

Corrections Connection





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Paving the way for Women in Corrections

Women’s History Month Serves as an Opportunity to Celebrate Women in Corrections

Each woman has their own story as to how they were led to the Michigan Department of Corrections, but one thing is unanimous, their love for the department and dedication to their current and former roles. Learn more about Pamela Withrow, Denise Quarles, Patricia Caruso and Heidi Washington, their vision for the department and the advice they have for others.



*Director,
Heidi Washington*

When Heidi Washington was appointed as Director of the Michigan Department of Corrections in July 2015 by former Gov. Rick Snyder, Then re-appointed

by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in December 2018, she was no stranger to leadership positions in the department

March is Women’s History Month. Join us as we celebrate and recognize the success’ and contributions of women in corrections. At one time women were prohibited from working in custody positions at correctional facilities housing men. Today, there are more strong women guiding the department than ever before. We can thank influential leaders like Pamela Withrow, Denise Quarles, Patricia Caruso and Director Heidi Washington for being pioneers in the department, paving the way for women today.



Corrections Connection is a publication of the Office of Public Information and Communications. Story ideas, feedback and comments can be submitted to MDOC-PIO-Intern@michigan.gov. Like MDOC on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).

The image on the cover was taken by **Ray Closson**, a corrections officer at Parnall Correctional Facility. For the chance to have your photo featured on the cover of the newsletter, email a high-resolution version of the image and a description of where it was taken to MDOC-PIO-Intern@michigan.gov.

prior to receiving her role as director. Washington was warden of the Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center, Duane L. Waters Health Center and the Robert Scott Correctional Facility. She also served as administrative assistant to the department's executive bureau and director.

Washington started her unexpected 21-year career with the DOC as a legislative assistant; however, staying with the department was not part of her master plan. She came to the department to do legislative policy work in 1998 with plans to stay for a short amount of time while she attended law school, but it wasn't long after starting with the department that her thinking and career path changed.

Working for the department is rewarding for Washington, and over the years, she and the department have accomplished tremendous things. One of the accomplishment's she is most proud of is her work at the Robert Scott Correctional Facility, bringing the correctional facility together under challenging circumstances and persevering through the prison closure. As Director, Washington is proud of the strides the department has made toward giving staff opportunity and education.

"I want people to be proud of being a part of this organization," said Washington, "When I look and see the excitement our staff have to be a part of this organization and the work that they do, it's gratifying to see."

She appreciates and admires the dedication department staff have toward their jobs and recommends they never stop seeking opportunities to learn within their position.

"I've learned every day and I continue to learn, don't sit on the sidelines, be the person who raises their hand and asks questions"

explains Washington. "When you learn you grow, you discover new possibilities and broaden your knowledge."

As for women, the Director is proud to have more women involved in the field of corrections; women bring unique perspectives to this field and provide an important balance in corrections.



**Former Director,
Patricia Caruso**

Patricia Caruso served as the first female director of the Michigan Department of Corrections, beginning her role as director in 2003 and retiring in 2011. Her start in the MDOC was unexpected and sudden, but looking back, she knows she was destined to work in corrections. Caruso was formerly a county manager in Chippewa County and satisfied with her job. When approached about an opening for an assistant business administrator at Kinross Correctional Facility, Caruso declined, thinking she didn't want to work in corrections. About a year later, in 1988, Caruso was approached yet again about the position and this time she decided to take the risk! Caruso started her career in corrections as an assistant business administrator at Kinross Correctional Facility and quickly became passionate for her job and corrections, holding many titles in her 23 years with the department. Caruso's positions include: warden of Chippewa Correctional Facility, regional prison administrator, deputy

director of Correctional Facilities Administration and director. Caruso's dedication led her to several impactful accomplishments during her time with the department. One she hopes will leave a lasting impression on the department is recognizing corrections officers as an important piece of the law enforcement continuum. "Corrections officers, unlike police officers, are only armed with their brains, communication skills and heart" explains Caruso. "These jobs are difficult, and they do not always receive the respect they deserve." Caruso believes the department has made incredible strides in relaying how important the corrections officer role is. They are continuously making a difference in the lives of those who are incarcerated.

As the first female director of the MDOC, it is enlightening to Caruso to see how influential women can be in corrections.

