

## PAVA Gives Veterans a Voice

The [Port Authority Veterans Association](#) (PAVA) recently hosted its third annual Veterans Voice discussion, shining a spotlight on the incredible stories and experiences of our nation's veterans.

On November 13, days after the agency recognized Veterans Day, PAVA members, agency leadership, employees, and many others joined together for a day filled with inspiring stories, valuable resources, and connections with veterans. This annual in-person and virtual event gives veterans at the agency a chance to share their experiences, learn from others, and be a part of a supportive community.

To start off the event, the agency unveiled a recently relocated World War II plaque that honors employees of the agency that served in WWII. It was previously located at New York Marine Terminals in Brooklyn.

Guest speakers included Terrance Hayes, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs (OPIA) and Marine Gunnery Sergeant Eliezer Gomez.

Hayes, who was appointed by President Biden earlier this year, leads the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' marketing and communications efforts, and serves as the official spokesperson for the VA. He spoke about the benefits that are available for veterans and passed along lessons learned from his transition into civilian life.



PAVA leadership with the commemorative WWII plaque.

[continued on page 3 >](#)

## PAPD Bi-State Coalition Promotes Health and Wellness

The PAPD Bi-State Coalition recently sponsored a community health fair at St. Peter's University to promote the importance of health and wellbeing. On November 13, more than 120 members of the community accessed vital health screenings and resources, ensuring they have a clearer picture of their wellness.

The Bi-State Coalition would like to thank RWJ Barnabas Health for providing these essential screenings and informational services, and St. Peter's University for hosting the event in their space.

Health is our most important resource, yet that access isn't equal. Events such as these help bridge that gap, making health resources accessible to all. Thank you to the students and community members who came out to make this day a success. Together, the Bi-State Coalition is building a healthier community!



Lt. Atiba Cumberbatch and Lt. Andre Phillips with community members.

### QUICK LINKS

[CALENDAR](#) >

[IN MEMORIAM](#) >

[STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS](#) >

### IN THIS EDITION

[NBE Empowers Future Leaders](#)

[PAVA Marches in Honor of Veterans Day](#)

[PA Airports Recognized for Providing World Class Customer Experience](#)

## Check Out the New MyPA!

Have you checked out the new [MyPA employee portal](#)?



**You can access MyPA** at [mypa.panynj.gov](https://mypa.panynj.gov) – be sure to sign in using your email address and password that you use for Peoplesoft and other PA systems. It works on any device, at any time, from anywhere. It's full of personalized information, like your pay and benefits info, as well as important resources, a brand-new employee directory, news, events, and much more.

**For an inside look at MyPA**, [view a webinar recording](#), which featured an overview and an interactive Q&A session, hosted by members of the MyPA Project Team.

### Tech Support:

If you need any assistance with MyPA, the Help Desk is standing by:

• Phone: 212-435-7469

• Online: [TECnow](#)

We encourage you to check out and explore MyPA for yourself!

## GWB Sr. Engineer Offers Inside Look at Restoration Project

The ongoing ‘Restore the George,’ which began in 2013, comprises 11 state-of-good-repair projects that will maintain the structural health of the world’s busiest bridge for the millions who rely on this critical crossing. Recently, the project’s Senior Engineer of Construction **Ken Tripaldi** gave NY1 an [inside look](#) at the project. View the [full video at NY1.com](#).



## IN MEMORIAM

His friends and colleagues at the Port Authority were saddened to learn that **Hui M. Xu**, a dedicated agency employee of over 30 years, passed away on Monday, December 2, 2024.



Hui M. Xu

Hui joined the agency on October 4, 1993, as an Engineer in the Engineering Department’s Architectural Design division. In 1998, he began his long career with the Aviation Department as a Staff Airport Engineer. He received several promotions, ultimately being named Program Director of the Aviation Planning Division in 2024, a position he held until his passing.

Hui will be remembered as a master of his craft and a “go-to” subject matter expert for all things related to airport planning. Hui’s exemplary career, contributions to the aviation industry, and legacy will live on for years to come.

Hui is survived by his wife, Yin Y. Lu-Xu, and their two children, Elizabeth Gar Xu and Timothy Deong Xu.

We ask that you please keep the memory of Hui in your thoughts and keep his family, friends, and colleagues in your hearts during this difficult time.

## NBE Empowers Future Leaders

The Network of Black Employees (NBE) Programs Committee recently partnered with the Brotherhood Sister Sol, a Harlem-based organization dedicated to cultivating leadership and promoting social justice. Hosted at 4 World Trade Center in November, this career day event brought together professionals and aspiring leaders to share knowledge, inspiration, and opportunity.

