



The *CorrectionHistory.Org* webmaster on Sept. 7, 2019, had the honor to be in the presence of scores of heroic DOC 9-11 rescue and recovery workers attending the unveiling of the Department's "We Were There – We Remember" monument near the control center at the Rikers Island side of the Buono Bridge.

He attended through the courtesy of the Office of Public Information (OPI), which put together the excellently planned and executed event. It included ceremonies under a big tent followed by the monument's open-air formal unveiling beneath a huge flapping U.S. flag.

The two-part program really moved; in the sense of from one setting to another, in the sense of being well-paced and in the sense of stirring human emotions and spirits with recollections of the carnage and destruction as well as of responders' bravery, sacrifices, devotion and perseverance.

From the more than 200 photos taken by the webmaster, he has selected about 75 images to feature in a 52-slide PDF version of a PowerPoint presentation. It was crafted to show and tell viewers how the 2-part program unfolded.



Ctrl- Click icon image **just above** to access this website's 52-slide PDF of DOC 9-11 monument unveiling. Use your browser's "back" option to return to these webpages for more on the DOC memorial unveiling.

Attendees may spot themselves in the photos. Non-attendees among DOCers may spot current or former colleagues in the photos as well as get a clue to the mingled feelings of the occasion:

The camaraderie of a band of brothers and sisters who, shoulder to shoulder, encountered the hell of 9-11, survived, are glad to re-unite but mourn and/or miss those who didn't survive or couldn't attend due to illness, 9-11 related or otherwise.

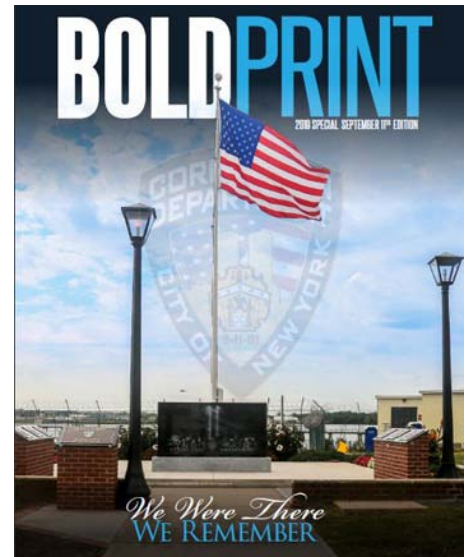
Non-DOCers may learn from the *CorrectionHistory.Org* PDF, and from other materials to which these web pages link, more about the too-long-unheralded role that DOC uniformed and civilian staffers played in the rescue and recovery response to the WTC attack 18 years ago.

Those links are scattered on these pages as Ctrl-clickable images.

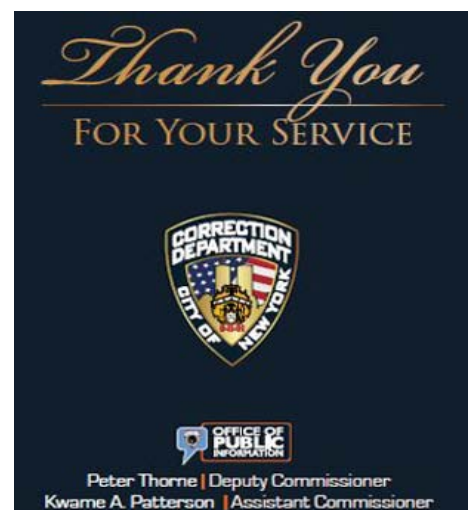
The links access this website's 9-11 presentations from earlier years as well more recent postings on the website's New York Correction History Facebook group page, DOC's website and social media, Channel 1's excellent report, and other news sources.

Although the website's monument unveiling PDF captions quote excerpts from Correction Commissioner Cynthia Brann's remarks, her full text is included here because it provides useful context.

Likewise, the PDF captions provide excerpts from the Benediction delivered by Chaplaincy Director Justin Von Bujdoss. The full texts of his Invocation and his Benediction also are provided here; they too provide useful contextual perspectives.



Ctrl-Click the icon image **just above** to access **six** monument – related pages from DOC's 23-page, 28 Mb PDF *BoldPrint* (newsletter) special 9-11 issue. Ctrl-Click the icon image **just below** for issue's **12** pages with 80+ DOC 9-11 response photos. Return to these webpages for more on memorial unveiling.



