

TB&T Recognizes Excellence in Customer Service

Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals (TB&T) recently honored several dedicated employees as stellar examples of delivering world-class, above-and-beyond customer service. Congratulations to the recipients of TB&T's third annual Excellence in Customer Service Award.

This award formally recognizes TB&T employees who demonstrate outstanding dedication to providing exemplary customer experience. This year's recipients were named on October 3. George Washington Bridge & Bus Station (GWBBS) General Manager **Ken Sagrestano**, Midtown Bus Terminal General Manager **Cate Britell**, and TB&T Deputy Director **Hanson Lee** presented the awards to this year's recipients. For more information on each of the recipients, see the [PA News website](#).

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Ken Sagrestano, Gerard Smithson, Wei Ya Su (Sophia), Thomas Somerville, Hanson Lee



Hanson Lee and Jennifer Sanabia

From Army Veteran to PAPD Honor Guard Member

Officer **Jeaneth Fajardo**, proud member of the PAPD Honor Guard, is also an Army veteran, with a past deployment to Afghanistan.

"She is an amazing woman and mother who has conquered numerous achievements," said PAPD Sgt. **Kimberly Ahmad**. "Her honorable service to our country makes her that much more of an impressive woman," said Ahmad.

Jeaneth joined the PAPD in 2019, and in just under five years, her service includes several contributions to organizations and special services as well as her duties in serving in the PAPD. As a member of the PAPD Honor Guard, she carries a tremendous amount of responsibility as a representative of the force.

Officer Fajardo, out of the 118th PAPD Academy class, has been stationed at the World Trade Center, LaGuardia Airport, and the Midtown Bus Terminal, which is her current command. Of Guatemalan descent, Fajardo serves proudly as a Trustee on the Executive Board of the PAPD Hispanic Society, assisting with event planning,



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APNG Hosts Networking Mixer

The Administrative Professionals Networking Group (APNG) held its annual administrative professionals networking mixer, bringing together employees from across the agency to harvest new connections. The second annual event, held on October 25 at the Port Authority Technical Center (PATC), was filled with excitement and connectivity as enthusiastic participants gathered to meet and chat.

What made this event truly exceptional was the active involvement



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FAMILY NEWS

Tim Bonner, Utility Systems Maintainer at Newark Liberty International Airport's Heating Plant, has yet another reason to celebrate. Besides having recently marked his 35th year with the PA, Tim has just welcomed his first grandchild, Owen Anthony Brooks, who said 'hello' to the world on October 24.



PA Family Comes Together for Breast Cancer Fundraiser

The Network of Black Employees (NBE) together with all of the agency's Employee Business Resource Groups (EBRGs) recently wrapped up another successful month of giving, coming together to raise over \$2,500 for breast cancer research.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, so the agency's EBRGs teamed up to raise money for the American Cancer Society (ACS) to support vital research and services for cancer patients.

Thanks to the great work of the EBRGs and everyone who donated, we raised \$2,513.72 and ranked 11 out of 376 teams as part of the local Making Strides of Newark campaign. Thanks to all who participated!

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 November 27 to be included in the December 1 issue.

PAPD Officer Writes New Chapter in Family's Storied History of Service

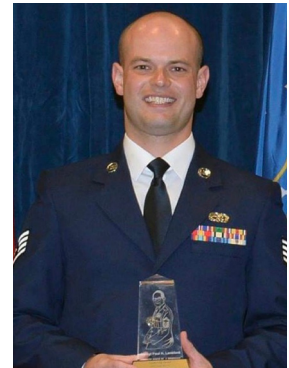
Originally published in [Now Arriving](#), written by Media Relations' *Lenis Valens*.

Bryan Mathews can still recall the pops piercing through the heavy air as the 21-gun salute concluded the funeral with full military honors on Long Island. At 12, he was a member of the funeral honors detail for his local Sons of the American Legion chapter. This foundational moment in his life would be the first assignment in a career dedicated to serving others.

"It meant so much to me to provide veterans with the honors they earned while serving the country," he said.

Among the more than 400 Port Authority employees who have served their country is Mathews, who is continuing the traditions of a family steeped in military history as a member of the Marine Corps, Air Force, and the PAPD. Mathews is the latest of a long line of family members who have served.

