

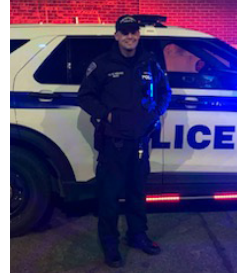
Quick Actions of TBAs and PAPD Save Life at Holland Tunnel



Senior TBA (Crew Chief) Rastislav Barovjan



From left: TBAs Paolo Leo, Eric Kaminsky, and Thomas Dughey



Officer Evan Keanez

A crew of Tunnel & Bridge Agents and a PAPD officer worked together to perform life-saving medical treatment, helping to save the life of an employee.

In the early morning hours of December 18, a contractor working on Sandy-related repairs in the Holland Tunnel experienced a cardiac medical emergency. Within minutes, several TBAs and a Port Authority Police Officer, comprising Senior TBA and Crew Chief **Rastislav Barovjan**, TBA **Paolo Leo**, TBA **Eric Kaminsky**, TBA **Thomas Dughey**, and Officer **Evan Keanez** were on the scene to deliver emergency medical aid while awaiting an ambulance.

Agency responders found the contractor unconscious, not breathing, and without a pulse. They administered CPR and used an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). When the ambulance arrived, the contractor had regained a pulse and was breathing. The employee was transported to a nearby hospital and is recovering.

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PAVA ‘Veterans Voice’ Spotlights Agency Veterans

The Port Authority Veterans Association (PAVA) recently hosted the second annual Veterans Voice, a discussion featuring a diverse panel of agency employees and veterans.

Employees from across the agency were on hand at 4 WTC on November 29 to hear from their veteran colleagues, who shared their experiences while in the military, including leadership lessons and problem solving. Participants included **Leandra Dias** (Army Veteran) from the

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NBE Celebrates Ruby Anniversary

Employees across the agency recently joined together to mark a significant milestone for the Network of Black Employees – its *Ruby anniversary* – 40 years!

The celebratory festivities, held on December 6, were nothing short of spectacular as NBE’s dedicated board members and committee organizers poured their ruby hearts into planning this momentous event. Following

heartfelt opening remarks by current NBE President **Anthony Miller**, the EBRG’s founders shared their thoughts as well, reminiscing about the organization’s humble beginnings and expressing gratitude for the collective efforts that have brought NBE to this significant milestone. Their words set the tone for the celebration and participants reflected on a year filled with reflection and appreciation.



NBE Board with founding members, seated, from left: Betty Parrish, Ron Smith, Rev. Dr. Iola E. Williams, and Delores Brock

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From left: PAVA Treasurer Ryan Flanagan, PAVA At-Large Member Nelson Del Valle; panelists Officer Bryan Mathews, Kevin Gillen, Leandra Dias, Jas Ramos; and Jermaine Robinson, PAVA President Dan Gastaldi, and PAVA Vice President Sam Orlan

RETIREMENTS

A retirement celebration for **Glen Greico**, Chief Maintenance Supervisor in Operations Services, will be held on January 12 at Reggianos at 4126 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, from 5 to 8 p.m. \$75 p.p. includes dinner and gift. RSVP by January 5 to [Anthony Mazzarella](#), [Nelson Gomes](#), [Luigi Campanella](#), or [Esselyn Thomas](#). [See flyer.](#)

Robert Ruff, Jr., Senior Safety Engineer in the Chief Health & Safety Office, is bidding 'farewell' to agency friends and colleagues! A retirement celebration will be held on January 17 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., at Segovia Meson, at 645 Washington Ave, Carlstadt, NJ. \$70 p.p. includes buffet, beverages, and a gift. RSVP by January 8 to [Daysi Escobar](#) or [Tammy Robinson](#). [See the flyer](#) for more information.

A retirement party for **John Perry** of the Port Department will be held on January 17 at noon at the New Jersey Marine Terminal, Building 260 Auxiliary Room. \$30 p.p. includes lunch and gift. RSVP by January 11 to [Francis Quintana](#). [See flyer here.](#)

Engineering Department Awards Gene Fasullo Scholarship to Students



Gene Fasullo

The Engineering Department, in collaboration with the Moles Charitable Fund and the family of former Chief Engineer (1992-1995) **Eugene 'Gene' Fasullo**, recently hosted the 3rd annual Gene Fasullo Scholarship award ceremony. The December 8 event recognized four exceptional students for their dedication to Engineering and Architecture.

The Gene Fasullo Scholarship honors Gene's lasting legacy and supports aspiring engineering and architectural students who have interned at the Port Authority.

This year's recipients, Mariam Insanally, Raquel Jimenez, Shannon Welcome, and Shibani Debnath, were each presented with a \$5,000 scholarship to assist with tuition and other educational expenses as they pursue their academic and professional goals.

The scholarship's selection process was led by Chief Engineer **Rizwan Baig**, Chief of Staff to the Executive Director **Janet Cox**, and Chief of Engineering Operations **Angel Martinez**. Also present at the ceremony were Executive Director **Rick Cotton**, and former Chief Engineers **Frank Lombardi**, **Peter Zipf**, and **James Starace**.



Clockwise from top left: Mariam Insanally, Raquel Jimenez, Shibani Debnath, and Shannon Welcome

STAFF NEWS

Kristen Figaro

has been named interim Director of Government & Community Relations-New Jersey (GOCOR-NJ). Kristen will serve in this interim



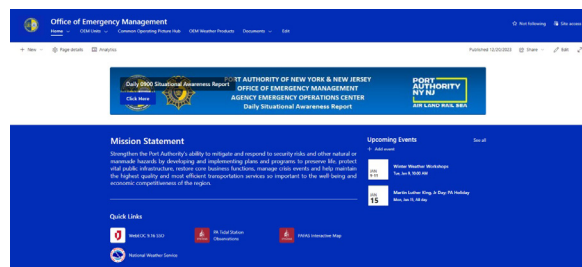
Kristen Figaro

role following the departure of **Tina Lado**, who retired in January after 16 years of dedicated service. In this capacity, Kristen will be responsible for overseeing the agency's legislative and community affairs programs for the state of New Jersey as well as leading GOCOR-NJ staff.

In Kristen's most recent role as General Manager, GOCOR-NJ, she worked to provide strategic guidance related to government, community, political, and public issues. Kristen joined the agency in 2014 in the Port Department before joining GOCOR-NJ in 2019. Kristen holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Delaware.

New OEM Site Shares Important Information and Resources for Employees

Looking for a new way to access important agency information and resources? The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has a [new SharePoint](#) site that includes situational awareness products, plans for weather concerns, an operational facility status chart, a calendar of upcoming training, and updates on agency programs and initiatives. To learn more, [visit the new SharePoint site.](#)



PAVA 'Veterans Voice' Spotlights Agency Veterans

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Office of the Chief Security Officer, **Kevin Gillen** (Marine Veteran) from Aviation, **Jas Ramos** (Army Veteran) from TEC, **Jermaine Robinson** (Navy Veteran) from Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals, and Police Officer **Bryan Mathews** (Marine & Air Force Veteran).

Additionally, difficult but critically important topics were covered, including "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the challenges of transitioning to civilian life, PTSD, and the mental health of veterans. If you missed the event or would like to view it again, a [recording is available](#) on the PA YouTube account.

Spreading Holiday Cheer

Employees across the agency were in the spirit of the holidays, participating in toy drives and much more.

The Port Authority Police Marine Corps Association (PAPMCA) collected more than 2,800 toys as part of the Toys for Tots program. Toys were collected at various drop-off locations across PA facilities. The gifts were personally delivered by PAPMCA President, **Detective Joshua Maarleveld**, to locations throughout the bistate region.

The Port Department marked the holiday season with an employee gift exchange as well as a donation to a local family in need. On December 13, Port employees took part in a fun department Secret Santa gift exchange followed by a team dinner at a local restaurant. In the spirit of giving, Port staffers also collected \$680 to be donated to a local family in need – right in time for the holidays.

Ahead of the holidays, members of the PAPD Bi-State Coalition and the PAPD Marine Corps Association came together to bring a touch of holiday magic to the children at Harlem Hospital Center on December 21. Their collective dedication to spreading joy and brightening the lives of these young ones truly reflects the spirit of unity and community.

Spearheaded by **Sandra Padmore-Lewis** and with support from the Treasury Department's holiday planning committee, they partnered with St. John's ICARE Foundation in Garden City, NY to help a local Far Rockaway family, comprising a young girl (age 7), her aunt (age 65), and her grandmother (97), complete their wish list.



From left: Recruit Cook, Recruit Fiorello, Recruit Barrientos, Police Officer Jason Nielsen, Recruit Nieves, Chief Gloria Frank, Recruit Fernandez, Recruit O'Keefe, Chief Matthew Wilson, Recruit Bookal, Recruit Filbert, Chief Geraldo Silva, Recruit Inzerelli, Chief Raymond Bryan, Recruit Chateau, Detective Joshua Maarleveld, Recruit Mohr, and Recruit Marshall



From left: Officer Johnny Handsome, Officer Javon Price, Officer Rebecca Ford, Officer Jordan Archibald, Officer Kyle Izzard, Officer Ramal Joseph, Officer Christian Simpson, Sgt. Marcus Credle, Sgt. Marcus Goodridge, and Lt. Atiba Joseph-Cumberbatch



Employees Recognized for Innovative Contributions

Since launching in early 2022, employees from departments across the agency have developed and pitched countless innovative ideas and initiatives to the Innovation Hub, or iHub. And on December 11, those who presented their ideas were recognized for embracing innovation at the PA. Following opening remarks from Executive Director **Rick Cotton**, Chief Development Officer **Derek Utter** presented the honorees with commemorative awards.

This gathering served as a potent reminder of the transformative power of collective ingenuity.

Do you have an idea you'd like the agency to pursue? Visit the [iHub SharePoint site](#) or email iHub@panynj.gov to learn more and get started on your pilot project.



CALENDAR

NBE: 37th Annual MLK Breakfast

Thursday, January 18, from 8 to 10:30 a.m., The Studio at 7 WTC, 10th floor. The Network of Black Employees (NBE) will host its 2024 Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration in person and virtually. In-person participation includes breakfast and is limited to 150 registrants via Eventbrite starting January 8. NBE members will receive a calendar invitation for the virtual event; non-members email NBE@panynj.gov. NBE continues to raise funds for the 2024 Carl Creque Book Scholarship, with donations welcome at the MLK Celebration. NBE's goal is to raise \$5,000 by June 2024.

PAWC: New Year, New Me

Virtual, Thursday, January 25 from 9 to 11 a.m. The Port Authority Women's Council (PAWC) will host its annual New Year, New Me virtual event in partnership with EBRGs at other organizations. The event will include a presentation titled Owing Your Own Authority with a panel of leaders from all four organizations. PAWC members will receive an invite. Non-members can [register here](#).

PAHS: Three Kings Fundraiser Celebration

Thursday, January 25 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Don Pepe Restaurant, 844 McCarter Hwy., Newark, NJ. The Port Authority Hispanic Society (PAHS) will host a fun-filled, in-person Three Kings fundraiser to commemorate this traditional Latin holiday. PAHS Members will receive a calendar invite. Non-members can RSVP to PAHS@panynj.gov. **Limited to the first 90 registrants.**

NBE Celebrates

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Key highlights of the celebration were the special program dedicated to acknowledging NBE's founders – the visionaries who planted the seeds, which were followed by words from past presidents. A delightful blend of poetry and music followed as members painted the conference room red and shared laughter, stories, and dance moves. Here's to the next 40 years!