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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO HONOR OFFICERS
AT CORRECTION OFFICER DAY ON JULY 30**

Trenton, N.J. – July 25, 2018 – The New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC) will honor Correctional Police Officers on July 30 with two events to commemorate those who have been killed in the line of duty, as well as recognize officers for their extraordinary efforts and commitment to the Garden State.

The day will begin at Bayside State Prison with a memorial service commemorating the 21st anniversary of the death of Senior Correctional Police Officer Fred Baker, who was fatally stabbed by an inmate in 1997. The event will begin at 7:55 a.m. – the time Officer Baker lost his life – and will include remarks by Acting Commissioner Marcus O. Hicks, Esq., Senator Jeff Van Drew, Assemblyman Robert Andrzejczak and Assemblyman Bruce Land.

Following the memorial service, the NJDOC will mark Correction Officer Day at Central Office headquarters in Trenton with a ceremony in honor of all custody staff. The event will feature an address from Acting Commissioner Hicks, Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver, Police Training Commission Administrator John F. Cunningham, and Police Benevolence Association Local 105 President Brian Renshaw. In addition, there will be a presentation of the Departmental Service Awards in recognition of NJDOC employees who have demonstrated remarkable acts of heroism and bravery.

“Our Correctional Police Officers are highly skilled professionals, expert communicators and exemplary role models who have devoted themselves to protecting the citizens of New Jersey,” said Acting Commissioner Hicks. “Correction Officer Day allows us to celebrate their unwavering commitment, while honoring those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.”

Correction Officer Day was signed into New Jersey law in 2012 as part of “Fred Baker’s Law,” designating July 30 as Correction Officer Day in recognition of the dedicated service corrections officers render to their fellow citizens. An annual proclamation issued by Governor Philip D. Murphy and Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver calls upon all citizens of the State and all other public and private organizations to celebrate Correction Officer Day by appropriate observance and directs that the American and State of New Jersey flag fly at half-staff at all state correctional facilities.

Media are welcome. If you are interested in attending these events, please contact Alexandra Altman at Alexandra.Altman@doc.nj.gov or (609) 292-4036, x. 5542.

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