Keep reading on [Now Arriving](#).



Mathews receiving the Chief Master Sergeant Paul H. Lankford Commandants Award at Airman Leadership School

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George Washington Bridge & Bus Station (GWBBS) Award Recipients

Samantha Betancourt, Desk Tunnel & Bridge Agent

Christopher Freitag, Tunnel & Bridge Agent

Daniel Guerriero, Tunnel & Bridge Agent

Anthony Holmes, Desk Tunnel & Bridge Agent

Ryan Martinetti, Tour Manager

Anna Masuk, Tunnel & Bridge Agent

Gerard Smithson, Senior Tunnel & Bridge Agent

Thomas Somerville, Tour Manager

Wei Ya Su (Sophia), Tour Supervisor

Christopher Freitag, Tunnel & Bridge Agent

Zakary Vandermark, Tunnel & Bridge Agent

Anthony Pagano, Tunnel & Bridge Agent

Mark Hernandez, Patron Service Unit Supervisor

Midtown Bus Terminal Award Recipients

Jennifer Sanabia, Bus Terminal Agent

Julie Evans-Als, Tour Manager

For more information on each of the recipients, see the [PA News website](#).



Ken Sagrestano, Mark Hernandez, Hanson Lee



Zakary Vandermark & Anthony Pagano



Hanson Lee and Julie Evans-Als

WORKING ADVANTAGE DISCOUNT PROGRAM

Port Authority employees and retirees can take advantage of hundreds of discounts at stores, theaters, theme parks, and more through Working Advantage, the PA's Employee Discount Program partner. Visit www.workingadvantage.com and use the PA Member ID number – 405042634.

Opportunities to Help Those in Need This Holiday Season

As you start to shop for gifts and make plans for holiday gatherings, we encourage you to think about those in need in our local communities. If you're able to give charitably this year, here are two opportunities to join your colleagues in giving back:

1. Join the EBRGs and OSD in Supporting Local Families

The Employee Business Resource Groups (EBRGs) and Operations Services Department (OSD) are teaming up again to support the New York and New Jersey Catholic Charities' Adopt-a-Family Program. This [annual giving campaign](#) will provide gifts and essentials such as coats and sweaters to local families of all faiths.

- **To participate in New York:** Complete the [Adopt-a-Family Participant Form](#) by **November 22**. Alternatively, donations can be made to the St. Nicholas Project [directly](#).
- **To participate in New Jersey:** Email OSD's **Michele Caraballo** (mcarabal@panynj.gov) or **Annesa Lau** (alau@panynj.gov) by **November 22** to be matched with a New Jersey family in need and to learn how you can support them. Alternatively, donations can be made to CCANNJ [directly](#).

Be sure to write "PA EBRGs" where the form asks how you were invited to support, and [check out the flyer](#) for more information.

2. Donate to the NJ/NY Employees' Charitable Campaigns

As is PA tradition, the agency has partnered with [New Jersey Employees Charitable Campaign](#) (NJ ECC) and [New York State Employees Federated Appeal](#) (NYSEFA).

Choose a charity or nonprofit that you're passionate about and donate through either of the following secure links:

- [Donate to the New York State Employees Federated Appeal](#)
- [Donate to the New Jersey Employees Charitable Campaign](#)

Together we can transform lives and make this region a better place to live — no amount is too little to help.



From Army Veteran to PAPD Honor Guard Member

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fundraising, as well as school and community outreach events. In 2021, she became a member of the PAPD Honor Guard, bringing her Army traits of discipline and refinement along with her.

Officer Fajardo served in the Army for nearly five years, including a deployment to Afghanistan in 2014 under Operation Enduring Freedom. As an Intelligence Analyst squad leader in combat, she analyzed and assessed tactical intelligence and was responsible for providing critical information about enemy forces and potential areas of conflict.

"Jenn no longer serves today but is our SHE-RO for her dedication to serving our country," said Ahmad. "And if she wasn't remarkable enough — after working her shift on patrol or finishing an Honor Guard detail, Jenn comes home to her seven-year-old daughter Aelianna for mommy duties, the toughest yet most fulfilling job of all!

