

NBE Honors Pioneer Alton A. Burton for Juneteenth

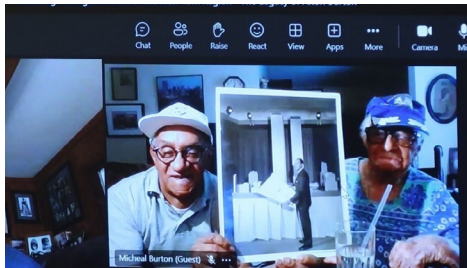
On Thursday, June 15, the Network of Black Employees (NBE) hosted a Juneteenth discussion honoring the late **Alton A. Burton**, the PA's first black Civil Engineer and member of the Tuskegee Airmen of the New York Region.

Employees from across the agency gathered in person at 4 World Trade Center and online on Teams to hear stories of loved ones with NBE President **Anthony Miller** leading the discussion. "We're witnessing living history," said Anthony.

The Tuskegee Airmen of the New York Region was a group of African American airmen and military pilots who fought in World War II. Their commitment to public service created a space for representation and now their legacy lives on among the Black community and pilots everywhere, explained Director of Aviation **Charles Everett**.

Alton's son Michael shared his father's story on the virtual call alongside Alton's wife, Dr. Vashti Curlin.

Shortly after graduating high school, Alton relocated to Tuskegee, Alabama to be a part of the B-25 bomber crew and then later fly P-47 planes, which he had



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PAPD Donates Vital Supplies for Mothers

Members of the Port Authority Police Department's Women's Law Enforcement Association (WLEA) came together to donate essential supplies to the Moms Helping Moms Foundation in Warren, NJ. Among the items

were more than 10,000 wipes, 2,500 diapers, 1,700 feminine hygiene products, nearly 1,000 pieces of clothing, 62 containers of formula and food, and countless other baby essentials.



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CAD Welcomes Newcomers With Creative Fun

This summer, as we welcome newcomers to the Port Authority, which include full-time starters and summer interns, new colleagues have met one another to discover more about what the agency does to keep the region moving.

Operations Services' Central Automotive Division used this opportunity to host a lunchtime painting activity as a fun and engaging teambuilding event. The objective of this activity was to demonstrate how people with diverse skill sets and viewpoints can work together productively to produce a final product.



NBE Honors Pioneer Alton A. Burton

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previously helped build. At the time, Black aviators were not utilized in that role. Alton earned three awards as a famed member of the Tuskegee Airmen. He went on to study engineering at SUNY Plattsburg and the University of Michigan, where he would later marry his wife Vashti in 1949.

In 1952, Alton became the first Black civil engineer at the PA, where he constructed shipping piers along the Hudson River waterfront. In 1965, he was the lead engineer on the Twin Towers. His designs, which led the towers to fall in towards each other rather than out, saved lives during the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Michael shared that, despite all his father's hard work and earned respect, it was difficult to "put your life on the line to get disrespected in restaurants." As a result of this racist treatment, Alton and his wife traveled to Europe to avoid discrimination in the U.S.

RETIREMENT

Walter Jones

After more than 20 years of service with the agency, the Port Authority Technical Center's **Walter Jones** is ready to



head off into the sunset. Best wishes to Walter and his family, and here's to many future adventures.

A retirement lunch will be held on Wednesday, July 26 from noon to 1:30 p.m. in PATC Room 301. \$40 p.p. including food, drinks, and cake. RSVP by July 7 to **Andrea Tirri** at atirri@panynj.gov. See the flyer [here](#). Wish Walter a happy retirement on [Kudoboard](#).

TRADING POST

Did you know that you can use the [Trading Post](#) to request an item you're looking for? Work with your fellow PA employees to get any supplies you may need. Get started [here](#).

Learn About the PA's Commitment to Being a Good Neighbor

As part of the [Workplace Equity Council](#)'s 2023 series of initiatives, Government and Community Relations (GOCOR) has launched a series of lunch and learns named *Building on the Basics* to highlight the agency's commitment to being a good neighbor in the communities we serve.

Following up on the first two sessions, of which the summaries and recordings are available on the [PA News website](#), we invite you to **attend the next session on June 27.**

Building on the Basics –

Session 3 June 27 at 3 p.m. Learn about the agency's efforts to engage with the community, including our external councils that support our

two-way communication with the communities we serve. Will include discussion of the PATH Riders' Council, Council on Port Performance, PABT Advisory Council, and JFK Advisory Council, whom we work with to gain community input and feedback on existing and upcoming agency initiatives. [Register to attend Session 3.](#)

Sessions 1 and 2 highlighted the agency's diversity and inclusion efforts in the PAPD and on the community outreach efforts coming out of the JFK and EWR redevelopment projects. If you missed Sessions 1 or 2 or would like to view them again, summaries and recordings are available on the [PA News website](#).

If you have ideas or want to participate in the agency's community engagement efforts, please reach out to:

- **Workforce Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

WorkforceDiversityEquityInclusion@panynj.gov

- **GOCOR**

gocor@panynj.gov



Watch: Innovation Hub Hosts Historic Autonomous Vehicle Platoon Demo at JFK



On June 8, the PA's [Innovation Hub](#) hosted a historic autonomous vehicle platoon demonstration, the first test of its kind at any U.S. airport. The demo showed a real-world use case of driverless shuttles in a three-vehicle platoon traveling 7 feet apart at 20 mph without any physical connection.

Do you have an innovative idea to share? The Innovation Hub wants to hear it! Just [use this form](#) to share your big innovation and how it can benefit the agency.

To read more about the Innovation Hub's first-ever AV platoon test at a U.S. airport, including additional photos and videos, [see PA News](#).

Engineer Mark Gamba Receives Prestigious Honor from Alma Mater

On June 3, Engineer **Mark Gamba** accepted the New Jersey Institute of Technology Alumni Achievement Award, which recognizes alumni for exceptional accomplishments in their professional fields.

Currently serving as Principal Electronic and Communications Engineer, Mark has designed and overseen various major programs over his 25-year PA career. He was responsible for creating the communication infrastructure across several facilities, including John F. Kennedy, Newark Liberty, LaGuardia, and Teterboro Airports, the PATH train control center, and the World Trade Center. Mark also received the Port Authority Commissioner Award for his design and set up of the emergency command center following the 9/11 attacks.

"I've been over, under, around, and through everything—under the water, over the water, through the air, through the rails—I've been there," Mark told *PA News*.

Looking back, Mark shared his biggest challenge: joining the agency after the '93 World Trade Center bombing, following his tenure at ADT Security. He was there the day after the bombing and witnessed the devastation.

"I oversaw some of the installation that was previously done," said Mark. "I looked at the design and I said, 'There's some flaws in the design.' How can we put this back together again and make it more secure, more safe?"

In addition to his accomplishments in engineering, Mark has earned the Meritorious Service medal for 20 years of service in the U.S. Army and National Guard. As a senior member of Princeton University's Sigma XI Scientific Research Society, he was also recognized for designing a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) security sniffer in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security while working for ADT Security Systems. The agency congratulates Mark for his hard work over the years and his commitment to the PA mission.



Mark Gamba (center) receiving the NJIT Alumni Achievement Award

NBE Marks Juneteenth

On Thursday, June 15, the Network of Black Employees (NBE) hosted a Juneteenth celebration at the Banker's Club in New York. Employees from across the agency used this opportunity to celebrate and honor the African American community and their contributions to American history. The event showcased excellence in the Black diaspora, highlighting the many successes that have been made in society. Attendees enjoyed an array of delicious food and drink, making it a truly enjoyable experience for all. A round of applause for NBE President **Anthony Miller** and Vice President **Monique Lanier** for their extraordinary leadership.



NBE members hosted colleagues from across the agency for a Juneteenth celebration

STAFF NEWS

Stephanie Dominguez has been named Assistant Director of Commercial Development in the Port Department. In this role Stephanie will serve as a member of the Port Senior Leadership Team managing Port Leasing, Property Development, Business Development, and Industry Relations (Port Marketing). Stephanie will also work closely with Port Efficiency and Intermodal Rail marketing and development.

Stephanie joined the Port Authority in 2019 as Manager, Properties & Commercial Development in Aviation for New Jersey Airports. She was previously with United Airlines and US Technologies. In 2021, Stephanie received the Aviation Director's Award for Excellence in Leadership. She has a B.A. in Global Multinational Studies and Political Science from Rider University.

Please join us in congratulating Stephanie on this well-earned promotion!



CALENDAR

NBE: Coffee, Cake & Conversation With Commissioners

Friday, June 30 from noon to 1:30 p.m.
The Network of Black Employees (NBE)

will host Coffee, Cake & Conversation with PA Commissioners **Leecia Eve**, **Michelle Richardson**, and **Rossana Rosado** at 4 WTC and on Teams. NBE members will receive a calendar invitation. For non-members to RSVP, please email NBE@panynj.gov.

IN MEMORIAM

Joseph SanSevero, a retired 36-year PA employee, creator of the Port Authority Retirees



Association's (PARA) first website and its webmaster for more than 16 years, passed away on May 29 at the age of 80. For nearly four decades, Joe was a stalwart of TB&T, further highlighted when he received the Robert F. Wagner Distinguished Public Service Medal for his work in advanced traffic control technology. Joe's beloved wife Eileen predeceased him. He is survived by his son, Joseph, Jr., daughter DonnaMarie, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Joe was a close, longtime partner of *PA News* and will be sorely missed. For more on Joe's legacy, including information on memorial services, see the [PARA website](#).