

September 20, 2013

# Weekly Views

Family, friends and co-workers gathered overnight as the Indiana Fraternal Order of Police, joined by Governor Mike Pence, Commissioner Bruce Lemmon and law enforcement officers from across the state, honored two officers who died in the line of duty. Wabash Valley Correctional Facility Officer Timothy Betts and Fort Wayne Police Department Officer Kenneth Hayden's names were added to the memorial outside the Indiana Statehouse. The service helps remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Officer Betts died of a massive heart attack last August after responding to a cell

house emergency, collapsing while escorting an offender to segregation. Governor Pence said, "We have no citizens who have earned more honor than those who have paid that last full measure of devotion." The memorial includes the names of more than 700 police officers and fire fighters, etched in granite and is a reminder of the dangers police officers and public safety workers face on the job every day. The WVCF Honor Guard led the ceremony's procession as Officer Betts was honored. Wabash Superintendent Richard Brown said, "It was a very moving tribute to one of our own, and we will never forget Tim's service." (see photos above and left)



The Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility assisted Noble County Saddle Club in the annual town clean up for the Albion Harvest Festival. Offenders removed old banners and general trash from around the town of Albion. They finished the cleaning detail at the Saddle Club cleaning the grounds and horse barns in preparation for the upcoming festival. Offenders were treated to a light dinner cooked over an open wood fire.

Ivy Tech Community College Introduction to Criminology students and instructor Jaime Houston toured operations and programs at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. The students cited one of the many highlights of the tour being the overview of the Internal Affairs and Security Threat Group (STG) area given by STG coordinators J.R. Smith and Darren Chaney. (see photo right)



Consular Clerk Gerardo Primo Ajuria of the Mexican consulate in Indianapolis visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility to visit Mexican Nationals currently housed at the facility. This visit was conducted in conjunction with Article 36 of the Vienna Convention for Consular Relations and Article 6 of the U.S. and Mexico Consular Convention.

Westville Correctional Facility's (WCC) Eyeglass Recycling program has filled yet another huge order for the Lion's Club International Sight First project. 25 offenders have prepared 56,000 pair of eyeglasses to accompany the Lions on their October Mexico Mission. The eyeglass project, which originated at WCC in 1994, has been a dependable provider of recycled glasses. The program is an U.S. Department of Labor venture and continues to be one of the facility's most distinguished programs. The eyeglass project has proven to be a truly life-changing experience for the offender workers, the volunteers and especially for the vision impaired recipients of these glasses around the world.



A group of 77 residents at the Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility (IREF) stood proudly before an audience of their peers, family and friends on during the facility's first ever combined programs graduation ceremony. Dressed in caps and gowns, chefs jackets, suits and ties, the graduates marched in a procession leading to a tent pitched in the middle of the facility where IREF Superintendent Laurie Johnson presented them with diplomas and certificates for successfully completing GEDs, college technical and vocational classes from Oakland City University, work skills programs, United States Department of Labor, ARAMARK, and specialized programs such as the Reformative Residential Reentry Program. 28 graduates were honored for completing more than one program. In his keynote address, Commissioner Lemmon congratulated the residents' diligence in reaching this academic milestone, and urged them to continue in their perseverance towards setting and accomplishing their goals beyond incarceration. Graduates and guests visited with each other during a reception that followed the ceremony. (photos left and right)



Two Correctional Classes from Taylor University visited Miami Correctional Facility to tour the facility. The students were able to see the Offender Services Building as well as a Housing Unit. Community Involvement Coordinator Ann Hubbard led the students around the facility telling them about the life of the offender and the job of correctional employees.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility hosted a graduation ceremony for offenders in the PLUS Program. With family, staff, and administration on hand, thirty offenders were recognized for their achievements. Guest Josh Bliell from the Indianapolis Colts was on hand to speak about his life and accomplishments. In addressing the offenders about continuing on their

individual path, Mr. Bliell described his own fight from the loss of both of his legs during the Iraq War to his life working with the Indianapolis Colts and raising a family. (photo left)



A Blood Drive was conducted by the Indiana Blood Center at the Pendleton Correctional Facility. Nineteen (19) units of blood were collected from staff donors. Donors received a coupon for the Golden Corral valued at \$6.99 as a demonstration of appreciation for their participation.

The Indiana State Prison (ISP) has completed an internal audit from the Indiana Department of Correction. The facility received 100% on Mandatory Standards. There are six standards which cannot be met due to state employment guidelines and the physical structure of the facility. ISP was

compliant with all non-mandatory standards that are and received a score of 98.67. This is the best possible score ISP can attain.

The Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility (IREF) served as the host site for Oakland City University (OCU) Grace College recognition ceremony to recognize and honor the top ten teachers in Indiana Department of Correction facilities. Facility Superintendents and IDOC Executive Staff attended the luncheon in support and celebration of the recipients. OCU and IREF's very own Mr. Dennis Brady ranked second in the state for vocational completions in his Culinary Arts program. Mr. Brady, along with his current Culinary Arts students, prepared the delicious meal served at luncheon. Commissioner Bruce Lemmon and Director of Education Dr. John Nally presented commemorative coins to all of the instructors and honorees: Kathy Taylor – Branchville, Tom Hogan – Putnamville, Shawn Hughes – Putnamville, Katherine Wallace – Madison, Amanda Harden – Madison, Erica Ketner – Rockville, Bob Short – Miami, Kara Burgess – Rockville, and Jeffrey McNeely – Wabash Valley.



Staff Development and Training collaborated with Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility to certify six students to be facilitators of the Joint Understanding and Cooperative Program. This program emphasizes the importance of Role Modeling Appropriate Behavior, Redirecting Inappropriate Behavior, and Reinforcing Positive Behavior. The students also received a course on Presentation Skills to assist them with conducting future sessions.

A Staff Assembly was conducted at the Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) where Superintendent Wendy Knight was pleased to announce the promotion of Officer Michael Clark to the rank of Sergeant. The program concluded with Plaques being presented to Correctional Lieutenant Roberta Creamer for Supervisor of the Quarter, Maintenance Foreman Jeff Pyle for Employee of the Quarter, Dr. Beache for Contract employee of the quarter, Officer Josh Hunt for the Extra Mile Award and Officer James Boone for Officer of the Quarter. (see photos below)

The Putnamville Correctional hosted a three-day old fashioned tent revival for the offender population. 30 volunteers and 166 offenders joined prison minister Dave Brewer and his wife Debbie praising God through song, prayer and the Word.

