

Watch: Memorial Mass Marks 30th Anniversary of WTC Bombing

On the afternoon of Sunday, February 26, friends and family of those lost in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing gathered together in remembrance. And as is tradition, the Port Authority hosted a Memorial Mass at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church to honor the faith shared by our fallen friends and colleagues.



The PA family gathered at St. Peter's for its annual remembrance service

Robert Kirkpatrick, Stephen Knapp, William Macko, and Monica Rodriguez Smith and

her unborn child – who, along with Windows on the World employee Wilfredo Mercado and visitor John DiGiovanni, lost their lives in the attack on the World Trade Center that also injured more than 1,000 others.

If you missed it or would like to view it again, the Mass is available on the [PA YouTube account](#). Please join us in remembering these cherished friends, and in sending peace and healing to their loved ones. See the [PA News website](#) to learn more about our fallen friends, and be sure to also check out the [Now Arriving blog](#) for more on how the agency and city adapted to be safer and more secure following 1993.



Charlie Maikish, former Director of the World Trade Center, reading a passage during the Mass

PAWC Embraces Equity for International Women's Day

On Wednesday, March 8 – observed around the world as International Women's Day – the Port Authority Women's Council (PAWC) hosted its annual Women's History Month celebration at 4 World Trade Center. Joined by its chapter members from LGA Women Empowering Women (LGA WOW) and Women in Technology (WIT) and leadership and staff from across the agency, attendees celebrated with a networking breakfast and employee roundtable featuring trailblazing women at the agency.



This year's themes for Women's History Month and International Women's Day are *Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories and Embracing Equity*, respectively.

"This year's theme celebrates women active in all forms of media and their

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Architect Receives Prestigious Industry Award

Melissa Nieves, Associate Architect in the Engineering Department, was formally recognized as the American Institute of Architects – New Jersey (AIA-NJ) 2022 Associate Architect of the Year when she received her award at the annual AIA-NJ Awards dinner on February 25.

This prestigious award recognizes outstanding leaders and creative thinkers for significant contributions to their communities and the architecture profession. For more on Melissa and this award, see our previous coverage in [PA News](#).



Russel Kriegel, Ocean Stokes, Sara Yildirim, Melissa Nieves, Ted Solanges, and Joseph Warner

IN MEMORIAM

Richard Palacio

His friends at the Port Authority were saddened to learn of the passing of

Richard "Rick"

Palacio on March 8. Rick is survived by his wife, Judith



Elins-Palacio. A 33-year agency veteran, Rick will be remembered by his colleagues for his energy that lit up the entire Port Authority Technical Center.

Rick joined the Port Authority on May 14, 1990 as a Visual Presentation Specialist — a position to which he dedicated his entire career at the agency and brought great expertise and innovation, perhaps best exemplified by his ability to design and build innovative cost-effective presentation installations, including a collapsible podium and portable information kiosk.

The Print Shop in the Operations Services Department is a closeknit group of staff who must be ready to move at a moment's notice to produce print collateral, displays, exhibits, banners, nameplates, wayfinding signs and other types of materials for a diverse array of agency communications to the public, employees, and other stakeholders. His colleagues in OSD, and throughout PATC and beyond, will fondly remember and greatly miss Rick's commitment, camaraderie, and perpetually upbeat attitude.

Rick was also an avid bicyclist and enjoyed spending time with his dog, Eloise. Colleagues recall that Rick didn't live too far from PATC, and on his lunch break, he would go home to walk her.

We ask that you join us in keeping Rick, his family including Judith and Eloise, his friends, and his colleagues in your hearts and thoughts during this difficult time.

GOT NEWS FOR NEXT TIME?

Do you have news from your team, department or employee group to share in the next PA News? Send it to panews@panynj.gov by March 17 to be included in the March 24 issue.

WTC Oculus Hosts Live Musical Performance for International Women's Day

On Wednesday, March 8, the Port Authority, the World Trade Center Department, and Sing for Hope hosted a free, live musical performance at the WTC Oculus in celebration of International Women's Day. An all-female ensemble featuring five instrumentalists performed songs from well-known female musical artists including Adele, Lady Gaga, Celine Dion, and more. See the [PA News website](#) for more photos and videos.



New JFK Terminal 6 Breaks Ground

On Thursday, February 24, the Port Authority reached another milestone in its total transformation of all three major airports with [the groundbreaking for a new Terminal 6 at John F. Kennedy Airport](#).