"Women have been a very positive influence in corrections," says Caruso. "Violence decreases because it creates a more normal environment for those who are incarcerated." Caruso is proud of the department and all they've accomplished over the years and the legacy she was a part of creating. One last word of advice Caruso has for those currently working at the MDOC, "Take pride in what you do."



**Former Prison Administrator,
Denise Quarles**

When Denise Quarles graduated from college in 1971, she wasn't seeking employment in the criminal justice field. However, the first state department to contact Quarles after taking her civil service exams was the MDOC. Quarles then started what would become a 31-year career with the department as a probation agent at the Detroit Recorder's Court, becoming one of just two women in the department to manage a probation caseload of male offenders. Quarles continued to advance throughout her career holding several positions that had previously never been held by a woman. She was a parole agent, community services liaison, supervisor of the Northeast Corrections Center, assistant deputy warden at Marquette Branch Prison and administrator at the Riverside Reception Unit.

In 1983, she first became warden at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility. Subsequently she was named warden of the Riverside Correctional Facility, the G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility and the camp program. In 1988, she was named deputy director of the MDOC Bureau of Field Services, overseeing parole, probation and halfway house services, and she then went on to serve as regional prison administrator from 1997 to 2002. While Quarles had many successes, she faced many challenges as her career began at a time when it wasn't widely accepted for women to oversee male felons.

"I began my career at a time when the general belief was that women should have limited involvement in the criminal justice field," said Quarles, "it was thought that women were emotionally and physically incapable of holding positions requiring interaction with or oversight of male felons." Although she faced judgment from

her peers, Quarles never allowed their opinions to set her back from advancing in her career. She made a point to always remain professional and prepared to perform her duties. Quarles provided proof to the department and to herself that women can hold positions at various levels of responsibility throughout the MDOC. She is honored to have helped shape this vision within the department which led to a significant increase of the number of women hired and promoted in various areas of the MDOC. Quarles' determination and perseverance guided her through a successful career with the MDOC. She encourages others to never limit someone's potential. "Serve as an example to others by recognizing the individual skills and abilities of other employees without regard to their gender," said Quarles, "be guided by professionalism and perseverance."



**Former Warden,
Pam Withrow**

Pamela Withrow is known as the first female warden of a male correctional facility in Michigan. Withrow was a pioneer for women in corrections, first serving as a prison counselor at Corrections Camp Brighton and later becoming warden of the Michigan Dunes Correctional Facility before transitioning to a much larger facility, the Michigan Reformatory. A career in corrections was not in Withrow's original plan. Instead, she was attending law school

at the University of Michigan with intentions of becoming an attorney. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Withrow had to enter the workforce and began her career in corrections with intentions to only work for the department for four years. However, after working for the department, Withrow found the career to be fascinating.

As the first female warden of a male correctional facility, Withrow faced many challenges as she worked to gain the trust of her fellow cohorts and implement new concepts within the prison. Withrow succeeded in changing the culture of the Michigan Reformatory through a program called "Strategies for Thinking Productively" which was later called "Change," a program that focused on assisting prisoners with self-change.

"It takes time to change a culture of a place," said Withrow, "we [received] accreditation...the staff pride that came with becoming accredited was worth all the work because we did it as a team."

Withrow emphasizes the importance of teamwork in this challenging career. Withrow took the concept of teamwork beyond just her work inside the prisons. She became a member of a group called "The Network" which contained four up-and-coming women who worked in the department. The group met monthly to discuss their jobs and give one another advice. Withrow encourages department staff to seek out like-minded individuals to have discussions with. "Build a strong network" urges Withrow, "you really need a support system in this business."



Register now for
EMPLOYEE RECREATION DAY
JUNE 7, 2019
ROYAL SCOT LANSING, MI
Register @ <http://bit.ly/RecDay2019>

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Check out the latest episodes of the Field Days podcast

- [Celebrate Women’s History Month with retired Warden Pamela Withrow, the first female warden of a male correctional facility.](#)
- [Legislative Liaison Kyle Kaminski discusses the 2020 Budget. He provides valuable insight into the current budget proposal, the approval process and next steps.](#)
- [New Field Agent Kellie Fittonneville discusses her passion for her new role.](#)



Listen to us on   

Courage and Commitment 2019 Corrections Officer of the Year is committed to keeping Michigan communities safe

Stephen Cooklin is committed to keeping communities safe, selflessly dedicating himself to the department as well as strengthening connections with law enforcement agencies.



