

The Pillars of the Port Authority Inspire Employee Excellence

As we observe the 23rd anniversary of September 11, we are once again reminded of the importance of coming together as an agency in remembrance of our cherished friends who were so tragically lost. And as we do each year, we recommit to never forget and to honor them, their commitment, and their contributions to the Port Authority.



This week, we recognized the 11 recipients of the 2024 Pillars of the Port Authority Awards. These awards memorialize the spirit, skill, and strength that made our fallen colleagues such valuable members of the Port Authority family, and we are proud and honored to recognize this year's Pillars. A video recording is available on the [PA YouTube](#).

In recognition of their commitment to the foundational values of the Port Authority, embodied by those we lost on September 11, 2001, and February 26, 1993, please join together to recognize the 11 recipients of the 2024 Pillars of the Port Authority Awards.

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PAPD Bi-State Coalition Helps Prepare Students for Back-to-School

The PAPD Bi-State Coalition recently partnered with community leaders and members to help get local students ready for the back-to-school season.

On August 24, the coalition worked alongside the Riverside Hawks organization and community leader Alicia Barksdale for their annual backpack and school supplies giveaway.

This heartfelt initiative provided essential supplies and backpacks to local students, ensuring they were well-equipped to tackle the new school year with confidence and enthusiasm. By bridging the gap in education and providing vital resources, this collaborative effort empowered young minds to succeed, thrive, and reach their full potential. Through their selfless efforts, participants demonstrated the power of community partnership and commitment to creating a brighter future for all.



Officer Johnny Handsome (far left) with fellow law enforcement and community members.

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Annual Interfaith Remembrance Service to Honor Fallen Colleagues



Last year's Interfaith Service

As the Port Authority marks 23 years since the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, our sacred commitment to honor the memory of our fallen colleagues remains strong as ever.

As we have done every year, we will honor the 84 colleagues who were killed on 9/11, among them 37 members of the Port Authority Police who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of saving lives, and we also pay tribute to those who perished in the 1993 WTC bombing. We also pay our respects to the countless police, first responders, and recovery workers who were exposed to hazards and toxins in the air at and around the WTC site, resulting in chronic illnesses and thousands of deaths, which unfortunately continues to increase to this day. We invite employees to join together in heartfelt remembrance at the annual Interfaith Service.

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IN MEMORIAM

His friends and colleagues at the Port Authority and PATH were saddened to learn that **Tennyson G. Lewis**, a dedicated veteran of PATH/Rail Transit with more than 22



Tennyson G. Lewis

years of service, passed away on Wednesday, August 28, 2024. Tennyson joined the agency on December 3, 2001, as a Passenger Information Agent in the PATH Transportation Division and was promoted to Tower Operator in December 2002, a position he held for the remainder of his time with the agency.

Tennyson will be remembered for his attention to detail and dedication to his craft. Tennyson took pride in his work and held his family in the highest regard. Tennyson is survived by his wife, Isaura “Lisa”, and two children, Matthew and Isabelle.

Friends and colleagues may send condolences to Isaura Lewis at ITLewis123@gmail.com or visit Krauss Funeral Home website where a memorial page for Tennyson will soon be available.

We ask that you please keep the memory of Tennyson in your thoughts and keep his family, friends, and colleagues in your hearts during this difficult time.

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.paranyj.org for more information and to sign up for PARA's email bulletins.

Month of Service Registration Now Open

This year, as we mark the 23rd anniversary of 9/11, agency staff and retirees are invited to come together to give back to the community in honor of the friends and colleagues we lost in the attacks on the World Trade Center on February 26, 1993, and September 11, 2001, through the Remembrance Through Renewal (RTR) Month of Service events.

[Registration is now open](#) for the Month of Service events. These volunteer events are an opportunity to give back to the region while meeting colleagues from across the agency. We've incorporated feedback from previous Month of Service events and partnered with more organizations across the region to give the Port Authority community a variety of volunteer opportunities, with a focus on service events where employees live and where they report to work, ensuring ample opportunities for everyone to get involved.

For more details and to register for events, please use the registration link below, which lists all volunteer events with dates, times, and locations. Contact [Sean Chew](#), [Ben Hunter](#), [Margaret Kijinski](#), or [Margarita Potapova](#) with any questions.

[RTR Month of Service 2024 Volunteer Registration](#)



2023 volunteers at the Bruce Reynolds Garden in Manhattan

Port Director Unveils Secrets of NY-NJ Seaport

Originally published in [Now Arriving](#), written by Steve Burns of Media Relations.

The Statue of Liberty whizzed by without notice. The Lower Manhattan skyline came and went with a shrug. The gargantuan container ship MSC Lisbon, however, elicited gasps from the passengers of the Circle Line boat as it neared, boxes stacked to the heavens across the equivalent of more than three football fields. The sheer scale of the New York-New Jersey's shipping industry – and the reason for New York City's economic success and the namesake of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey – became astonishingly clear.