The new Terminal 6 is the fourth and final piece in the JFK Vision Plan. Every project of the agency's historic JFK transformation is now either underway or complete. Once complete, the terminal will include world-class shopping and dining, state-of-the-art technology, a new ground transportation center, easy access to two AirTrain stations, and updated roadways.

PAPD Bi-State Coalition Shares Joy of Reading with Local Students

On Thursday, March 2, the PAPD Bi-State Coalition gathered at Forest Street Elementary School in Orange, NJ to take part in its Read Across America event. The coalition members were thrilled to participate and to share the joy of reading with local pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade students.



Officer Kevin Deslandes with students



Officers Kasheema Besley, Fritz Olivier, Pria Duhaney, Rebecca Ford, Angelina Reno, Kevin Deslandes, and Nigel-Tash Riley

TCAP Team Sets Sail to Port Newark



On Wednesday, January 18, the Tenant Construction and Alteration Process (TCAP) Central Office hosted its 2023 kickoff meeting, during which it discussed 2022 achievements and results; recognized TCAP community contributions; established 2023 goals; and highlighted process improvements. TCAP is a critical process that allows tenants to perform alterations and new construction within their leaseholds at Port Authority facilities.

The team ventured out to Port Newark to see firsthand how its work aided in the operations of the facilities. Port Senior Program Manager **John Miller** discussed the Port's economic impact to the region, which includes 230,000 direct jobs and 364,000 total jobs; more than \$136 billion in total income; \$12 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenues; and over \$200 billion in cargo moved each year.

Melissa Targett and **Christian Soberanis** from the Engineering Department's Resilience and Sustainable Design Group discussed new updates to the Sustainable Building Guidelines. **Rufino Martinez**, Principal Architect of the Quality Assurance Division, shared updates to the Tenant Construction Review Manual. Molly Bloomer from Novatio Solutions introduced the upcoming Robotic Process Automation bot, which can check for design submission completeness. Jonathan Reyes of Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield praised the agency's TCAP process, noting how it compares favorably to other similar agencies and airport operators.

If you are interested in learning more about the TCAP process, contact TCAP@panynj.gov. You can also view the meeting's presentation deck on the [PA News website](#).

PAWC Embraces Equity for International Women's Day

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storytelling," said Commissioner **Michelle Richardson**. "I'm going to add the women of the Port Authority to my list of favorite storytellers. Your stories inspire me. The women who came before us paved the way with their tireless work to advance women. I applaud the work of the Port Authority and the focus on equity — internally and externally."

If you missed the event or would like to view it again, a recording is available on the [PA YouTube account](#).



Commissioner Michelle Richardson

CALENDAR

[PAWC: EmpowHER — Women in Engineering](#)

Wednesday, March 15 from 8:45 to 10:15 a.m. The new *EmpowHER* series hosted by the PA Women's Council (PAWC) will focus on supporting women in fields with historically lower levels of representation. The kick-off will focus on women in engineering. There will be brief remarks from Engineering leadership. PAWC *EmpowHER* events are targeted towards women and allies in the respective field (engineering in this case). All are welcome. [Register to receive the invitation](#).

[PAWC LGA WOW: Women's History Month Q&A](#)

Thursday, March 16 from noon to 1:30 p.m. LGA Women Empowering Women (LGA WOW), a chapter of

PAWC, will mark Women's History Month with a Q&A session highlighting the trailblazing women who are building our new airports — **Laurie Balbo**, Program Director, LGA Redevelopment; **Carmela Cinicola**, Resident Engineer, LGA Airport; **Jessica Forse**, Project Executive, JFK Redevelopment; and **Gina Bigler**, Senior Engineer, JFK Airport. They will discuss their career journeys, how they measure success in this rapidly changing environment, and how they embrace equity as leaders. To RSVP, email LGAWOW@panynj.gov by Friday, March 10.

[PA-AAA: Impact of Spring Migration on Aviation Travel](#)

Tuesday, March 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in 4 WTC Conference Rooms 18A/B. In collaboration with the Aviation Department: the PA Asian American Association will celebrate the upcoming spring season with a discussion on the impact of spring migration on aviation

travel. There will be a delightful Cantonese-style buffet lunch, a performance by local talented musicians and singer duo, Eliel Pepito and Kira Panaligan, and a knowledge-filled discussion with PA-AAA and Aviation! [RSVP here](#).