Absconder Recovery Unit Investigator Stephen Cooklin

“It’s challenging work, but I can’t imagine doing anything else” said Cooklin, an investigator for the Absconder Recovery Unit based in Macomb County. He was named 2019 Corrections Officer of the Year for exceeding expectations at his job and as a leader in his community. “I’m so excited to congratulate Stephen Cooklin, who was chosen for this honor due to his strong work ethic, his professionalism and his commitment to keeping the citizens of Michigan safe,” said Michigan Department of Corrections Director Heidi Washington. Cooklin started with the department in 1994 as a corrections officer and became an ARU investigator in 2011 where he works to apprehend fugitives who have fled supervision. Cooklin also serves as a Task Force Officer with the U.S.

Marshals Service and has a long history in the military serving in Panama in 1989, Desert Storm in 1991, the Pentagon in 2002 and Iraq in 2006.

He knows he is making a difference in his communities by working to keep predators off the streets. However, he believes his role goes beyond removing absconders.

“All absconders are on a path in the wrong direction, and it’s our duty to redirect them.” said Cooklin. “It intrigues me to see if I can make a difference.” Cooklin understands that public safety begins with offender success and he works toward the department’s mission to assist offenders in making successful transitions into the community. His dedication to the community goes beyond his job, he is a little league umpire and a board member of Bay City’s Northeast Little League Association, and volunteers at several other organizations within his community.

Cooklin for this honor from a pool of five finalists by the Michigan Correctional Officers’ Training Council which is made up of representatives from MDOC, Michigan Corrections Organization, law enforcement and higher education. The council chose Cooklin is honored to be selected as Corrections Officer of the Year and was impressed by the other finalists’ great achievements. “It’s a great honor to be selected [as Corrections Officer of the Year]” said Cooklin. “If you do what you love, you never work a day in your life.”

2019 Corrections Officer of the Year Finalists

Peter Formolo, a corrections transportation officer at Kinross Transportation Cadre, has worked for the department since 1989. Demonstrating a positive work ethic, Formolo is adaptable and team-oriented. His positive attitude is considered “infectious” and is respected by his peers and supervisors.



Jeramie Mangus, a corrections officer at Carson City Correctional Facility, has worked for the department since 2001. He is a leader in the facility, mentoring new officers and providing on-the-job training opportunities with new and seasoned staff. He exemplifies professionalism and dedication to the department and his facility.



Trent Myles, a corrections medical officer at Woodland Center Correctional Facility, has worked for the department since 1999. He seeks out opportunities to build strategic relationships and treats everyone with respect and dignity. He exceeds job expectations and is considered a role model for all staff at the facility.



Thomas Goodreau, a corrections officer at Baraga Correctional Facility, has worked for the department since 1994. His knowledge of policy and procedure makes him an asset to staff in his facility. He goes above and beyond promoting the department goals in his daily interactions.



Food Technology Program Hosts Local Restaurant Owners and Chefs



Restaurant owners and chefs visited the Macomb Correctional Facility's Food Technology Program on Feb. 22 to learn and explore the programs teaching environment. The visit introduced prisoners to local restaurant owners who could one day become their future employer.

Motivational Interviewing Moments

Mariam Deland, a former therapist in level IV Residential Treatment Program, was presented with a prisoner who consistently engaged in life-threatening behaviors when things didn't go his way. The prisoner was extremely upset over a recent transfer from Woodland Center Correctional Facility to Gus Harrison Correctional Facility. The prisoner was threatening to cut himself until he was sent back to his former facility. Deland used motivational interviewing to engage with the prisoner identifying that his anger was usually triggered by being told "no." After asking the prisoner for permission to make a suggestion, Deland suggested that life might be easier for the prisoner if he didn't get so angry every time he was told no. This proposed a new way of thinking for the prisoner, who had never thought of his situation like that. Deland agreed that the prisoner likely had bad experiences in his life in which he was powerless and people who were supposed to help him grow into a well-balanced adult weren't helping him. The prisoner agreed with Deland and they settled on a change target. Deland decided that she would kindly tell the prisoner "no" to give him a chance to tolerate being told no.