The gasps came from among the 500 lucky Open House New York tour members who scored the summer's hottest ticket: a seaport infrastructure tour via boat led by **Bethann Rooney**, the Port Authority's Port Director who is responsible for overseeing the operations of the Port of New York and New Jersey. The tour offers the public a well-informed glimpse into the operations of a seaport that is so deeply intertwined in the background of the region that even locals don't realize they live or work among active port infrastructure that move more than \$240 billion in goods each year and support half a million regional jobs.

“When you go home tonight and you're getting ready for bed, look at the labels of everything you touch, whether it's clothes, sheets, or furniture. Look where they came from. They came in on a ship through New York Harbor,” said Rooney during the tour.

After passing the Statue of Liberty on the starboard (mariner speak for right) side, the tour entered the Kill Van Kull waterway where it encountered the Lisbon, whose crew exchanged greetings with the tour across the waterway as Rooney rattled off its potential contents: each one of the Lisbon's 12,000 containers could carry 200,000 shirts, or 20,000 pairs of sneakers, or 48,000 bunches of bananas, among many other items. Keep reading on [Now Arriving](#).



Rooney took questions and pointed out port equipment as the tour neared the Elizabeth-Port Authority Marine Terminal.

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Civic and Community Engagement

Melissa Nieves

Project Manager, Aviation

Jacquelyn Wells

Youth Services Worker,
Chief Security Office

Commitment to Public Service

David Compton

Program Director, PA Studio, Marketing

Lori Besen

Senior Security Analyst,
Preparedness, Intel, Inspection

Diversity and Inclusion

Ocean Stokes

Senior Business Development
Representative, Office of Diversity,
Equity, & Inclusion

Reginald Bowers

Chief Maintenance Supervisor,
Operations Services
Ethics and Integrity

Amylynn Rivera

General Patron Services Supervisor,
Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals

Industry Expertise

John Lizzo

Chief Geotechnical Engineer,
Engineering

Rene Pearson-Small

Senior Employee Relations Executive,
Human Resources

Strength and Resilience

Annie Persaud

Director, Office of the
Chief Operating Officer

Ralph D'Apuzzo

Lead Program Director, EWR
Redevelopment, Aviation

More than 85 nominations were received, representing employees from across the agency of all tenures and backgrounds.

Chairman **Kevin O'Toole** and Executive Director **Rick Cotton** provided remarks to open the program. The keynote address was given by Gil Childers, the federal prosecutor in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing case.

A recording of the event is available on the [PA YouTube](#).



Keynote speaker
Gil Childers

Aviation's Wildlife Management Efforts Take Flight

Aviation's Manager of Strategic Communications **Pasquale DiFulco** recently joined industry colleagues from Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) at the annual Aviation Wildlife Management Conference to share knowledge and best practices.

Co-hosted by the American Association of Airport Executives and Bird Strike Committee USA, participants discussed crisis communications and provided tips for effective interactions with the media during the August 19 event. DiFulco and his co-panelists spoke to a group of about 40 airport wildlife biologists from across North America in an engaging four-hour training session. DiFulco, who was the agency's chief airport spokesman during the Miracle on the Hudson in 2009 (among many other airport/animal news events), also used the opportunity to promote the outstanding work done by Aviation's Chief Wildlife Biologist **Laura Francoeur** and her staff, who are recognized globally for their best practices in managing wildlife hazards across our airport system. Francoeur currently serves as Vice-Chairwoman and Treasurer of Bird Strike Committee USA.



From left: Tanya Espinosa of USDA, Jeff Lea of Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, Aviation's Pasquale DiFulco, and Mike Begier of USDA.

Photo credit: Laura Francoeur

CALENDAR

PAWC: Fall Fashion Refresh Clothing Swap and Donation Drive

Wednesday, September 25, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. 4 WTC, 23rd Floor, Conference Room 1. For Climate Week, the Port Authority Women's Council and the Office of Sustainability are hosting a clothing swap for all employees, a great opportunity to clear out your closet and update your professional wardrobe with gently used items from your colleagues. Contact pawomen@panynj.gov for more information.

PAPWT: The Little Red Lighthouse Festival

Saturday, September 28, noon to 4 p.m., George Washington Bridge. Port Authority Parents Working Together (PAPWT) with NYC Parks will celebrate Manhattan's only remaining lighthouse at the GWB with readings of the eponymous children's book, live music, and activities for all ages! [Please RSVP](#) to express interest in receiving a tour of the lighthouse. All are welcome, lighthouse tours are first come, first serve.

Annual Interfaith Remembrance Service to Honor Fallen Colleagues [continued from page 1 >](#)

The agency's annual Interfaith Remembrance Service will be held at St. Peter's Church on Wednesday, September 11. Church doors will open at 1:30 p.m., and the service will begin at 2 p.m.

St. Peter's is located at 22 Barclay Street, one block north of the World Trade Center. This year's service will also be livestreamed on www.panynj.gov and the agency's [YouTube account](#) for those unable to attend in person.

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](#).