

The County of Centre

PROCLAMATION

NUMBER 18 OF 2023

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 23 state correctional institutions, one motivational boot camp, a training academy, 14 community corrections centers, 40 contract facilities, 62 county prisons and jails, and 15 federal facilities and offices, our correctional facilities house approximately 69,000 individuals; and

WHEREAS, the safe and secure operation and management of those facilities on a daily basis rests in the hands of nearly 30,000 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 7-13, 2023**, 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 2nd day of May 2023.



CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mark Higgins

Mark Higgins, Chair

Amber Concepcion

Amber Concepcion

Steven G. Dershem

Steven G. Dershem

ATTEST:

John Franek, Jr.

John Franek Jr., Administrator