To start the exercise, Deland told the prisoner "No, I will not send you back to Woodland Center Correctional Facility. You must stay in the Residential Treatment Program, but just for the weekend. On Monday if you still think you can't handle it here, I'll do a referral then." Deland wasn't sure if this tactic would work, but she knew from motivational interviewing that any change is self-change and she had to allow him to make his own decisions. When Monday came the prisoner told Deland that he changed his mind and he decided to stay in the Residential Treatment Program. Deland said, "it ended up being really rewarding to work with him."

New Acting Warden and Deputy Wardens Named



St. Louis Correctional Facility
Acting Warden,
Bob Vashaw



Ionia Correctional Facility
Acting Deputy Warden,
Lynn Sandborn



Ionia Correctional Facility
Acting Assistant Deputy Warden,
Sabrina Davis

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

Thumb Correctional Facility Prison Fellowship Academy Launch

The Prison Fellowship Academy launched at Thumb Correctional Facility on Feb. 15. Prisoners were tasked with composing a list of three unique things about themselves. The men were eager

to learn and ready to change. The students developed a community group name and embraced the six core values of the academy. Field Director Denise Harris and Facilitator Deborah Bassney led the launch.



Mental Health Secretary Receives the Ruby Award from "Michigan Blood"

Mental Health Secretary Rebecca Ackerman at Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility is not only committed to keeping her community safe, but also to saving lives. Ackerman was recently recognized by Michigan Blood for the prestigious Ruby Award at an awards banquet in Grand Rapids. Ackerman, who is also the donor chairperson for the Michigan Blood Donor Program, was one of three people recognized for the award. She was credited as being instrumental in doubling the size of their blood drive during her time as chairperson. Her dedication to the cause was exemplified when she, along with many of her family members, attended the blood drive which was scheduled

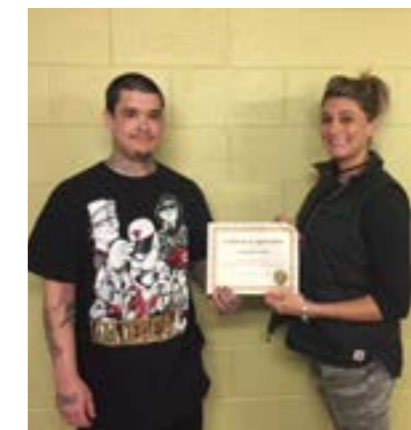


Pictured: Rebecca Ackerman (Far Right)

on the same date as her father's funeral service. Ackerman's desire to give back to her community is demonstrated not only in her work with the department but also through her advocacy for Michigan Blood.

Shiawassee Parolee Saves the Life of Fellow Parolee

On Feb. 12, while living in residential housing, Shiawassee parolee Chris Smith noticed a fellow parolee blue in the face and convulsing. Smith located a phone and immediately called 911 and began performing CPR. Once emergency responders arrived on the scene, the parolee was in full arrest. Responders said the only reason the



parolee survived was because of Smith's quick reaction in performing CPR. Smith said he feels like a hero. Pictured: Field Agent Jessica Kunik and her parolee, Chris Smith.

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

The Extra Mile

MDOC staff go beyond the call of duty to help others



In April 2018, Kinross Correctional Facility Registered Nurse Tristina Smith discovered a 2-year-old child unresponsive at the bottom of a hot tub while at a waterpark in Mackinaw City. Smith and her friend quickly initiated resuscitation efforts, called 911, established an airway and conducted lifesaving efforts until he was transported to the local emergency room. The child's pulse was restored in the emergency room, but he later passed away. Smith exemplified leadership and lifesaving efforts in a crisis outside of her employment expectations. Smith's integrity and bravery earned her the department's Citizenship Award.

In October 2017, Corrections Officers Reuben Kamper and Donald Stabile, along with Sergeant Carl Gurnoe, PC Gary McLeod and ARUS Ken Dunton Jr. responded to a medical emergency in the Steamboat Unit at Chippewa Correctional Facility.

