

**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.*

**From The Commissioner**



It is with mixed emotions that I notify you that I have decided to accept the state’s retirement incentive package, and that I will be retiring from the position of Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Correction effective July 1, 2009. This was a difficult decision for me. After 20 years with this exemplary agency, I leave behind terrific and dedicated colleagues and friends.

I joined the Department in 1989, after prior assignments with the District of Columbia prison system (where I began my career in corrections 33 years ago), and with the National Institute of Corrections Academy in Boulder, Colorado. I arrived as the training director and, as many of you know, teaching continues to be one of my passions.

As I look back at those first couple of years, it was a time of great growth as we were in the process of hiring and training thousands of new cadets to work in the many newly constructed facilities. I followed that assignment with an appointment as a Deputy Commissioner for the agency for almost three years, and then as warden at York C.I. which I opened in 1994, New Haven CC and Corrigan C.I.



**Commissioner Theresa Lantz is congratulated by Warden James Dzurenda after she announced her retirement to the Agency’s Top Managers.**

After serving as Deputy Commissioner for the second time in the beginning of this century, I was blessed with the opportunity to become Commissioner of this stellar agency. I never imagined as a correctional officer over 30 years ago, as I worked the cellblocks at the Maximum Security Facility in Lorton, Virginia, that such an honor was possible for me.

see Commissioner / page 7

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through  
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# DOC Honors its Departed

With respectful, choreographed, slow motion salutes, and the placement of solitary red roses, the Connecticut Department of Correction honored its fallen staff members who have passed away during the past year. The solemn, Annual Memorial Ceremony was conducted by candlelight, at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development with the family, friends and colleagues of the departed in attendance. “For they were committed, they were dedicated, they were courageous and they were among the best correctional professionals in this country,” said Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz. “Their duty to others and in particular to the citizens of our great state, came first in their lives.”

With the threat of rain, the ceremony was conducted indoors, before a perfect replica of the agency’s black granite memorial, created by staff at the Cheshire Correctional Institution. As Commissioner Lantz called the role of the nine staff members who have left our ranks, a member of the Department’s elite Honor Guard responded, “Ma’am, absent ma’am” before placing a rose at the memorial. The Department’s Bagpipe Band welled the emotions of the audience with Amazing Grace and the poignant “His Eye is on the Sparrow” was performed by Counselor Supervisor Leah Ware of the Gates Correctional Institution. After the ceremony those in attendance were invited to see the names of the fallen staff, which have been carved into the memorial.

## In Memoriam

### **Correction Officer**

**Robert Forgette - MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution**

### **Correction Officer**

**Wender Garland - Cheshire Correctional Institution**

### **Correctional Lieutenant**

**Sharon Jackson - Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development**

### **Correctional Plumber and Steamfitter**

**Robert Kloss - Manson Youth Institution**

### **Correction Officer**

**John Malone - Osborn Correctional Institution**

### **Correction Officer**

**Charles McKinnon - Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center**

### **Correctional Counselor**

**Winifred Renee Pertillar - Willard-Cybulski Correctional Institution**

### **Correctional Warden**

**Robin Sutherland - Brooklyn Correctional Institution**

### **Correction Officer**

**Kevin Williams - MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution**



**Honor Guard members Lieutenants Ned McCormick and Yadira Otero place a wreath at the Department's Memorial in honor of staff members who have recently passed away.**

# In Memory of Melanie

## The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Against Violence



**Commissioner Theresa Lantz, Wanda and Sam Rieger preside over the opening ceremonies of the 13th Annual Melanie Ilene Rieger Conference Against Violence.**

Mildred Muhammad, the wife of the “DC Sniper,” was one of the keynote speakers at the 13th annual Melanie Ilene Rieger Memorial Conference Against Violence held May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development.

The purpose of the event, whose theme was “Surviving Victimization: Transforming Victimization Into Advocacy,” is aimed at exploring domestic violence and combating crime. Despite concerns of difficult economic times, an estimated 500 people attended the two-day event.

The conference is held every year to honor the memory of the Reiger’s only daughter Melanie, who as a 19-year-old Naugatuck Valley Community College social work and psychology student, was strangled to death by her boyfriend in 1994. Started by the Naugatuck Valley Community College community in 1996 in reaction to Melanie’s murder, the conference initially hoped to “perhaps prevent there being more Melanies” by publicizing domestic violence warning signs, said Sam Rieger. The conference has expanded to also focus on victim’s rights.

