

MCO PRESIDENT BYRON OSBORN'S MESSAGE TO COs ON CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS WEEK

As we close out Correctional Officer Week, I would like to revisit a few lines from Proclamation 5649, issued by President Ronald Reagan in 1987. The proclamation reads, "No group of Americans has a more difficult or less publicly visible job than the brave men and women who work in our correctional facilities... Their profession requires careful and constant vigilance, and the threat of violence is always present. At the same time, these dedicated employees try to improve the living conditions of those who are being confined... It is appropriate that we honor the correctional officers in all our institutions, at every level of government, for their invaluable contributions."

These words convey a truth that as corrections officers we know well. Most people will never understand the importance of the job we do and will never fully appreciate us. When we don our corrections officer's uniform and walk through those gates, we serve as the voice of

authority, while also being charged with ensuring the safety and welfare of our fellow officers, other correctional employees, and the prisoners incarcerated at our facilities. We are the hidden branch of the criminal justice system.

On behalf of the MCO Executive Board, I want to recognize and thank my fellow State Corrections Officers. Your continued dedication and resolve, working through a staffing crisis and pandemic, keeping citizens safe, is inspiring. The Michigan Corrections Organization is proud to continually recognize the first full week of May as Correctional Officer Week.

To all the brave men and women who serve, thank you. Thank you for your service to the public. Thank you for the role you play in public safety. Thank you for the courage you display every day.

[Read the 2022 CO Week Proclamation on our website.](#)

MDOC CEREMONY HONORS EXCEPTIONAL OFFICERS

On Thursday, May 5, the MDOC held their Michigan Corrections Employee Appreciation Banquet. This was the first banquet held since the start of the pandemic in 2019. Hosted by MTU Administrative Assistant Matt Mates, this year's event honored the award nominees, finalists, and winners from 2022 as well as the previous 2 years when the event had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns.

During the presentation of awards to the Corrections Officer of the Year finalists, the department and crowd took a moment to honor fallen CTO, Thaddeus Ostrewich. Officer Ostrewich's widow, Katy, accepted the award to standing ovation in recognition of his sacrifice and her resolve.

2022 Corrections Officer of the Year award winner Neil Costello closed out the night with a speech highlighting the challenges of the job, the crucial role corrections officers play, the impact the job has on employee wellness, and his love for his family and his fellow officers.

[Read this article](#) for a full list of the 2022 Officer of the Year candidates.



CO NEIL COSTELLO



CTO THADDEUS OSTREWICH

MCO Announces 2022 Scholarship Winners!!!

The 2022 MCO Scholarship Committee is proud to announce this year's MCO Scholarship Winners. After careful examination of the applications that were entered this year, these phenomenal students displayed the academic qualifications, and leadership skills required of a MCO Scholarship recipient. We are proud to support them as they set out to achieve their educational goals. Congratulations to all of you!



Here are the 2022 recipients:

- Breden Niemiec
- Aiden Holley
- Morgan Nowery
- Lucy Bennin
- Katharyne Zimmerman
- Emmie Gleason
- Olivia Datema
- Carlen Deatsman
- Emmalyn Holmquist
- Samantha Goodman
- Sara Bower
- Kayla Londo
- Lilyanna Penk
- Jaylyne Lindemann
- Thomas Weber
- Gracie Yerian
- Madeline Braman
- Ajah Fink
- Hailey Sands