They found an officer who appeared pale and was in serious distress. They immediately transported the distressed officer to the health care unit to be evaluated by Registered Nurse Theresa Merling. Dunton assisted Merling in keeping the officer conscious and concentrating on his breathing. Sgt. Gurnoe soon arrived with the defibrillator and assisted in placing the defibrillator pads on the officer. They continued to monitor the officer's condition until EMS arrived to transport him to the hospital. It was later discovered that the officer had suffered a heart attack. The team's personal and professional integrity earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.



In April 2018, while working at the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility, Licensed Practical Nurse Delores Matthews noticed a corrections officer was having a difficult time holding on to her possessions and slurring her speech. Matthews immediately reported the incident to Registered Nurse Debra Nehme. Nehme assessed the officer and found her vital signs indicated her health was declining, and the officer had lost fine motor skills on the left side of the body. Shift command was notified and an ambulance was requested. Upon arrival at the hospital, the officer's condition vastly improved. Matthews observation and quick response earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.

The Extra Mile continued...

In December 2017, Corrections officer Robert Beasley discovered an unconscious prisoner who was not breathing at the Parnall Correctional Facility. Beasley assessed the situation and called for assistance. Corrections Officer Donald Bantilan, Sergeant Derik Curtis and Registered Nurse Lynette Trupiano responded to the call. Beasley, Bantilan and Trupiano began performing CPR while Sgt. Curtis took the prisoner's pulse and connected him to an AED. After several minutes they were able to revive the prisoner. The team's professionalism earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.



In April 2018, a corrections officer notified the control center via a facility radio that he needed medical help in Zone 1 of Parnall Correctional Facility. Corrections Officer Gail Crittenden was working in the Electronic Monitoring room at the time and quickly pulled the cameras up to locate the distressed officer. She then directed staff to the specific area the officer was located and called for an ambulance. Corrections Officer Ryan Wilt was the first on scene and discovered the officer experiencing chest pain, dizziness, hand

tingling and numbness. Wilt notified the control center and health care updating them on the officer's condition. Corrections Officers Kevin Lashley and Christopher Midgley along with Lieutenant Bryan Hughes and Registered Nurse Cynthia Brzyski responded to the call. Wilt met Brzyski to assist her in bringing a wheelchair, oxygen tank and a medical bag to the area. Lt. Hughes supervised and gathered the officer's symptoms to report to health care, while Brzyski took the officer's vitals and gave him two nitro pills and an aspirin. When the ambulance arrived at the facility, Lashley met them at the sallyport and directed them to the scene. The team then transported the officer into the ambulance and Midgley stayed with his colleague and rode in the ambulance with him to Henry Ford Allegiance Hospital until his emergency contact arrived.

The team's ability to perform under stressful circumstances earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.

Corrections Officer Jerald Nugent is a 27-year veteran of the U.S. Military, both active Army and Army Reserve, who selflessly served his country during four different deployments; Panama 1989, Guantanamo Bay 2002 and 2007 and Afghanistan in 2007. Officer Nugent also served in multiple humanitarian relief missions overseas and as an executive driver during the Presidential Inauguration of George H.W. Bush. He received several awards including the Bronze Star and Meritorious Service medals for his prestigious service. Officer Nugent's core values of the Military are exemplified in his work with the Department of Corrections. He was recognized as the 2018 Corrections Officer of the Year for the G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility and a finalist for the Corrections Officer of the Year. He also started the "Sweets for Soldiers" campaign in 2014 providing hard candy to soldiers serving abroad. His dedication to the department and the U.S. Military is commendable.

His commitment to the department and our country earned Nugent the department's Military Award.



The Extra Mile continued...

Corrections officer Derek Wright was working at Parnall Correctional Facility in July 2018 when he discovered an unconscious prisoner who was not breathing. Officer Wright immediately called for assistance and began providing CPR to the prisoner. Sergeant Joshua Kolonich and Registered Nurse Cynthia Brzyski responded to the call and began assisting Officer Wright with CPR and connecting the prisoner to an AED. After several minutes they were able to revive the inmate; he was then transported to the hospital for further treatment. The team's quick and decisive actions earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.



