



The Congratulations Chronicle

Volume 1, Number 2

January 2017

The Massachusetts Probation Service

Mission Accomplished:

Fall River Assistant Chief delivers stolen WWII medals to veteran's family



Left to right: Fall River Assistant Chief Mark Costa holding the four medals. Costa, second to right, stands with members of World War II Veteran Frederick C. Sylvia Jr.'s family.

Fall River District Assistant Chief Probation Officer Mark Costa completed his mission to present replacements of stolen World War II medals to the Florida family of a veteran, Frederick Sylvia Jr. Costa was acknowledged by the national office of the Veterans of Foreign War for his efforts and the story of his Florida trip to present the medals went viral.

On January 4th, Costa presented the four medals to Sylvia's namesake and son, Fred Sylvia, during a heartfelt ceremony at Veterans Memorial Sanctuary Park in Vero Beach, Florida. The four medals included a Combat Infantry Badge, a Good Conduct medal, the Bronze Star medal, and the European-African Middle Eastern Theater Campaign ribbon.

Costa, a 17-year Probation employee, supervised the offender who was involved with the theft of the the medals from Sylvia who resided in an assisted living facility. Costa said he wanted to "make a bad situation good" after reading a letter Sylvia's son wrote to the Bristol County District Attorney's Office. Costa spent more than two years working with the Veterans Administration to have the original medals replaced. Sylvia wanted to be buried with the medals, including one that he earned while fighting during the Invasion of Normandy. He died at age 92 in 2012. His son did not have the heart to tell his father the medals had been stolen before he passed away.

Winter Greetings Probation Colleagues:

Welcome back to *The Congratulations Chronicle*, a publication that celebrates the great work of Probation employees.

A quarterly publication, *The Congratulations Chronicle* was created to highlight the many work and community-related awards, acknowledgements, and accomplishments of Massachusetts Probation Service (MPS) employees across the Commonwealth.

This publication is a Thank You note to you for your talent, drive, and passion for the great work you do.

Continue to keep up the good work! Also, please inform us of any Probation employee who is receiving or has received an award or recognition for their Probation and community-related work.

Thank you and happy reading!

Sincerely,

Coria Holland,
Communications Director
617-624-9319
coria.holland@jud.state.ma.us

Great effort on behalf of MPS employees

Commissioner of Probation Edward J. Dolan would like to acknowledge the more than 94 percent of Massachusetts Probation Service employees who completed the required online Domestic Violence training, an important course that will help employees identify and assist individuals who are the victims or survivors of domestic violence.

"Probation's more than 90 percent completion rate reportedly represents the highest rate of completion of any court department," said Commissioner Dolan. "This is quite an accomplishment and proof of our employees' strong work effort and concern for those who are impacted by domestic violence."

There is a possibility that the completion rate might be higher, according to First Deputy Commissioner Lydia Todd. Some may have completed the training but did not close out the final module in order to be credited for completion, Todd said.

"If you have completed the training and a certificate was not produced, please check to make sure you closed the final module," she said.

Essex Juvenile’s On Point Program is recognized by judges

The On Point Program— a partnership between Essex Juvenile Probation in Salem, the Salem Police Department, and the Plummer Home— is the recipient of the first Massachusetts Judges Conference’s “Doing Justice Award.” The award was presented at the Massachusetts Judges Conference’s Annual Meeting and Dinner on December 8th at the Sheraton Framingham.

“We are humbled and grateful for this honor,” said Essex Juvenile Assistant Chief Probation Officer Kimberly Howe Lawrence.

On Point is a 90-day court-ordered community-based program that works with at-risk youth. At this teen resource center and family service program, psycho-social educational groups and recreational activities such as barbecues, sporting events, field trips, speaker events, and community service are offered. On Point is designed to promote pro-social behavior in schools, at home, and in the community. The center also services children from the Beverly and Peabody area.

Judge Leslie Donahue recommended On Point for the award. Among those who attended the dinner are Lawrence, Essex Juvenile Probation Chief Carol Joyce Clark, Judge Donahue, Judge Kerry Ahern, Salem Police Lieutenant Dennis King, Salem State Representative Paul Tucker, and Plummer Home Executive Director James Lister.



Left to right: Plummer Home Director James Lister, Judge Leslie Donahue, PO Kimberly Lawrence, and Salem Police Lieutenant Dennis King.

Kudos to MPS’ Sealing Unit for maintaining one-day turn around

MPS’ Record Sealing Unit maintained the 1-2 business day turn-around time for 100 C sealings, received from the court, and two-day business days for 100 A & 100 B, petitions submitted directly to unit, every single month for the entire year of 2016. January 2017 figures also show that the unit has continued this successful pattern.

During 2016, the unit’s staff answered 26,479 phone calls which averages out to 107 calls per day. The unit sealed 53,083 charges in total.

In the past, sealing a record could take up to three months or more. The time to seal a record increased in 2012 when more people became eligible to have their records sealed due to a new law which allowed individuals to restrict access to criminal records five years after a misdemeanor conviction and 10 years after a felony.

Records Unit Director Thomas Capasso reconfigured the unit workforce to reduce the wait time for individuals and provided them a better opportunity to seek employment without being encumbered by their criminal records.

“Jobs don’t wait around,” Capasso told a Boston Globe reporter last spring.

While the wait time is consistent at one day, Capasso remains cautiously optimistic. Legal Counsel Crispin Birnbaum lauded Capasso and the employees in the unit.

“Very nicely done Tom. Thanks to you and your team for great work,” Birnbaum said.



Left to right — Front row: Vanessa Castano, Assistant CARI Coordinator (ACC); Jennifer Flynn, ACC; and Sandrine Ribeiro, CARI supervisor. Second row: Anmarie Palermo, Administrative Assistant; Kerry Restuccia, ACC; Willie English, ACC; Keith Andrews, Coordinator; and Thomas Capasso, Records Unit Director. Missing from the photo are Henry Bayas, Neil O’Brien, and Katey Frisiello, all ACC’s.

Massachusetts Probation Service Ovation Award Winners

The administrative office of the Massachusetts Probation Service (MPS) has recognized nine Probation employees for their "exemplary work" with the Massachusetts Probation Service Award.

Each recipient receives an acrylic star statute and probation mail carrier bag presented to them by a representative from the Central Office. The presentation of the Ovation Awards were on hiatus from January through June. The Ovation Award winners for the last six months are as follows.

December– Yvonne Roland, newly appointed Manager of Administrative Services, and **Justin Yawn**, former Assistant Coordinator at the Electronic Monitoring (ELMO) Center. Yawn is now a Plymouth Superior Probation Officer, effective January 30, 2017.

November– Michael Elias, Court Services Coordinator, **Jeff Striano**, Assistant Court Services Coordinator, and **Christine Pagan**, Administrative Assistant II. Elias, Striano, and Pagan are all employees of the Brockton Community Corrections Center.

October–Sandra Conant, former Franklin Superior Probation Case Coordinator. Conant was appointed a Probation Office Manager on December 5, 2016.

September– Maria Cabral, a Senior Community Corrections Probation Officer (SCCPO) at Boston Municipal Court—Roxbury.

August- Danielle Slaney, Norfolk Probate & Family Probation Office Manager

July– Leigh Faulker, former Greenfield District Court Probation Case Specialist. Faulker was named Probation Office Manager on December 5, 2016.

IN THE COMMUNITY

BMC Charlestown Chief is recognized in community calendar



Michelle C. Williams, Chief Probation Officer at Boston Municipal Court (BMC)-Charlestown, was recognized in a 2017 Community Calendar published by Blue Hills Bank.

Williams, a 20-year Probation employee and Dedham Pop Warner head cheerleading coach, is featured in the August 2017 photo of the calendar for her volunteer work as a 10-year Pop Warner Board member.

"Michelle Williams is more than a coach to the girls she has worked with through the Dedham Pop Warner Cheerleaders. She is a friend and a mentor," said Julie Beckham, Community Relations Manager of Marketing at Blue Hills Bank. "Michelle also mentors and volunteers. She is the first to set up an extra cheerleading clinic or help a family in need. Her leadership is infectious as former cheerleaders often return to volunteer. Her energy and dedication are limitless."

"I am honored to be recognized in my community for my volunteer work with young people who are our future," Williams said. "I enjoy giving back to my community and use some of the skills I have as a probation employee to help the children and volunteers I mentor to see their full potential."

The Congratulations Chronicle



Probation Update is an internal publication featuring the current news of The Massachusetts Probation Service (MPS).

Please forward newsletter story suggestions or comments to:

Coria Holland, Communications Director
The Massachusetts Probation Service

617-624-9319; CP: 617-429-5629
coria.holland@jud.state.ma.us

MPS Mission Statement: The Massachusetts Probation Service's mission is to increase community safety, reduce recidivism, contribute to the fair and equitable administration of justice, support victims and survivors, and assist individuals and families in achieving long term positive change.