Aside from Mildred Muhammad, some of the other guest speakers included: Christine McFadden, who returned to the conference to bring an inspirational and emotional message of surviving the violent murders of her four children by her ex-husband; Marc Klaas, President of the Klaas Kids Foundation, who discussed human sex trafficking; and Connecticut State Representative Diana Urban, who discussed animal abuse and the circle of violence.

Many of those who attend the annual conference believe it not only to be education, but also find the stories of those who have survived horrible acts of violence to be cathartic and inspirational.

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## “Let Brotherly Love Continue”

To my DOC family, time has passed and we continue to be thankful for your support. We would like to take this opportunity to say, we appreciate your prayers during a time of sadness.

Our children are doing better than expected and we just say thank you. Cherish today because tomorrow is not promised. Although we may not have a personal relationship, unconditional love is felt. Hebrews 13:1-3, Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing, some have wittingly entertained angels. Continue to pray for us, we pray and thank you all every day. God Bless.

George Sutherland and the Sutherland Family.

# Ponying Up

After being stuck in the mud with no dry place to rest, twenty-one horses have arrived at the Second Chance Corral located on the grounds of the Gates Correctional Institution.

Officials from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture seized the horses, including 13 miniature horses, 10 adult minis, three juveniles and a 10-day-old foal Monday from an owner in Kent, Connecticut.



Among the recent arrivals to the Second Chance Corral at Gates CI, "Tater" and "Tot" get their feedbag on.

The state started investigating in April when someone complained about the condition of the horses. The horses they found were thin, in poor condition and kept in excess mud without access to dry ground or shelter.

The horses also had not seen a veterinarian. Some had what seemed like skin infections and outgrown hooves. According to officials from the Department of Agriculture, the owner of the horse was struggling financially to provide proper care for the horses.

The horses were taken to the Second Chance Corral, where they will be checked-out by a veterinarian. The Department of Agriculture will take care of them with help from specially trained prison inmates.

The Second Chance Corral is a partnership with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, which provides restorative shelter for abused farm animals which are cared for by the inmate population.

The horses will not be available for adoption until they have recovered.

# Around the Cell Block



**California** - The state Assembly has passed a bill requiring prison authorities to consider inmates' gender identity when making housing decisions.

**Maryland** - Five inmates at a maximum-security prison near Cumberland have sewn nearly 400 brightly colored pillowcases for children in hospital cancer units.

**Florida** - As the only state with entire faith based prisons, advocates for the separation of church and state are closely watching as a fifth such facility was recently added.

**Oregon** - Common Sense Oregon awarded the state prison system its "Oregon Golden Fleece Award" for spending \$773,000 on soda pop for inmates who get a can of Coke once a week.

**Total Supervised Population on May 21, 2009**  
**23,289**  
On May 21, 2008 the population was 23,753



## 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 has been written by Electrical Design Plant Engineer III, Lawrence W. Clymer, any questions relating to it may be answered by contacting him at (860) 692-7622.*

## Voltage Spikes

With the increased use of electronic equipment in the home one should be aware of an often hidden phenomena that can reduce their useful life, damage or even destroy them. You may have heard the term “voltage spikes” or “power surges” and perhaps observed their effects. These events are an abnormality in the power distribution system and referred to as a “transient”. They can be caused by a number of factors related to the power companies distribution system and what is connected to it. Motors starting and stopping, power being turned on and off all contributes to creating transients. These transients can occur at voltage levels that electronic equipment is highly sensitive too.

It is true that many products have a degree of protection built in and handle the minor transients that are usually hidden to us. However, depending on the magnitude of the transients, internal transient protection can be stressed and eventually fail and you will not know it until it is too late. There is another cause of transients that has the potential to destroy your investment. The Insurance Information Institute analysis of homeowner insurance data reported that in 2006 there was 256,000 lightning claims causing about \$882 million in insured losses. Of course, you also have to add the cost of aggravation and inconvenience while negotiating insurance settlement claims. At this point you might reason, we are in Connecticut not Florida.

If the low frequency of lightning activity here in Connecticut does not give you reason for concern consider this. In April of 2004 the Thompson, CT Fire Department responded to a call because of a lightning strike to a home. A department Lieutenant reported “We had just pulled up and I was putting my air pack on when a second lightning bolt hit”. He reported that the lightning traveled along the utility wires into the house and blew the electrical meter in the basement off the wall. It then dug a trench through the ground that was estimated to be about 2-1/2 feet wide by about 35 feet long.