The Extra Mile continued...

Muskegon Correctional Facility's EPIC Communications team received the Good Government symbol of Teamwork Coin from Warden Sherry Burt for their impressive job in improving communications at all levels at MCF.

Pictured: Officer Stacy Chandler, PC Kevin Brown, Unit Chief Psychologist Brenda Stevenson, Warden Sherry Burt, PC Johanna Betts, Officer Donnise Gooden, Officer Donyal Lewis, ADW Paul Davis, Officer Mark Smith, Officer Brandon Terhaar and AA Dave Brazee.



Corrections Officer Dennis Hamrick was working at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility in March 2018 when he passed along information at shift change to the oncoming officer about an inmate who was upset about a pending transfer occurring that day. Before leaving to go home for the day, he decided to stop by the inmate's cell to remind him of the pending transfer. Upon arrival, he discovered the inmate harming himself and immediately called for assistance. Officer Hamrick took the time to check on the inmate and ultimately saved his life. Officer Hamrick's integrity and willingness to go above and beyond earned him the department's Lifesaving Award.



Muskegon Correctional Facility Warden Sherry Burt presents Maintenance Mechanic Jeff Rood with the Veteran Coin for his service in the U.S. Army.

Pictured Warden Sherry Burt, FBM Bobi Dixon-Ingalls, Jeff Rood and PPS Warren Herring.

In April 2018, Corrections Officers Danitra Calligton and Shalisa Whitt were escorting a volunteer out of the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility when the volunteer began to complain that her hip hurt and sat down in front of the Control Center. Officer Whitt asked the volunteer if she needed an ambulance and the volunteer said no and attempted to get up and exit the facility. The volunteer then collapsed. Officer Calligton assisted the volunteer to the floor while Officer Whitt called for health care assistance. Corrections Officer Rochelle Gallimore observed the situation and responded to the area calling for the defibrillator and a video camera. Corrections Officer Pamela Leverett called for an ambulance and shift command while Lieutenant Alicia Malloy arrived on scene and attempted to find a pulse but was unsuccessful. Meanwhile, Corrections Officer Robert Downey arrived with the defibrillator and video camera and began recording the incident while Corrections Officer Gallimore applied the defibrillator pads. No shock was advised, so Officer Gallimore began providing chest compressions while Lt. Malloy gave breaths. Registered Nurses Teresita Belog and Kristi Goehmann along with officer Scott Kemmer arrived on scene and took over providing CPR by rotating until the ambulance arrived. Although every attempt was made to save the volunteer's life, she, unfortunately, passed away. The team's ability to perform at a high level under a stressful situation earned them the department's Meritorious Service Award. *Pictured: Robert Downey*



Newberry Correctional Facility Warden Catherine Bauman presented NCF Maintenance staff with Warden's coins for their extra work removing snow and restoring heat during the government shutdown and recent blizzards.

Pictured: Craig Carruthers, Keith Deiotte, John Suriano, Ed Deloria, Tim Robbins, Joe Pleiman and Jonathan Flatt



In April 2018, Chippewa Correctional Facility Corrections Officer Jeffrey Jenkins noticed an elderly woman struggling to breathe while eating at a local restaurant with his family. Jenkins immediately ran to assist the woman and administer the Heimlich maneuver. After several abdominal thrusts, the obstruction was dislodged and the woman began breathing again. Jenkins' quick reaction and commitment to helping others in need earned him the department's Lifesaving Award.

The Extra Mile continued...

Laura Hetherington received a Warden's Coin from Saginaw Correctional Facility Warden Tom Winn for a job well done during the Saginaw Correctional Facility audit.



Do you have a letter of thanks sent to your facility or office that you'd like to share? Send it to MDOC-PIO-Intern@michigan.gov and it could be included in a future edition of the Corrections Connection.

Corrections Quiz

In its 128-year history, who was named the first female warden of Marquette Branch Prison?

Send your answer to MDOC-PIO-Intern@michigan.gov. The first person to answer correctly will receive a congratulatory shout out on MDOC social media, and the answer and winner will be published in the next edition of the newsletter.

February Quiz Recap

What large object was captured passing through the sky in January 2018 on Kinross Correctional Facility's cameras?

