

# The County of Centre

## PROCLAMATION

NUMBER 15 OF 2022

**WHEREAS**, Pennsylvania's correctional system is the oldest in the Nation, evolving from the establishment of Philadelphia's Walnut Street Jail in 1773 and the Eastern Penitentiary in 1829; and

**WHEREAS**, the "Pennsylvania System," as it became known, was the leading influence in the development of penology throughout the 19th Century and the forerunner of modern corrections; and

**WHEREAS**, today, Pennsylvania faces continued difficult challenges in corrections. With 24 state correctional institutions, one motivational boot camp, a training academy, 11 community corrections centers, 32 contract facilities, 63 county prisons and jails, and 15 federal facilities and offices, our correctional facilities house approximately 95,000 inmates; and

**WHEREAS**, the safe and secure operation and management of those facilities on a daily basis rests in the hands of nearly 31,000 trained, skilled and dedicated corrections professionals. They are administrators, corrections officers, counselors, treatment specialists, educators, clerical support staff, business administrators and purchasing agents, personnel and labor relations specialists, clergy, medical professionals, food service specialists, computer technicians, planners and research analysts and skilled craftspeople upon whose skills, efficiency and professionalism the functions of the Pennsylvania correctional system depends; and

**WHEREAS**, although each of these dedicated professionals work in a different field and specialize in a specific area, all are committed to a common goal: the safe, secure, and humane operation of our Correctional Facilities where employees work to reduce future crime through the delivery of programs to change an individuals' criminal behavior.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Centre County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim **May 1-7, 2022**, as "**Corrections Employee Week**" in Centre County and encourages all citizens to recognize the vital role these dedicated professionals play in ensuring the effective operation of our correctional system in the interest of public safety in our community.

**ADOPTED** this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May 2022.



CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Michael Pipe, Chair

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Steven G. Dershem

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Margaret N. Gray, Administrator