

NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WEEK

May 7-13, 2017

On May 5, 1984, then-President Ronald Reagan issued Proclamation 5187-National Correctional Officers' Week, in which he called "upon officials of State and local governments and the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities," to recognize "the contributions of correctional officers to our Nation."

President Reagan was the first president to formally recognize the great work of those in our profession and the very difficult, and at times dangerous, nature of corrections work. He wrote that correctional officers are "essential to the day-to-day operations of these institutions; without them it would be impossible to achieve the foremost institutional goals of security and control."

Corrections professionals know all too well the risks and challenges associated with the work each of you do. We need to take time this week to congratulate our brothers and sisters in the field for their successes in protecting the public.

The thousands of women and men working in corrections — in administration, security or health care — in the federal system, a state system, a local facility, a private facility, or in a military facility, in an adult facility or a juvenile facility, in a prison, a jail, or a community-based program — are owed a tremendous debt of gratitude. Corrections professionals put their health, safety and lives on the line every day to maintain public safety, to reform and rehabilitate our nation's offenders and perform many other duties.

Our highly devoted corrections personnel do more than "guard" offenders. They treat, counsel, train, teach and rebuild lives. They give hope.


We at ACA encourage correctional administrators and leaders as well as public officials to present awards and/or send letters of commendation and recognition to all those who have served in corrections dutifully, honorably and/or with distinction.

We give thanks and tribute to you all. We honor those whose lives have been lost and extend our most heartfelt gratitude for their service to country, community and corrections. Let us also pray for the continued safety of those currently working in the profession.

On behalf of the leaders of ACA, its staff and a grateful public, we commend all those who serve or who have served in and throughout the corrections profession this past year. May you stay safe, have great success and be blessed to know that your work is appreciated and respected by our entire nation.



Lannette Linthicum, M.D., CCHP-A, FACP
President



James A. Gondles, Jr., CAE
Executive Director

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A Proclamation

Correctional officers and employees are capable, committed, patient and persistent professionals. They serve admirably in correctional facilities all across the country as chaplains, teachers, counselors, supervisors, managers and directors. They help keep our citizens and communities safe. Correctional officers and employees teach, train, mentor, preach and cure.

Though the job of correctional officers and employees is often very challenging and, at times, stressful, the thousands who work the corrections profession every day perform their duties well and with great pride. They are brave, courageous and tenacious individuals who put their lives and health at risk every day to keep the public safe and provide a multitude of services to the nation's offenders. They have a tremendous responsibility and are owed our nation's gratitude.

Correctional officers are most deserving of our respect, our thanks and the highest praise. They are well-trained, always on watch and prepared to meet any challenge. The men and women working in corrections make a difference in our communities.

On behalf of the American Correctional Association and our thousands of members in the U.S. and internationally, we commend all those who currently serve in the corrections profession, those who have served and those who have given their lives in pursuit of this most honorable profession.

A Resolution

WHEREAS, correctional officers are trained law enforcement professionals dedicated to maintaining safe correctional facilities and ensuring the public safety; and

WHEREAS, correctional facilities across the U.S., both civilian and military, public and private, adult and juvenile, are run by highly qualified and experienced individuals with a deep understanding of the challenges within the profession; and

WHEREAS, correctional officers and employees are responsible for the custody, care and rehabilitation of thousands of offenders every year, as well as the maintenance of safe and secure facilities; and

WHEREAS, correctional officers and employees are resourceful, capable, committed, patient and persistent professionals in criminal justice and our nation; and

WHEREAS, correctional officers and employees serve admirably in many different capacities, including jail administrators, wardens, chaplains, nurses, supervisors, social workers, teachers, managers and directors; and

WHEREAS, correctional officers and employees teach, train, mentor, counsel and treat thousands of offenders; and

WHEREAS, correctional officers and employees provide offenders with direction, hope and a new focus while assisting with reentry and life outside corrections; and

WHEREAS, correctional officers and employees rise to meet any challenge and serve this honorable profession nobly and admirably; and now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, correctional officers and employees deserve the recognition for their service and should be commended by leaders in the profession, the public and our elected officials for the tremendous job they do and exceptional performance of duties under the most difficult of circumstances.