Answer: A Meteor

Congratulations to **Renee McGlue**, probation supervisor for the Chrysler District, for being the first to answer the February Corrections Quiz. Great job!

Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency receives an Abraham Lincoln Pillars of Excellence Award through its partnership with MDOC

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency received an Abraham Lincoln Pillars of Excellence Award for the Incarcerated Veterans Program. Through partnerships with the MDOC, the VA medical centers in Saginaw and Ann Arbor and the VBA Regional Office in Detroit, the program ensures that all incarcerated veterans receive the same measure of advocacy as other veterans. This reduces their family's need for public assistance and contributes to reduced recidivism rates.

The award program was developed by the Department of Veterans Affairs' Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs. The annual awards are given to outstanding programs that support the VA's mission to fulfill the promise of Abraham Lincoln.

Calling All MDOC Runners

The department is seeking volunteers to join the MDOC Run Team for Special Olympics Sept. 8- 13, 2019. Our goal is to raise awareness of the Torch Run and Special Olympics Michigan and to raise funds for Special Olympics Michigan. Any MDOC employee interested in joining the run team is encouraged to express their interest in writing, through the appropriate chain of command, to Norma Killough, Administrative Assistant, CFA.

SNAPSHOTS

A look at life around the MDOC



The Court Services Unit and the Special Services Unit in the Metropolitan Territory hosted a celebration luncheon for Court Appointed Probation Officer Yolanda Gatson who is transferring to the Southwest district.



Troy Probation Supervisor Melanie Hardy and Pontiac Probation Agent Kelsey Taraskavage participated in the American Lung Association Fight for Air event on Feb. 24 at the Ally Detroit Center. Participants climb 42 flights of stairs and raise money to support the American Lung Association's fight against lung disease. The event raised more than \$230,000.



The Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center Employee Survey Action Team wrapped up the 2017/2018 survey and are preparing to move onto the 2018/2019 survey action results. Pictured: Eric Morgan, Laura Morgan, Keysha Adams, Amy Cook, Kelly Short, Danielle Pietrangelo, Christine Beecher, Rachel Johnson, Jennifer Shaw.

Corrections in the News

[Lansing mayor touts jobs program for returning offenders - TV 6](#)

[Canines and criminals team up in Michigan Prisons - WLIX](#)

[This state is helping vets in prison get their VA disability benefits - MilitaryTimes](#)

Spread the word about some of the great things happening at the MDOC and share these stories with friends, family and coworkers.

Seen on Twitter...



To see more, follow the MDOC on [Twitter](#).

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

January New Hires

Aris, Crystal
 Arnst, Wendy
 Baumler, Audrey
 Bazzi, Hitaf
 Becks, Brett
 Bensel, Brian
 Boyd, Elizabeth
 Brouard, Lisa
 Brown, Diana
 Bush, Jared
 Cairns, Derek
 Clark, Donald
 Coffey, Cody
 Cook, Troy
 Cope, Joy
 Crane, Richard
 Donahue, Candy
 Enos, Britt
 Erner, Trenton
 Fisher, Lacey
 Fountain, Tyler
 Frinkle, Russell
 Garen, Cole
 Gartley, Timothy
 Gower, Kimberly
 Grayson, Lesley
 Grondin, David
 Gum, Morgan
 Haapala, Bryton
 Hubble, Koltyn
 Jenkins, Joseph
 Jones, Charisse
 Kagarise, Branden
 Keefer, Justin
 Knox, Tina
 Kosmowski, Kaylee
 Koster, Kyle
 Kutzera, Joseph
 Lang, Sue
 Leboeuf, Steve
 Leveille, Dylan
 Lillrose, Mark
 Loridon, Kyle
 Macarthur, Amber
 Macquarrie, Mary Kay
 Mangold, Ian
 Manszewski, Sharon
 Marble, Jason
 Maxson, Kristin
 Mccoy, James