The event showcased the depth and diversity of careers at the Port Authority. Representatives from Human Resources, Finance, Engineering, Major Capital Projects, Central Automotive Division, Marketing, Aviation, Law, the Office of Sustainability, and the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion engaged attendees in meaningful dialogue. Employees shared their career stories, offering candid insights into the skills, determination, and poise that propelled their journeys.



[continued on page 3 >](#)

## PAVA Marches in Honor of Veterans Day

The [Port Authority Veterans Association](#) (PAVA) recently joined together with the Port Authority Police Department Armed Forces Association (AFA) to march alongside each other in the annual New York City Veterans Day Parade.

On November 11, PAVA and AFA members came together for the 105th annual parade, which honors the brave heroes of our armed forces who have served our region and our country. The New York City Veterans Day Parade is the largest in the U.S., featuring over 20,000 participants marching up Fifth Ave.



## MCP Staffers Celebrate Filipino-American Heritage

In recognition of Filipino-American History Month in October, which is a part of Global Diversity Awareness Month, several employees from Major Capital Projects celebrated with an assortment of delicious Filipino-baked goods. Thanks to MCP’s **Cristy Cairme, Danny Pagsambagan, Ray Calingasan, Kristine Darvin, and Juan Salamanca** for generously providing the delectable treats!



# PA Airports Recognized for Providing World Class Customer Experience

The PA's three major airports – John F. Kennedy International, Newark Liberty International, and LaGuardia – were recently recognized for their world-class customer experience programs at Airports Council International's (ACI) annual World Customer Experience Summit.

JFK, EWR, and LGA were each presented with ACI's Customer Experience Accreditation Level 2, and Accessibility Enhancement Accreditation Level 1, during the event in September. LGA also was honored as North America's Best Airport in its size class with an award that had been announced earlier this year.

"The accreditations will help the agency realize its vision of being a world-class operator of world-class airports," Aviation Director **Charles R. Everett, Jr.** said.

Aviation staff were in attendance to receive all recognitions. The PA was also pleased to have team members featured at the Summit during two sessions. Manager of Customer Experience Analysis **Raimy Cheyne** spoke about the PA's ASQ program and how the agency leverages data to improve the customer experience at every journey step. Program Manager of Customer Experience and ADA/Title VI Coordinator **William DeFeis** served as a panelist to discuss the importance and impact of accessibility in airports.



## STAFF ACHIEVEMENT

# Port Ops Supervisor Honored as 'Hispanic Achiever'

Congratulations to **Nelson Del Valle**, Port Operations Supervisor in the Port Department and Vice President of the [Port Authority Veterans Association](#), who was recently selected as a Hispanic Achiever by the YMCA of Greater New York.

Nelson was selected based on his career accomplishments, community leadership, work attitude, relationships with colleagues, and demonstrated ethical behavior and integrity. He was presented the award at the YMCA of Greater New York's annual gala on November 13 at 48 Wall Street, just minutes away from the World Trade Center campus.

Since 2016, the Port Authority has sponsored the Hispanic Achievers program, an important initiative that recognizes excellence in corporate and civic leadership of Hispanic leaders. This program supports community-based initiatives that provide opportunities for young people, including a scholarship program.



# PAVA Gives Veterans a Voice

[continued from page 1 >](#)

Gunnery Sergeant Gomez is the Logistics Chief for Marine Aircraft Group 49 Detachment B in Newburgh, NY, overseeing supply and logistical operations and managing fiscal accounts, where he prioritizes the well-being of the Marines. Gunnery Sergeant Gomez spoke about the importance of leaders building relationships and bonds with their teams, and ensuring that respect runs up and down the chain of command.



## CALENDAR

### NBE: Holiday Gift & Bake Sale

Wednesday, December 11 at 4 WTC, 15th Floor, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Whether you're looking for a holiday gift or just want something for your sweet tooth, the Network of Black Employees (NBE) will have what you're looking for in its Holiday Gift & Bake Sale. Proceeds will support NBE's **Carl Creque** Book Scholarship in support of local students. [View the flyer](#). Contact **Jennifer Richardson** at [jrichard@panynj.gov](mailto:jrichard@panynj.gov) for more information.

### PAPD Shomrim Society: WTC Oculus Menorah Lighting

Friday, December 27 at WTC Oculus, at 11 a.m. The Port Authority Police Shomrim Society hosts its annual Menorah Lighting Ceremony at the World Trade Center Oculus. To attend, contact Dep. Inspector **Scot Pomerantz** at [spomerantz@panynj.gov](mailto:spomerantz@panynj.gov). [View the flyer](#).

### NBE Empowers Future Leaders [continued from page 2 >](#)

The event also featured a tour of the World Trade Center campus, in which participants explored the architectural marvels and symbolic resilience of this landmark site. The success of this event is a testament to the dedication of NBE's Programs Committee and the enthusiastic participation of volunteers.



### **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 December 13 to be included in the December 20 issue.