[PAVA: JFK Runway 5K Run/Walk](#)

Sunday, April 30. The Port Authority Veterans Association (PAVA) will take part in the annual JFK Runway 5K Run/Walk on Sunday, April 30 at JFK Airport, Building 14. Check in is from 7 to 8:15 a.m. and the race starts at 9 a.m., rain or shine. For more information and to sign up, [click here](#). Be sure to select the **Port Authority Veterans Association** team when you sign up. The registration fee increases on April 9, so sign up now! Contact PAVA@panynj.gov with any questions.

Honor Fallen Heroes in Annual WTC Tower Climb

On Sunday, June 4, PAPD Sergeant and international stairclimber **Kasia Lewandowski** will once again captain the PAPD's team for the 2023 [Tunnel to Towers Foundation's Tower Climb at One World Trade Center](#).

Sgt. Lewandowski is ready to make all of us proud on June 4, but there's just one thing. She's asking the PA family to join her on this climb to the top! If you're ready to join together to honor our fallen heroes, let her know at kewandowski@panynj.gov or [sign up at the T2T website here](#).

For more questions, please contact Sgt. Lewandowski at kewandowski@panynj.gov.



Sgt. Lewandowski on February 26 completed the 94-floor Hustle Chicago Stair Climb, coming in fifth place in her category. Congratulations!

Retirees: Submit Your 2022 Medicare Part B Reimbursement by March 31

As a reminder, agency retirees must submit for their 2022 Medicare Part B Reimbursement by March 31, 2023. No exceptions will be made.

Please send an email to HR_EmployeeBenefits@panynj.gov if you're unsure about your eligibility. See [these instructions](#) for more information.

Another GWB Milestone: New and Improved Accessible Bike/Ped Pathway

The latest milestone in the massive "Restoring the George" project was recently reached with the opening of an all-new and vastly improved bicycle and pedestrian pathway on the north side of the George Washington Bridge.

The new pathway significantly improves the experience for bicyclists, pedestrians, and users with mobility challenges. The new approach, which eliminated 171 steps to access the North Walk, gently curves and slopes from street level to the bridge span. The approach paths have been widened, increasing accessibility. And once on the bridge, there are two new viewing platforms offering panoramic vistas of the Palisades, the Hudson River, and the GWB itself.

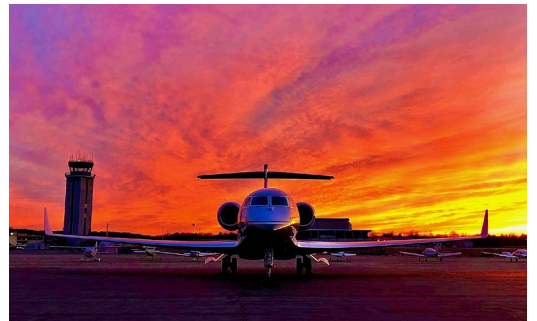
More than 700,000 cyclists, runners, and pedestrians cross the GWB each year, and it remains the only bike crossing between New York and northern New Jersey. As the weather warms up this spring, be sure to check it out!



More from EWR's Photography Enthusiast

As [previously featured](#), **Stephen Lanieri** of Newark Liberty International Airport is not only the Assistant Manager of Airside Operations, he's also an aviation photography enthusiast and is keen to share his passion with colleagues. Here's another favorite from his collection.

PA News readers: Have a snapshot you'd like to share? Feel free to send it to panews@panynj.gov.



PA Applause: Recognize and Reward

Reintroducing the [PA Applause](#) program, which allows all employees, including individuals and teams, to be recognized for exceptional achievements positively impacting the customer and employee experience, facilities, or operations.

After first launching in 2019, 309 awards totaling over \$287,000 have been awarded to employees across 22 departments.

Employees may nominate an individual or team for a recognition award in one of the following categories:

- 1) **External Impact** – Recognizing actions that align with the [Port Authority's six Priorities](#) – what we focus on to achieve the agency's mission.
- 2) **Internal Impact** – Recognizing major initiatives that improve the way we do business and result in tangible, efficient outcomes.
- 3) **Innovation Impact (New!)** – Recognizing employees who go above and beyond their job to advance an innovative pilot through the [Innovation Hub](#).

Additional enhancements include opening participation to both represented and non-represented employees and increasing award amounts to up to \$2,000 per employee.

To be considered for an award, a [PA Applause Nomination Form](#) must be submitted. For full program details, view the [PA Applause Frequently Asked Questions](#).