Commissioner Brann Remarks: 9/11 Memorial Event 9.7.19 Program Part I (in tent)

Good morning everyone! It is truly an honor to stand here with you today as we pay tribute to the men and women of DOC who assisted in the rescue, recovery and support efforts after September 11.

Eighteen years later, we remember. And we remain committed to NEVER allowing current or future generations to forget.

Within hours after the attack, members of DOC worked alongside NYPD, FDNY, PAPD and so many first-responder agencies, helping with rescue and recovery operations. It was DOC staff that built and managed the Ground Zero



Ctrl-Click icon image *just above* to access on YouTube DOC's "We Were There" series of videoed oral history 9-11 recollections by uniformed and civilian responders. The videos were shown as part of the tent part of the DOC monument unveiling ceremonies. Return to these webpages for more on the memorial unveiling.

communications system that would prove invaluable in the months that followed.

It was DOC staff who helped set up the morgue at Bellevue Hospital.

And it was also DOC staff who joined other responders at the Fresh Kills landfill to collect and identify remains to help provide some type of closure for the families.

We honor the courage of each and every one of our staff who came together to serve their city and our nation during this difficult time.

I would like to thank you **all** for joining us at our annual 9/11 memorial event.

I would also like to recognize all of the heroic staff, many who are now retired, who came back to be a part of this special tribute.

- **A special recognition to our honored guests:**

- FDNY Battalion Chief Brian Johnston and Battalion 49
- NYPD Detective Anthony Otero and members of NYPD ESU
- Port Authority Police Department (PAPD) Lieutenant William Keegan
- Port Authority Police Department (PAPD) Lieutenant John Ryan
- Port Authority Police Department (PAPD) Captain David Ehrenberg and Lieutenant Scott Glazer
- NYC Emergency Management (OEM) FDC Andrew D'Amora and Sargent Mark Shelton
- Shalinda Thibodeaux, the sister of retired CO Melinda Garris, who passed away due to a 9/11 related illness
- Ronald Gaines, the husband of retired CO Sharon Suber, who passed away due to a 9/11 related illness
- Representatives from the COBA, DW and Captain Unions
- And a very heartfelt thanks to two of my special heroes, who worked so tirelessly in Washington DC, walking the halls of Congress, to push our elected officials in voting to protect the benefits for 9/11 responders:
- Retired Warden Richard Palmer and John Feal from the FealGood Foundation.
- Congratulations on your historic achievement.



Ctrl-Click the icon image **just above** to access a trio of images on DOC's **Facebook** page showing the Emergency Service Unit raising the flag at the Rikers Island monument (post-unveiling). Ctrl-Click the icon image **just below** to access that trio of ESU images on DOC's **Twitter** page. Return to these webpages for more on the memorial unveiling.



As Americans, we will carry the memory of what happened on September 11, 2001 with us always.

That painful time bound us together in strength, as we refused to let it divide us.

It was not until I came to the agency in 2015 that I learned of DOC's role in the 9/11 events.

The 3 images on this web page – Commissioner Brann speaking in the tent, 9-11 responders standing for Presentation of the Colors, and reporter Van Tieu – were taken from Ch. 1's excellent video of the monument event. Ctrl-Click any one of the 3 to access Ch. 1 report. Return to this web presentation for more on the DOC's memorial unveiling.

As an American, I was shocked to find out there was a large portion of history that had not been told.



As a DOC staff member, I was angry and appalled that your story had never been told.

The boldness and bravery you all displayed has been an inspiration to me and sent me on a mission to right a wrong.



I am pleased that thanks to a growing partnership with the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, DOC Recruits in June, –for the first time ever–

participated in educational programming at the museum that was designed specifically around telling DOC's 9/11 history.

As part of our ongoing Training & Development courses, future recruits, uniform and non uniform staff will have the opportunity to attend these educational programs as well.

As your Commissioner, I am also honored that in a few moments we will be unveiling DOC's first-ever 9/11 Monument that is





Ctrl-Click icon image **just above** to access Correction Officers Benevolent Assn. Facebook page photos of the monument event, including this one of COBA president Elias Husamudeen chatting with Commissioner Brann. Return to this web presentation for more on the DOC’s memorial unveiling.

dedicated to all the members of service who served and to all those we have lost. This monument will also serve as a constant reminder of your sacrifice during those incredibly challenging times.