Although there is little protection from a direct lightning strike, you can take precautions from those that strike the ground in the vicinity of your home or strike power lines miles away. Here are some suggestions. Make sure that your cable TV, telephone and electric service as well as any metal piping systems is properly grounded. When you converted to cable TV, did the old off air antenna stay on the roof? If so, make sure the antenna and its signal cable are part of the ground system. Install transient protection devices on your electric service entrance and transient protected power strips for your consumer electronics. You will want to make sure they are self-monitoring with an indicator light that shows you are protected.

Finally, you may want to evaluate the need for a lightning protection system for your home. Ever see what lightning does to a tree? You can get assistance in selecting the right protection devices from your local Power Company or look in the Yellow Pages under Lightning Protection. Those of you who are CL&P or United Illuminating customers can ask a company representative about their HomeGuard Surge Protection Service. For more information on lightning safety indoors and out visit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) web site <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/more.htm>.

# Military Send Off



**Governor M. Jodi Rell Wishes  
Officer Nikkia Harakaly Luck**

Commissioner Lantz was on hand May 19th at the Hartford Armory to send off the 192nd Military Police Battalion of the CT Army National Guard Reservists, which includes no less than six Department of Correction staff members. Also on hand was Governor M. Jodi Rell who is pictured shaking the hand of Officer Nikkia Harakaly of the Central Transportation Unit - South.

In the words of one of the Department of Correction's

Officers present at the event, Sean Ryalls, "It was a pleasure to have Commissioner Lantz there supporting her employees who are making this great sacrifice, keeping our country safe. Thank you again for your continued support of our military personnel."

# Family PRIDE

Technical Sergeant Carmeeka Jackson recently received an award for outstanding service for a Non Commissioned Officer while deployed at Camp Bucca in Iraq.

As a unit coordinator and training instructor she flew more than 200 successful missions, covering



Improved Explosive Devise (IED) hot spots and known enemy activity areas.

During a routine flying mission, she observed suspicious activity near the base's security zone. She immediately dispatched an Area Security Operations team to respond to the scene. Technical Sergeant Jackson's quick actions averted the launching of three mortar rockets targeting Camp Bucca, Iraq, resulting in the capture of three adversaries and protecting more than 5,000 troops and more than \$3,000,000 in assets.

Technical Sergeant Jackson is the daughter of Correction Officers Barbara Hawkins and Jeffrey Lumpkin of Osborn CI. She is also the niece of Substance Abuse Counselor Willie McCreary of Osborn CI. In addition, she is cousin to Officer Cathy McCoy of Osborn CI and Lieutenant Marilyn McCoy of Carl Robinson CI.

New Haven C.C.  
Retirement Celebration Honoring

**Deputy Warden Theresa Kearney  
Lieutenant Terry Lynch  
Counselor Robin Hobson-Sims**

**Thursday, June 18, 2009 7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.**

*Cascade*  
**480 Sherman Avenue, Hamden, CT**

**Tickets \$50.00** Includes Buffet, Gift, Band Open Bar

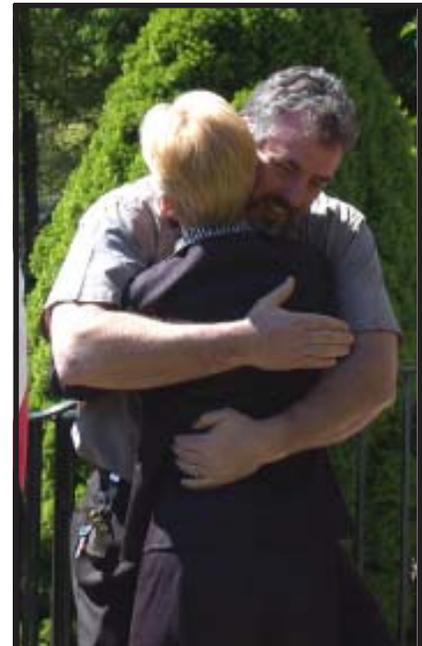
*For Tickets contact: 974-4111*  
*Ms. Cook, Lt. Keel, Lt. Brown, Lt. Holmes*  
*Capt. Anita Hardy (Central Office) 860-692-7526*  
*C/O Dirmy Mack (Cheshire CI) 203-250-2600*  
*C/O Gamble, C/O Vasquez, C/O Harp, C/O Ebron*

## Commissioner To Retire from page 1

The past six years have been filled with many accomplishments involving complex issues that other correction agencies are only beginning to tackle. We have set a standard for the effective and humane treatment of inmates with significant mental health issues. We have made offender reentry, beginning on the first day of incarceration, an indelible part of the lexicon of our state government and an indispensable component of modern and progressive corrections.