Resident Care Aide, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
 Cook, Carson City Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
 Secretary, Genesee County Probation Office
 Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
 Cook, Macomb Correctional Facility
 Secretary, Newberry Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
 Registered Nurse, Macomb Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
 Registered Nurse, Macomb Correctional Facility
 Secretary, Mecosta County Parole and Probation Office
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
 Food Services Supervisor, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
 Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
 Maintenance Mechanic, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
 Dental Aide, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
 General Office Assistant, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
 General Office Assistant, Corrections Central Office
 Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
 Storekeeper, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
 Corrections QMHP, Oaks Correctional Facility
 Field Agent, Barry County Parole and Probation Office
 Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
 Cook, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
 Refrigeration Mechanic, Lakeland Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
 Registered Nurse, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
 Word Processing Assistant, Saginaw County Probation Office
 Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
 Registered Nurse, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
 Registered Nurse, Macomb Correctional Facility

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

January New Hires

Miller, Matthew
 Morris, Caleb
 Mullin, Brian
 Oliver, Samantha
 Olmstead, Wayne
 Osborn, Jason
 Osterhout, Justin
 Perry, Neil
 Price, Heather
 Quinlan, Heather
 Quinn, Corie
 Rajacic, Alan
 Reinfelder, Seth
 Rick, Sarah
 Root, Annie
 Ruehle, Christopher
 Sayers, Larissa
 Schrovenwever, Joshua
 Seelman, David
 Smith, Alyssa
 Smith, Nicholas
 Stellema, Robert
 Stone, Susan
 Supianoski, Aaron
 Thompson, Auriel
 Tic, Bianca
 Tripp, Chene
 Vanhouten, Joshua
 Vanluven, Seth
 Welling, David
 Widener, Tiffany
 Williams, Traci
 Young-Troost, Kayla

Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
 Industries Production Leader, Michigan State Industries
 Secretary, Thumb Correctional Facility
 Accountant Manager, Kinross Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
 Accounting Technician, Parnall Correctional Facility
 Cook, Newberry Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
 Library Technician, Carson City Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
 Registered Nurse, Thumb Correctional Facility
 Corrections QMHP, Woodland Correctional Facility
 Plumber, Ionia Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
 Registered Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
 Departmental Technician, Electronic Monitoring
 Departmental Technician, Electronic Monitoring
 Corrections QMHP, Macomb Correctional Facility
 Recreational Therapist, Woodland Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
 Cook, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
 Cook, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
 Registered Nurse, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility

January Retirements

Anderson, Charles
 Badger, Carla
 Boyea, Joel
 Card, Sharon
 Courtney-Nicewander, Melinda
 Crawford, Roland
 Cruz, Richard
 Dunton, Kenneth
 Ellerthorpe, Kevin
 Ewing, Eric
 Green, Darren
 Jagoda, Gretchen
 Jenkins, Jeffrey
 Kott, Bill
 Mansfield, Donald
 Marvin, Mark
 Maxson, Timothy
 Metzger, Gerald
 Pickett, Mark
 Raymond, Brian
 Roberson, Stanley
 Rossell, Linda
 Salata, Robert
 Savoie, Carl
 Slavin, James
 Smith, Scott
 Spencer, Michael
 Terrell, Claude
 Trierweiler, Patrick
 Tuckerman, Beth
 Vroman, Mitchell
 Walter, Sue
 West, Douglas
 Williams, Harry
 Williams, Herman
 Williams, Larry
 Witgen, Randy

Corrections Resident Representative, Kinross Correctional Facility
 Accountant Manager, Jackson Region
 School Teacher, Lakeland Correctional Facility
 Secretary, Clare County Parole and Probation Office
 Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
 Trades Instructor, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
 Assistant Unit Supervisor, Chippewa Correctional Facility
 Storekeeper, Jackson Region
 Corrections Program Coordinator, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
 Corrections Officer, Detroit Reentry Center
 Secretary, Macomb County Probation Office
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility
 Resident Unit Manager, Kinross Correctional Facility
 Corrections Shift Supervisor, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
 Corrections Transportation Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
 Field Agent, Kent County Probation Office
 Corrections Officer, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
 Secretary, Iona Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
 Building Trades Crew Leader, Chippewa Correctional Facility
 School Teacher, Ojibway Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
 Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
 Corrections Officer, Detroit Detention Center
 Senior Executive Warden, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
 Corrections Program Coordinator, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
 Resident Unit Manager, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
 Procurement Technician, Kinross Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
 Dentist, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
 Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
 Corrections Shift Supervisor, St. Louis Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility