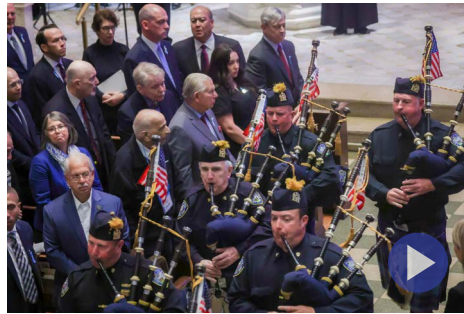


The Agency Comes Together to Honor Fallen Colleagues

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.

All of us are stewards of the precious legacy left us from those who perished on September 11, 2001, those who died on February 26, 1993, and those who died from illness related to the rescue and recovery efforts. We say we will never forget because we cannot.

As is Port Authority tradition, on the afternoon of Wednesday, September 11, the sounds of PAPD Pipes & Drums sounded throughout St. Peter's Church in lower Manhattan, just steps away from the World Trade Center campus. And the PA family came together once again to reflect, to pray, and to honor the loving memory of those we lost 23 years ago.



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PAPD Illyrian Association Gets Local Students Ready for Back-to-School

The PAPD Illyrian Association recently helped local students kick off the school season with a school supply drive.

On September 12, members of the PAPD Illyrian Association, which is an Albanian heritage group, hosted the supply drive at Hamilton Intermediate School in Harrison, NJ. Together with New Jersey State Police, NJ Muslim Officers Society, and PAPD Muslim Officers Society, officers distributed backpacks filled with school supplies to students starting off their school year.

"We loved seeing all the smiles on the students' faces and to see how grateful the children and the teachers were," said Officer **Sophie Perovic**, PAPD Illyrian Association President.



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Always in Our Hearts

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Joseph Amatuccio, Christopher C. Amoroso, Jean A. Andrucki, Richard A. Aronow, Ezra Aviles, Arlene T. Babakitis, James W. Barbella, Maurice V. Barry, Margaret L. Benson, Daniel D. Bergstein, Edward Calderon, Liam Callahan, Robert D. Cirri, Carlos DaCosta, Dwight D. Darcy, Niurka Davila, Clinton Davis, Frank A. De Martini, William F. Fallon, Stephen J. Fiorelli, John Fisher, Donald A. Foreman, Gregg J. Froehner, Barry H. Glick, Rosa Gonzalez, Thomas E. Gorman, Joseph F. Grillo, Ken G. Grouzalis, Patrick A. Hoey, Uhuru G. Houston, George G. Howard, Stephen Huczko, Anthony P. Infante Jr., Prem N. Jerath, Mary S. Jones, Paul W. Jurgens, Deborah H. Kaplan, Douglas G. Karpiloff, Robert M. Kaulfers, Edward T. Keane, Frank Lalama, Paul Laszczynski, David P. Lemagne, John J. Lennon, John D. Levi, Neil D. Levin, Margaret S. Lewis, James F. Lynch, Robert H. Lynch, Myrna Maldonado, Kathy Mazza, Donald J. McIntyre, Walter A. McNeil, Deborah A. Merrick, Susan Miskowicz, Fred V. Morrone, Nancy Muniz, Joseph M. Navas, Pete Negron, James Nelson, Alfonso J. Niedermeyer, David Ortiz, Pablo Ortiz, James W. Parham, Nancy E. Perez, Dominick A. Pezzulo, Eugene J. Raggio, Judith Reese, Bruce A. Reynolds, Francis S. Riccardelli, Antonio J. Rodrigues, Richard Rodriguez, James A. Romito, Kalyan K. Sarkar, Anthony Savas, John P. Skala, Edward T. Strauss, Walwyn W. Stuart, Kenneth F. Tietjen, Lisa L. Trerotola, Nathaniel Webb, Simon Weiser, Michael T. Wholey, Louie A. Williams.

FEBRUARY 26, 1993

Robert Kirkpatrick, Stephen Knapp, William Macko, Monica Rodriguez Smith and her unborn child.

In addition to our fallen PAPD heroes, we remember the countless partners in the first response, cleanup, and recovery efforts who have sacrificed their health, and even their lives.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to **Jonathan Quezada**, Staff Customer Service Representative at LaGuardia Airport, who recently passed the ACE Operations test. The certification course took place in mid-August at 2 Montgomery. This program is a Part 139-based curriculum designed to educate and challenge airport personnel with airfield operations responsibilities. Jonathan graduated Vaughn College in 2023 and was previously an intern in the Aviation Department.