Contributed by: PAPD Sgt. Kimberly Ahmad



CALENDAR

[PAVA: Veterans Voice Discussion](#)

Wednesday, November 29 from 10 to 11:30 a.m., 4 WTC Board Room. The Port Authority Veterans Association (PAVA) will host its second annual Veterans Voice event, featuring several of your military veteran colleagues, including **Leandra Dias**, **Kevin Gillen**, **Jas Ramos**, **Jermaine Robinson**, and PAPD Officer **Bryan Mathews**, who will share their diverse experiences while in the military, including leadership lessons, problem solving, high stress environments, and more. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

[NBE: 3 Cs with 3 Chiefs — Coffee, Confections & Conversation](#)

Wednesday, November 29 from noon to 1 p.m., WTC, 23rd Floor, Conference Room 2; MS Teams. The Network of Black Employees (NBE) will host its 3 Cs with 3 Chiefs — Coffee, Confections & Conversation, a moderated Q&A

session with Chief Engineer **Rizwan Baig**; Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer **Jose Febrillet**; and Chief Operating Officer **James Heitmann**. Space is limited for in-person attendance. To attend virtually, RSVP to NBE@panynj.gov. For more information and to register for in-person attendance, please view [the flyer](#).

[Wanted: Future City Volunteers](#)

Saturday, January 13 (NJ) and Saturday, January 20 (NYC). Future City is a national program that challenges middle school students to learn engineering principles the fun way. Help power the next generation of engineers as a volunteer, mentor, judge, for at-home work and on competition day. Also needed are volunteers to assist in the successful operation of the day's events: for the entire day, or just a portion if that is your availability. There are separate New Jersey and New York City events. [View the flyer here](#). For more information, contact **Scott Lubarsky** at slubarsky@panynj.gov.

EWR Staff Come Together for Breast Cancer Awareness

Each week in October, staff from Newark Liberty International Airport came together to show support during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Employees gathered in the historic Building 1 lobby to sign and pin pink butterflies onto a large Breast Cancer awareness ribbon. Participants wrote words of support and encouragement, and also used the opportunity to pay respects in remembrance of those lost.

The monthlong initiative culminated on October 25 with a large gathering of staff who wore pink.



PARA WANTS YOU

The Port Authority Retirees Association (PARA) invites active and retired Port Authority and PATH employees to join its almost 4,000 members.

PARA allows you to stay current with news about the agency, its employees and retirees, and with state and federal issues of importance to retirees, such as benefit, pension, and Social Security updates.

The membership fee is \$20 a year. Visit www.paranynj.org for more information and to sign up for PARA's email bulletins.

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Transportation Industry Leader Mortimer Downey

Mortimer L. Downey III, a longtime transportation industry pioneer and former Port Authority leader, passed away at the age of 87 on November 2. With over 65 years in public service, he also spent time at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Downey started as a management trainee at the PA, where he would spend the next 17 years while at the same time serving as a Coast Guard Reserve officer and pursuing his master's in public administration at NYU. He was Deputy Secretary of Transportation during the Clinton administration and was responsible for major projects like PATH and the Panama Canal expansion. He also served as a transportation leader in the Obama administration's transition team.

"In retrospect, I can see how one thing led to another in all of my career, but it wouldn't have been as much fun if it hadn't unrolled over time," Downey wrote in a recent spotlight for the National Academy of Public Administration.

He was predeceased by his wife Joyce and is survived by two sons and seven grandchildren.



RETIREMENT

Mike Wallace, Chief of Construction in the Engineering Department, is bidding farewell to the agency ahead of his next mission — retirement!

A retirement celebration will be held on January 4 at 4 p.m. at the Vanguard in Harrison, NJ. \$115 p.p. includes small plates, drinks, and a gift. RSVP by December 8 to **Susan O'Connor** at 201-551-2446, **Jaclyn Ortiz** at 973-615-2007, or **Denise Staniszewski** at 201-852-2214. [See the flyer](#) for more information.



APNG Hosts Networking Mixer

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of sponsors representing each participating department, ensuring a comprehensive and engaging networking experience for all attendees.

APNG's professional networking event adopted a fast-paced approach, providing attendees with a unique platform to interact and form valuable connections. The overwhelming attendance at the event demonstrated the collective enthusiasm within the Port Authority for fostering relationships that tie us together as colleagues. Thanks to all who made this year's event an unforgettable and fruitful occasion.