As we join Americans all across our country this upcoming week, in service and

remembrance, I want you to remember that together, there is nothing we cannot overcome. Elias Husamudeen

Every day, through our actions, we have the opportunity to live up to the sacrifice and service of the heroes with us today, and those we have lost much too soon.



Ctrl-Click icon image **just above** to access this website’s social media extension, the New York Correction History Facebook page, featuring more images of the monument event . If you are already a Facebook subscriber, you need not be a group member to see our photos and other posts. Return here for more on the DOC’s memorial unveiling.

With that thought, I am reminded of the words of former President Barack Obama.

“Even the smallest act of service, the simplest act of kindness, is a way to honor those we lost, a way to reclaim that spirit of unity that followed 9/11.”



Above is one of 8 selected by the webmaster from several made available by DOC OPI headed by DCPI Peter Thorne and Assistant Commissioner Kwame Patterson, in addition to images in BoldPrint.

Thank you all again for coming. I would now like to welcome John Feal from the FealGood Foundation to the stage.

As I mentioned earlier John's work has been pivotal in protecting the benefits of 9/11 responders. So I am honored today to

present him with a cheque for ten thousand dollars for his foundation from staff donations.

Commissioner Brann Remarks: 9/11 Memorial Event 9.7.19 Program Part II (at monument)

As we mark another year after the devastating 9/11 attacks, these questions always arise: How do we preserve the legacy of those we lost? How do we live up to their example? And how do we keep their spirit alive in our hearts?

As your Commissioner, several years ago I set out to ensure that the history of the women and men at DOC who assisted in the rescue, recovery and support efforts after September 11th was known. And recognized.



Above image is one of 8 selected by the webmaster from several made available by DOC OPI.

Hundreds of DOC Members of Service (MOS) unselfishly answered the call during that critical time, and since then we have lost nearly 20 MOS due to 9/11 related illnesses and more than 65 of our Boldest brothers and sisters are currently suffering from illnesses related to toxins from Ground Zero, that we are aware of.



Above image is one of 8 selected by the webmaster from several made available by DOC OPI.

So today, it is with great reverence, honor, and privilege to be able to pay tribute to you all with the dedication of this 9/11 monument.

We at DOC remember and

will never forget your courage. We at DOC

remember and will never forget your strength. We at DOC remember and will never forget your commitment to New York City and our nation.

Without hesitation, you stepped forward to serve during those incredibly challenging times and this monument will serve as a constant reminder of the sacrifices you made.



Above image is one of 8 picked by the webmaster from several OPI made available.

And when we have a new location for our Academy, the monument will be relocated for all staff and for all the world to see, we were there.

To everyone who assisted and to all the people we have lost, we honor and Thank you. And without further ado, I present to you our 9/11 Monument.

Chaplaincy Director Von Bujdoss' Invocation: 9/11 Memorial Event 9.7.19 Program Part I (in tent)

In this moment, I ask that we maintain the ability to remain humble and accepting as we honor, pay tribute to, and remember those who stepped up to act in the face of unspeakable challenges.

I ask that we take a moment to recall that fateful day, a day forged by fire and steel, and by ash and dust; a day bathed in tears and held by confusion and loss.

I ask that we remain vulnerable to be able to remember, and to feel.



I ask that we remain able to remember the brave women and men who heeded a simple, yet powerful and profound clarion call to respond; *to go against the natural impulse to flee.*

I also ask us to remember all who were lost.

Above is one of 8 picked by the webmaster from several images made available by OPI. It's the 9-11 Flag of Heroes formed by the Names of the Fallen.

I ask us to remember that the power of a wounded heart can also be a blessing.

That our deep wounding makes us attuned to the needs of others.

The wounds we carry in our hearts, today especially, bring us together in a way that can never be recreated.

Therefore, I invoke our shared ability to be present with one another and that the wounds we carry are the root of the love we hold for all affected on September 11th.

In this moment, while we are here together, I pray that we can feel, witness and care for one another. May we be blessed with the ability to not turn away.