PAPD Illyrian Association Gets Local Students Ready for Back-to-School

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Photos courtesy of Det. **Altin Celooliaj**, Vice President of the PAPD Illyrian Association.



The Agency Comes Together to Honor Fallen Colleagues

[continued from page 1 >](#)

The annual [Port Authority 9/11 Interfaith Service](#) was an opportunity to remember fallen colleagues and pay tribute not only to their memory, but to the courage and selflessness they showed that day. And as they have done every year, members of the PA family and beyond joined together to honor their memory. If you missed the livestream or would like to rewatch the service, you can [view a recording here](#).

In addition, on the morning of September 5, the Port Authority family gathered in heartfelt remembrance at the 9/11 Memorial, laying yellow roses on the names of those lost on September 11 and in the February 1993 WTC bombing. The

Rose Service tradition began in 2021 as part of the 20th anniversary commemoration and has continued as a means for all agency employees to pay their respects to those we lost.

Learn more about the individuals we lost and about the resilience of the agency's people through the [Remembrance page on panynj.gov](#).



PAPD Deputy Inspector Completes FBI Training Program

Congratulations to Port Authority Police Deputy Inspector **Scot Pomerantz**, who recently graduated from the prestigious FBI National Academy. In completing the rigorous program, Dep. Inspector Pomerantz returns to his critical role with the PAPD equipped with a wealth of advanced training.

Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy offers 10 weeks of advanced communication, leadership, and fitness training. The most recent session of the National Academy included members of law enforcement agencies from 26 countries, seven military organizations, and seven federal civilian organizations. Founded in 1935, the National Academy is held at the FBI Training Academy in Quantico, Virginia, in the same facility where the FBI trains its special agents and intelligence analysts.



WORKING ADVANTAGE DISCOUNT PROGRAM

Port Authority employees and retirees can take advantage of hundreds of discounts at stores, theaters, theme parks, and more through Working Advantage, the PA's Employee Discount Program partner. Visit www.workingadvantage.com and use the PA Member ID number – 405042634.

Immigrant Experience Fuels Passion for ODEI Chief

Originally published in [Now Arriving](#), written by Media Relations' Rudy King.

For **Jose Febrillet**, his position as the PA's Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer is more than a job. It's a personal mission deeply rooted in his own experiences as a young immigrant from the Dominican Republic. Since January 2023, Febrillet has led the charge in ensuring that the agency is a regional beacon of opportunity for minority- and women-owned businesses (MWBs), disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs), and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses (SDVOBs).

Febrillet shares how he aligns the Port Authority – which serves a region that is home to the most diverse population in the world – and the larger community around the core goals of diversity, equity, and inclusion, starting with his personal journey.

Now Arriving: You've worked at the Port Authority for more than 30 years and have worked with virtually every department in the agency. What led you to become ODEI Chief?

My journey is rooted in my upbringing. Moving from the Dominican Republic at 15 was a transformative experience that brought a lot of challenges, like learning a new language and adapting to a different culture. I often felt unheard and misunderstood. I graduated from high school and college thanks to a translator I had in class.

That experience helped me recognize the importance of diverse perspectives. I've seen the disparities in representation and opportunity throughout my career, particularly for marginalized groups. This motivated me to advocate for change and led me to roles focused on diversity initiatives and ultimately to my current position.

Now Arriving: Why is it important to promote diversity in the workplace?

When employees feel valued and empowered to bring their unique perspectives, backgrounds, and experiences to the table, it cultivates an environment rich in creativity and innovation.

Our initiatives focus on creating a culture where every voice is heard and valued, which leads to more informed decision-making and a deeper connection with the diverse populations around us.

Keep reading on [Now Arriving](#).



Febrillet at a Port Authority Hispanic Society function.

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.

[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.

[PAHS: Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration](#)

Tuesday, October 8, 9 a.m. to noon., Equitable Building at 120 Broadway in New York. Celebrate Hispanic Heritage with the Port Authority Hispanic Society (PAHS) and join its annual Hispanic Heritage Month Breakfast Celebration. Interested employees [can RSVP here](#).

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



GOT NEWS FOR NEXT TIME?

Do you have news from your team, department or employee group to share in the next PA News? Send it to panews@panynj.gov by September 27 to be included in the October 4 issue.

