



NPDF

NATIONAL POLICE DEFENSE FOUNDATION

"Protecting and Supporting Law Enforcement"



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear NPDF Members and Supporters:

Welcome to the National Police Defense Foundation's Awards Gala where we are honored to recognize our distinguished 2026 honorees and the recent long-term successes and achievements of the NPDF.

One of the primary missions of the NPDF is to provide legal defense assistance to law enforcement officials nationwide who appear to have been selectively prosecuted, convicted and OR imprisoned for performing their sworn duty.

There is ample evidence that critics who seek to defund our police, as well as obstruct effective police and immigration enforcement operations, are well organized and funded by politically connected criminal organizations whose sole intent is to intimidate our police and manipulate the criminal justice system.

During the past year alone, the NPDF established several legal defense funds for these victimized officers at the request of certain police unions and fraternal organizations. It is our fervent hope that our efforts on these high-profile NPDF legal defense cases will bring truth and justice to these victimized officers and their families.

In 1995, my wife Angela and I established the NPDF at a point when there was a significant increase in armed assaults against our police and it became common practice for criminals to make fabricated allegations of misconduct against law enforcement officers to insulate themselves from prosecution.

Additionally, these criminal entities often disguised as a "political action group" have advocated to obstruct legitimate police operations, which includes the assaults on our law enforcement officials. In response, the NPDF has effectively uses their congressionally recognized "Safe Cop" program, which posts a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person who shoots at a law enforcement officer or makes a death threat online or through social media, anywhere in the United States.

Today, we are pleased to acknowledge in our audience, some of these victimized police officials who the NPDF are actively representing. Additionally, join me in honoring our distinguished honorees whose public service, advocacy and support for the law enforcement community truly deserves recognition!

Please know that I will continue to volunteer my efforts to support these important NPDF law enforcement programs out of my love and respect for law enforcement.

Fraternally yours,

SSA Joseph Occhipinti (Ret.)
Founder & Executive Director

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear NPDF Member and Supporter,

May 6, 2026.

Welcome to Russo's on the Bay for our 2026 National Police Defense Foundation's Annual Awards Night. Once again, we come together to recognize and celebrate a few of our accomplished heroes of law enforcement who have fearlessly answered the call of duty and service to their fellow Americans. We also bestow much deserved praise on our Business and Media Professionals who recognize and support the sacrifices made by America's Law Enforcement Officers everyday.

This evening we proudly bestow our Man of the Year Award on United States Secret Service Director Sean M. Curran and our Woman of the Year Award on United States Secret Service Senior Advisor, the Honorable Alina Habba.

We are also honored to recognize our Business Woman of the Year; CEO of Kai Consulting and former Legal Counsel to President Donald J Trump, Kellyanne Conway.

With great pride the Foundation's Executive Board recognizes NYPD Sergeants Benevolent Association President, Vincent Vallelong, with our annual President's Award and our Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to Director of the United States Customs & Border Protection, New York District, Francis J. Russo.

This year's Excellence in Media Award is proudly awarded to the CEO of the Law Enforcement Today magazine and our coveted Member of the Year Award is bestowed on Captain Anthony Lordo Jr., Commander of the United States Park Police at Ellis Island.

In closing, I want to thank you all for coming and supporting the Foundation as we join together in recognizing our distinguished honorees.

Fraternally,

Michael Palladino

Det. Michael J. Palladino (Ret.)



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HON. ALINA HABBA

Senior Assistant to U.S. Attorney General



Alina Habba was born in Summit, New Jersey. She is an attorney who currently serves as a Senior Advisor to the Attorney General for US Attorneys. In July 2025 Alina was named Acting US Attorney for the District of New Jersey. Attorney General Pam Bondi noted that during the time acting USA Alina Habba was in office, the city of Newark saw a 20% reduction in crime and that the city of Camden experienced its first summer in 50 years without a homicide. Before Habba took on the role of US attorney for New Jersey, President Trump had announced he was appointing her as his presidential counsellor during his second administration, describing Habba as “unwavering in her loyalty” and a “tireless advocate for justice”.

Alina attended Lehigh University, graduating in 2005 with a bachelor’s degree in political science. Between 2005 and 2007, Habba worked in the fashion industry in accessories production and marketing. She obtained a Juris Doctor from the Widener University Commonwealth Law School in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in 2010. After finishing law school, Habba was a law clerk to Eugene J. Codey Jr., then-presiding judge of the Civil Superior Court in Essex County, New Jersey. Habba is licensed to practice law in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

As President Trump’s attorney, Alina has represented him in many high-profile cases and litigation since 2021. She represented him in litigation spearheaded by New York Attorney General Letitia James

In December 2024, Trump named Habba as his counselor to the president. Habba has described herself as a devout Catholic. She has two children, Chleo and Luke.

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FRANCIS J. RUSSO, DIRECTOR

US Customs Border Protection, NY



As the director of operations at U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the largest federal law enforcement agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, since 1995, Director Russo has overseen the work of 2,900 employees dedicated to securing the nation's borders. In this capacity, Mr. Russo manages an annual operating budget of over \$35 million, ensuring the efficient processing of 24 million travelers and over \$360 billion worth of goods entering the U.S. each year. His leadership is characterized by coalition-building with federal, state and local partners, as well as a focus on strengthening national security and improving information sharing.

A defining moment in Mr. Russo's career occurred in 2020 during his tenure as the port director at John F. Kennedy International Airport. Confronted with a surge in fentanyl-laced packages arriving from China, he spearheaded a comprehensive strategy that united law enforcement agencies, congressional representatives and advanced technology to intercept illicit shipments. Mr. Russo's efforts resulted in the seizure of more than 85 fentanyl shipments that year, influenced legislative changes in China and significantly altered the threat landscape. He also served as a public spokesperson, advocating for increased resources and raising awareness through prominent media outlets.

Mr. Russo's educational background laid a strong foundation for his achievements. He began by earning a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice and corrections from St. John's University in New York City in 1995, equipping him with essential knowledge for his early career in law enforcement. He later attended the Senior Managers in Government Program at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in Cambridge in 2017, further refining his leadership skills and strategic perspective.

The inspiration for Mr. Russo's career stems from a profound family legacy in law enforcement. His father, an Italian immigrant who learned English through comic books before serving in the U.S. Navy, went on to become a distinguished FBI agent combating organized crime, a path also followed by Mr. Russo's brother. Witnessing their dedication instilled in him a profound sense of duty and commitment to justice.

Beyond his professional responsibilities, Mr. Russo is actively involved in civic initiatives as a volunteer with local community foundations and the Global Medical Relief Fund, demonstrating his dedication to humanitarian causes. He is also an active member of the Columbia Association, a nonprofit community services corporation.

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SGT. VINCENT VALLELONG, PRESIDENT

NYPD Sergeant's Benevolent Association



Sgt. Vincent Vallelong has served as President of the 13,000 member NYPD Sergeants Benevolent Association since October 2021. He has also served as the SBA Delegate for Brooklyn South Detective Operations, as well as the organization's Detective Bureau Director, Marshal, Health and Welfare Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Vice President.

Sgt. Vallelong was appointed to the NYPD in July 1990 after earning a Bachelor's degree in Marketing Management from Pace University. He was promoted to Sergeant in March 1996. His assignments included the 5 and 62 Precincts, as well as the Manhattan South Task Force, the 63 Robbery Apprehension Module, and 62 Detective Squad Commander.

Sgt. Vallelong's professional affiliations include membership in the NYPD's Columbia Association, and he sits on the Advisory Boards for the United Coalition of Public Safety (UCOPS), the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), and the San Diego University Law Enforcement Leadership Symposium.

A primary goal of Sgt. Vallelong is to work with union colleagues and law enforcement personnel from other cities and municipalities to create a nationwide law enforcement collaboration and presence.

Sgt. Vallelong is a single parent of 4 children. He followed in the footsteps of his father, Anthony, who served the NYPD for 20 years. Sgt. Vallelong resides in Brooklyn.

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COMMANDER ANTHONY LORDO, JR.

United States Park Police, NY



Captain Anthony "Tony" Lordo Jr. is a seasoned law enforcement executive with the United States Park Police, currently serving as the Commanding Officer of the Liberty District. He is entrusted with safeguarding two of American landmarks: the Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration. With over twenty-two years of service, Tony has distinguished himself through strategic leadership, interagency collaboration, and expertise in complex, high-threat security environments. His career reflects a combination of operational excellence, tactical proficiency, and executive-level program management.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- **Current Command:** Oversees a multi-jurisdictional public safety program, including law enforcement operations, critical physical security systems, command center management, and two airport-style visitor screening facilities. Leads a diverse team of USPP patrol officers, specialized units (SWAT, K9, Marine Patrol), and contracted security forces across Liberty Island, Ellis Island, and mainland screening centers in Manhattan, NY, and Jersey City, NJ.
- **National Security Leadership:** Serves on the Executive Board for the FBI–New York City Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF).
- **Gateway National Recreation Area Leadership:** Served as a USPP Captain on a long-term special detail as the NPS Acting Chief Ranger. Managed programs that include law enforcement, emergency medical services, safety and environmental health, structural and wildland fire, lifeguards, fee collection, and a 24/7 dispatch operation throughout Gateway NRA, NPS. Gateway NRA includes NPS lands in Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island (NY), & Sandy Hook, Monmouth County (NJ).
- **Icon Security & Canine Unit Command:** As Lieutenant, led the Icon Security Program and managed nine explosive detection canine teams responsible for ferry sweeps, screening operations, and threat responses. Served on the DOI Icon Security Council, advising on security for high-value national targets.
- **SWAT and Tactical Operations:** Former SWAT Sergeant and FBI SWAT School graduate. Directed tactical operations for high-profile visits, including Heads of State and foreign dignitaries.

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State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE

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Governor

JENNIFER DAVENPORT
Acting Attorney General

DR. DALE G. CALDWELL
Lt. Governor

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JEANNE HENGEMUHLE
Acting Superintendent

May 6, 2026

National Police Defense Foundation
21 Kilmer Drive, Building 2, Suite F
Morganville, New Jersey 07751

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the New Jersey State Police, I am proud to extend my deepest congratulations to the honorees of the National Police Defense Foundation's 2026 Annual Awards Gala. Each of this year's awardees stands as a powerful testament to the courage, integrity, and unwavering devotion that define our profession.

The National Police Defense Foundation (NPDF), founded in 1995 by retired Federal Agent Joseph Occhipinti and his wife Angela, is a nationally recognized organization dedicated to protecting and supporting law enforcement personnel. Created in response to rising assaults and false allegations against officers, the NPDF provides free medical, legal, and psychological assistance to law enforcement members, including specialized support for those disabled in the line of duty. The foundation has developed several respected programs, including COP 2 COP for confidential counseling and "Safe Cop," which offers rewards for information leading to the arrest of individuals who attack law enforcement officers. These initiatives have earned recognition from Congress, state governments, civil rights organizations, and international bodies. In addition to its support for officers, the NPDF operates diverse public safety programs that serve communities across the country and beyond. Its "Operation Kids" initiative distributes child fingerprint/DNA kits, sponsors youth activities, funds lifesaving medical treatment for critically ill children, and combats online predatory activity through "Project SAFE NET." Programs such as "Save a First Responder" and "Save a K-9 Officer" address the growing number of assaults on first responders and police dogs by offering rewards, equipment, and emergency aid. The NPDF has also played a vital role during national crises, most notably providing extensive support to police and first responders following the September 11th attacks and commissioning a memorial in their honor.

Once again, congratulations to all the award recipients, and a sincere thank you to the National Police Defense Foundation for your unwavering commitment to supporting those who serve our communities.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Hengemuhle
Acting Superintendent



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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Office of the Director

Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

April 2, 2026

Mr. Joseph Occhipinti
Founder and Executive Director
National Police Defense Foundation
Suite C, Building 2
21 Kilmer Drive
Morganville, NJ 07751

Dear Mr. Occhipinti:

I want to congratulate the National Police Defense Foundation (NPDF) for another remarkable year supporting the men and women of the U.S. law enforcement community.

The NPDF is an outstanding resource for officers and their families across the country. Whether it is paying for life-saving operations for children, offering rewards to bring those who violently assault officers to justice, or awarding scholarships to cover education costs, the NPDF continues to provide critical assistance to our Nation's heroes in times of need. I am pleased to recognize the 2026 Distinguished Honorees for their commitment to enhancing the well-being of those who safeguard our communities. These extraordinary individuals can take great pride in their dedication to protecting the American people.

All of us in the FBI are incredibly fortunate to have the NPDF's partnership as we strive to fulfill our mission every day. I look forward to our continued collaboration and hope you enjoy a well-deserved celebration.

Sincerely yours,

Kashyap P. Patel
Director



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**United States Department of State
Diplomatic Security Service**

Two Executive Drive, 3rd floor
Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024

March 20, 2026

Mr. Joseph Occhipinti
Founder & Executive Director
National Police Defense Foundation
21 Kilmer Drive
Morganville, NJ 07751

Dear Mr. Occhipinti,

On behalf of the Department of State Diplomatic Security Service, and our New York Field Office, our sincere congratulations to the 2026 National Police Defense Foundation Distinguished Honorees!