But rather, may we begin to understand how it is that we are all bound by our ability to feel – *no matter how hard that may be.*

Let us pray that this love borne of wounding remain in our hearts forever.

Amen.

Chaplaincy Director Von Bujdoss' Benediction: 9/11 Memorial Event 9.7.19 Program Part II (at monument)

Having gathered here, to honor, and pay tribute to the heroes that selflessly responded on September 11th – those who made great personal sacrifices in the search, rescue and recovery effort, as well as



Above image is one of 8 picked by the webmaster from several OPI made available'

those who fought to make sure that our heroes will not be forgotten and will remain cared-for, I ask that we pause for a moment.

I ask that we take a moment to consider that this ground is sacred ground.

This memorial is not merely a static marker of an event that occurred 18 years ago, but rather, that this memorial symbolizes the **power of the human spirit**, **the dignity of selfless service**, and the **impact that we have when we chose to embody the simple dedication to one another**, to what is right and what is just.

This ground *is* sacred.

This family gathered here, is not just a random assortment of people.

Not at all.

We, and the larger family which includes those who are no longer with us, are bound together by values found in the holy books of all faiths – for what greater symbol of spiritual strength and unity can there be than dignity, service, compassion and caring for others in the face of unspeakable circumstances?



Above image is one of 8 picked by the webmaster from several OPI made available.

May we pause and take time to accept the blessings of this sacred ground and **our** sacred bond.

May we also take time accept the blessing of the most high so that we never forget the power of the sacrifices made by these heroes.

May these blessings extend throughout this city, this nation and ever outwards. In particular, may the power of

our gathering benefit those affected by hurricane Dorian who are facing an indomitable challenge, and who must respond to, and recover from, a different kind of terrible loss.

May we pause and accept the rich, deep, and powerful blessings that allow us to keep going and to serve. May all of you and your families be blessed.

Amen.



Above image is one of 8 picked by the webmaster from several OPI made available.

Some Earlier *CorrectionHistory.Org* 9-11 Presentations:

- 15th Anniversary Memories of Their 9-11 Responses, posted by NY Correction History Facebook Memories: Approximately a dozen stories, two dozen images.

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/chronicl/nycdoc/2016-FB-DOC-memories-of-9-11/2016-FB-DOCers-memories-of-9-11-2001.html>

- Collage of NY Correction 9-11 related images in observance of 10th anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center Twin Towers. 32-slide PDF, 45 images.

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/2011-9-11.pdf>

- 9-11 Excerpts from the NYC Correction Department's Medal Day 2002 ceremony journal

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/wtc2/wtc3.html>

- DOC IT's MIKE MORENO MEMORIES OF 9/11

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/DOC-IT-Mike-Moreno-Memories-of-9-11.pdf>

- Two 9-11 patches (#s 47 & 48) from C.O. Barry Raboy's Collection.

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/chronicl/nycdoc/patches/CO-Barry-Raboy-NYDOC-Patches-Collection-04.html>

- 9-11 NYPD Detective Salutes His Dep. Warden Dad – We Salute Both

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/pdf/Saluting-both-DOC-and-NYPD-Johnny-Walkers.pdf>

For Some Excellent 2019 9-11 Observance Posts, Visit *CorrectionHistory.Org*'s Facebook group page & scroll down:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NewYorkCorrectionHistory/>

You don't have to be a member of the group to see the postings. Any FB subscriber can see it.

Membership is required only if you want to upload text, image or video to the page.

- Richard Pagan's video of the Rikers 5K – 10K Run in memory of 9-11.
- Visual Storyteller Frank J. Ciacco's posted images of monument unveiling.
- Visual Storyteller David Levy's posted photo of Manhattan skyline (including Twin Towers) taken from Rikers Island perimeter.
- Vincent DiGiacomo's amazing photo showing the 9-11 monument's surface reflecting the invited DOC 9-11 responders looking at it.
- David Larsen's photo of his NYCD cap with two 9-11 flag pins; one with DOC emblem and the other with an ESU logo.
- David Wilson's posting of an ESU United We Stand posting to which
- Michael Banahan responded with a photo of ESU 9-11 patch.

Back to *CorrectionHistory.Org* home page: <http://www.correctionhistory.org/>