

## 2024 Month of Service in Photos

As the agency observed the 23rd anniversary of September 11, hundreds of employees from across the PA joined together to give back to the bistate region as part of the annual Remembrance Through Renewal (RTR) Month of Service. The RTR team sends a heartfelt **thank you** to all who participated this year. Thanks to your help and input, we were able to partner with dozens of organizations across the region.

Over 300 participants representing departments throughout the agency came together to organize food bank donations, get their hands dirty with some landscaping work, scrub floors, package food for the hungry, and much more! In addition, 60 employees participated in the annual Blood Drive at 4 WTC, donating enough blood to 180 lives.

A special thanks to the agency's Employee Business Resource Groups (EBRGs) and their dedicated memberships for hosting several events! We thank you all for your participation. It is truly a special way give back to the community in honor of the friends and colleagues lost in the attacks on the World Trade Center on February 26, 1993, and September 11, 2001.



Brooklyn Bridge Park



Bruce Reynolds Garden



City Harvest

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## PAPD Bi-State Coalition Celebrates African American Heritage

Celebrating community, culture, and heritage – the PAPD Bi-State Coalition was thrilled to participate in the 55th Annual African American Day Parade, a joyous and uplifting celebration of the richness and diversity of the community.

On Sunday, September 15, members of the coalition were deeply honored to march alongside many incredible organizations, community leaders, and friends – grateful for the opportunity to connect with so many amazing people.

This annual parade is a shining example of the power of community and the importance of coming together to celebrate our differences and our shared humanity.



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## EWR Redevelopment Hosts Local Families for Hispanic Heritage Month



The EWR Redevelopment Outreach team recently hosted an enthusiastic book reading at the Elizabeth Public Library.

On Wednesday, September 18, the team welcomed local families and children for an interactive reading of *The Flying Girl, How Aida de Acosta Learned to Soar*, by Margarita Engle. This inspiring book tells the story of Aida de Acosta, a Cuban-American from New Jersey, who

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## EWR Redevelopment Hosts Local Families for Hispanic Heritage Month

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was the first first woman to fly a motorized aircraft. The reading was followed by interactive activities for attendees, include arts and crafts. EWR Redevelopment Outreach was overjoyed to partner with NJ Assemblywoman Annette Quijano for this Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.

## IN MEMORIAM

His friends and colleagues at the Port Authority were saddened to learn of the passing of **Jack Brewster**, who served as the dedicated Panel Administrator of the PA Employment Relations Panel.



Jack Brewster

Jack served as Panel Administrator for 16 years – first from April 2005 to April 2012, then returning November 2014 and serving in the role up until his passing. The Employment Relations Panel plays an integral role in the relationship between agency management and the collective bargaining units representing thousands of agency employees. Jack will be missed for his kindness, resourcefulness, and passion for his work.

Jack is survived by his wife Virginia, three dogs (Sydney, Marsh, and Nikki) and cat (Junior), brothers-in-law Ralph and George, Ralph's wife Bernadette, and many loving nieces, cousins, and their families.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Joyful Rescues at [www.joyfulrescues.org](http://www.joyfulrescues.org). Please read the [full obituary](#) to learn more about Jack.

## 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](#).

## PAVA Hosts Successful Care Package Drive

The [Port Authority Veterans Association](#) (PAVA) Executive Board sends its heartfelt thanks to all employees who donated supplies over the past several weeks and especially to those who volunteered their time and energy to pack and assemble the completed care packages.

As part of the annual Remembrance Through Renewal Month of Service, PAVA collected donated supplies and items across PA locations and facilities, followed by a packing event at 4 WTC on September 25. Thanks to everyone's contributions and efforts, participants were able to pack and ship 65 total packages, bringing a piece of home to deployed service members around the world.



*"Your participation was essential in helping us achieve our goal and your efforts are truly appreciated. We hope to see you again next year!"* – PAVA Executive Board

## NBE and EBRGs Make Strides Against Breast Cancer

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and in recognition, the Network of Black Employees (NBE) together with all of the agency's Employee Business Resource Groups (EBRGs) have once again joined together [to raise money for the American Cancer Society](#) (ACS), as part of the local Making Strides of Newark campaign.

The fundraiser will be open through October 31. The EBRGs aim to raise \$5,000 this year. Although there is no Port Authority walking group, the EBRGs welcome you to participate in the annual walk with your friends and family at the annual Making Strides walk on Sunday, October 20 in Mulberry Commons Park in Newark. See the flyer below to learn more and for any questions, contact [NBE@panynj.gov](mailto:NBE@panynj.gov).

In addition to Newark, there will also be walks all across the bistate region. You can find your local walk on the [ACS Making Strides website](#).



NBE members at a prior year's walk.

## COO Jim Heitmann Honored as an Industry Leader

Chief Operating Officer **Jim Heitmann** was recently honored by the South Asian American Association Inc. (SAAAI) for his impact and contributions to the region, including his role in the agency's redevelopment of its major airports and in the replacement of the Midtown Bus Terminal.

On September 19, Jim was recognized as a distinguished industry leader at the SAAAI's 2024 Scholarship Fundraising Dinner. **Rizwan Baig**, Chief Engineer, introduced Jim by asking the nearly 600 guests to acknowledge Jim's lengthy career behind the scenes of some of the region's biggest infrastructure projects with a resounding chant of "Thank you,



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# 2024 Month of Service in Photos

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Good Grief



Hoboken Homeless Shelter



Interfaith Nutrition Network



King Manor



Liberty State Park



Queens Botanical Garden



Snug Harbor

For more photos, [see the PA News website](#). We look forward to your support again next year!

## Port Staff Join Together in Honor of 9/11 Heroes

Staff from the Port Department recently joined together to form the Port Navigators team for this year's Tunnels to Towers 5K.

In addition to honoring all of those who were lost on September 11, the annual Tunnels to Towers event also provides critical support to first responders and service members who made, and continue to make, extraordinary sacrifices in the line of duty.



From left: Cheryl Smith, Emily Jannazzo, Erin Laraway (friend), Rich Laraway, Charlie Bontempo, Libby Szufflita, Marie Verrico (friend), and Kim Mazurkewicz (friend) during the September 29 event.

## NY1 Spotlights JFK Redevelopment

As John F. Kennedy International Airport continues to undergo its massive redevelopment project, local cable news channel NY1 got a behind the scenes look at the ambitious overhaul, courtesy of **Gina Bigler**, Director of Construction for JFK Redevelopment and Senior Engineer in the Construction Management Division of the Engineering Department.

[Visit NY1.com](#) for the full story, including the video spotlight.



## CALENDAR

### 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](#).

### PAWC: Making Connections

Wednesday, October 30, and Thursday, November 14. 4 WTC. The Port Authority Women's Council hosts Making Connections, an ongoing series that connects members with leaders across the agency, with the goals of fostering professional networks and learning about various career journeys. Register for the next two sessions, featuring [Lisa Dewey-Mattia](#), Chief of Staff and Special Counselor to the Executive Director, and [Sanchita Banerjee-Jimenez](#), PATH Deputy Director.

### COO Jim Heitmann Honored as an Industry Leader

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Jim!" In addition to PA staff and Jim's family, many of the guests represented engineers and crews from peer agencies and partners across many agency projects spanning the airports, the bridges and tunnels, and PATH.

SAAAI was founded in the 2000s by a group of professional engineers to help New York City students pursue their education in engineering. At this year's dinner, 10 aspiring engineers from regional universities and colleges were award scholarships of \$7,000 each.

### 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](mailto:panews@panynj.gov) by Oct 14 to be included in the Oct 18 issue.