these acts of dedication to community service and selflessness these officers represent the department in Manhattan and Brooklyn and are the recipients of the Public Service Awards. These awards are sponsored jointly by the New York Telephone Company and the borough presidents.

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- Kevin Galvin
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- Levora Bacon
- Robert Esposito
- Bronx House of Detention for Men
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- Patricia Worthy
- Brooklyn Correctional Facility
- Henry J. Boykins
- Brooklyn Court Detention Facility
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- Joe Saglimbene
- Correctional Institution for Men
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- C-73
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- Carolyn Gibson
- Nicole Maye
- Health Management Division
- Kevin Butler
- Audrey Green
- Arterio Vega
- House of Detention for Men
- Jerry Salley

#### Kings County Hospital

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Manhattan Court

Debra Dyre  
Workenish Sawyer  
Thomas Zaffarese

#### Manhattan House of Detention for Men

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Hassan Abdul-Rahim

North Facility  
Nelson Pagan  
Michael Romola

#### Queens House of Detention for Men

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