The data clearly shows that we have enhanced public safety, successfully managed our offender population and saved the taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars to be invested to make our communities safer and stronger. Our relationship with our medical and mental health provider, the University of Connecticut, Correctional Managed Health Care, has never been more efficient or effective as it is today. And above all, we have insured that our facilities are safe, secure and orderly, without major incident.

These are but a few of the examples from our long list of achievements. Please note, that these are “our” accomplishments and that “we” did this together. My success has been as a result of you - your dedication and commitment, your efforts, and your success. If you have ever heard me speak at a graduation, an awards ceremony or during testimony at the State Capitol, you know how much I respect and brag about you. On a daily basis, you perform above and beyond expectations, with an incredible degree of drive and initiative, not just to accomplish the duties you are assigned, but often developing ideas and strategies as to how we can perform better and more effectively. You truly are the best correctional professionals in the country.



**District Administrator  
Mark Strange embraces  
Commissioner Theresa Lantz  
after her recent retirement  
announcement.**



**Warden Charles Lee Congratulates  
Commissioner Theresa Lantz.**

I know that many others, in fact hundreds of you, will be joining me in state retirement, including members of my executive team. To all, I offer my congratulations and well wishes for the future. To those of you continuing in your service, I know that you will build off the successes of my administration, and will be all the better because of the hard work, determination and commitment that is the foundation of an already strong 40-year history.

Please accept my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all you have done on behalf of the citizens of our great State of Connecticut. I will miss you. God bless you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Theresa C. Lantz".

Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz

## Years of Service

### Employees with 20 Years of Service as of May 2009

| <u>Name</u>       | <u>Title</u> | <u>Facility</u> | <u>Hired</u> |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Ramirez, Belman   | CO           | Cen. Off.       | 5/19/1989    |
| O'Reardon, Edward | CO           | Cen. Off.       | 5/19/1989    |
| Sanchez, Wanda    | OA           | Cen. Off.       | 5/5/1989     |
| Ross, Gary        | CO           | CCI             | 5/19/1989    |
| Olszta, Kenneth   | Lt.          | HCC             | 5/19/1989    |
| Avery, Ronald     | FSSIII       | MWCI            | 5/5/1989     |
| Chambers, Steven  | CO           | NCI             | 5/19/1989    |
| Murphy, Thomas    | CO           | OCI             | 5/19/1989    |
| Graham, Frankie   | CO           | WCI             | 4/7/1989     |
| Pelletier, Roger  | Plmr&Stmfr   | WCCI            | 5/5/1989     |
| Aspinwall, Andrew | CO           | YCI             | 5/19/1989    |
| Garrett, Tina     | CO           | YCI             | 5/19/1989    |

### Employees with 25 Years of Service as of May 2009

|                 |             |           |           |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| Paskow, Dianne  | AFAO Mngr.  | Cen. Off. | 5/4/1984  |
| Ruffin, Charles | Cpt.        | ECI       | 5/11/1984 |
| Loos, Scott     | CO          | MWCI      | 5/11/1984 |
| Inglis, Deborah | Mail Sup. I | NCI       | 5/25/1984 |
| Smith, Calvin   | CO          | OCI       | 5/14/1984 |

## Lt. Otero Makes the Grade

District Administrator Wayne Choinski and his staff want to extend their congratulations and best wishes to Lieutenant Yadira Otero who recently received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Services. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Springfield College.

Lieutenant Otero is currently a District Hearing Officer based at the North District Administrator's office. She has been with the agency since June of 1997 and she brings professional expertise to her current position. Lt. Otero plans to pursue a Master's degree in Organizational Management Leadership.

## Take me out to... Café 24

In honor of opening day of the Major League Baseball season Food Service Supervisor II Carl Cox and Food Service Supervisor II Carl Vaughn of Café 24 served up a menu that attempted to ease the pain being at work instead of the ballpark.



**Carl Cox and Carl Vaughn**

Hot dogs, hamburgers, pulled pork, nachos, and even cracker jacks were among the items offered. In keeping with the baseball theme, staff was encouraged to wear their favorite team gear.

### Employee Assistance Program

**1-800-252-4555**

Available 24 hours a day - 7 days a week

[www.theEAP.com](http://www.theEAP.com)