Thank you for your hard work and dedication and the kind invitation to the 2026 National Police Defense Foundation's Awards Gala. It is my honor to join the law enforcement community in recognizing these honorees and celebrating the excellent work of the foundation.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the extraordinary support the foundation contributes to critical program services to the community and the law enforcement profession. Your efforts foster collaboration far beyond law enforcement by strengthening public and private industries and the communities we serve and protect.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Wood
Special Agent in Charge
New York Field Office

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**Division of
State Police**

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor
STEVEN G. JAMES
Superintendent

February 19, 2026

SSA Joseph Occhipinti (Retired)
Founder & Executive Director
National Police Defense Foundation
21 Kilmer Drive
Building 2, Suite C
Morganville, New Jersey 07751

Dear Executive Director Occhipinti:

On behalf of the 6,000 sworn and non-sworn employees of the New York State Police, I wish to express our appreciation to the National Police Defense Foundation for yet another year of exceptional service and steadfast commitment to the law enforcement community.

The support extended by the Foundation to members and their families during times of difficulty is valued by many and held in the highest regard. I wish to convey my sincere appreciation to you, and the Executive Board of the National Police Defense Foundation, for your exemplary generosity, unwavering dedication, and enduring service to the law enforcement community.

I would like to extend my congratulations to this year's distinguished recipients who will be receiving an award at the Foundation's Gala event for their tireless and dedicated public service.

Your continued dedication and partnership are appreciated and more significant than ever to the courageous men and woman protecting our communities. On behalf of the entire New York State Police, I wish the National Police Defense Foundation continued success!

Sincerely,

Steven G. James
Superintendent

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2026

Scholarship Recipients

JOSHUA GUREVICH
Adelphi University

ISABELLA GRIPPO
DeSales University

JADEN SANGSTER
Brookdale Community College

ANGELINA J. MEOLA
The College of New Jersey

JOSEPHINE A. PARLO
University of New Haven



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Atlantic Beach, New York 11509

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Thomas Betts
Michael Barzal
Ryan Gunning
Roy G. Miller

Congratulations

SEAN CURRAN
MAN OF THE YEAR

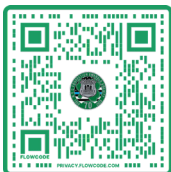
ALINA HABBA
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

AND ALL HONOREES

Fraternally,

Timothy N. Cowen
Timothy N. Cowen

President



The NYCD Emerald Society Inc. is a registered 501(c)3 Non Profit EIN #853661767
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Charter Member-National Conference of Law Enforcement Emerald Societies
Affiliated with the New York City Saint Patrick's Day Parade



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BEST WISHES
to
Michael J. Palladino
and the
Officers, Staff and Members
of the
The National Police Defense Foundation



CONGRATULATIONS

to
2026 Distinguished Honorees
Hon. Alina Habba • Sgt. Vincent Vallelong
Sean C. Curran • Francis J. Russo • KellyAnne Conway
Kyle S. Reyes • Commander Anthony Lordo, Jr.



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ITALIAN WELFARE LEAGUE

EST. 1920

Congratulates National Police Defense Foundation and the 2026 Honorees

We applaud The National Police Defense Foundation (NPDF) for its continued work to "protect and support" the efforts of law enforcement officials nationwide through its various programs, including "Operation Kids" a child safety program, which also helps children with illnesses worldwide. Special thanks to Federal Agent Joseph Occhipinti and his wife, Angela, for their dedication and vision.

The Italian Welfare League shares your passion and commitment to the community and children. The Italian Welfare League, one of New York's oldest Italian charities, founded in 1920, began by assisting immigrant families arriving from Italy. Since the tragedy of September 11th, the League has focused its efforts on assisting children of Italian descent who have medical problems or are suffering from emotional trauma. These youngsters are affectionately called, "I Nostri Bambini" and have been adopted into the League's family of caring members and supporters. Since 2001, the League has raised and donated over \$3.5 million to its growing family of Bambini.

Grazie NPDF for your continued support and congratulations to you and the 2026 Honorees. Sempre Avanti!

*Anna Malafronte
President*

*Ivana Giuntoli McCotter
Chairwoman*

8 East 69th Street · New York, NY 10021 · Phone 212-861-8480

www.italianwelfareleague.org

facebook.com/italianwelfareleague instagram.com/italian_welfare_league

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New York State Fraternal Order of Police Memorial Lodge 100

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NYPD ASST CHIEF CHAPLAIN

MEMORIAL LODGE 100

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THE NATIONAL POLICE DEFENSE

FOUNDATION

AND THEIR 2026 HONOREES

Hon Alina Habba

Sean M. Curran

Francis J. Russo

KellyAnne Conway

Vincent Vallelong

Kyle S. Reyes

Anthony Lordo Jr.

NEVER FORGET THE FALLEN, HONOR THEIR MEMORY

Fraternally

Rich Clifford

& the Brothers and Sisters of Memorial Lodge 100

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Policewomen's Endowment Association

**One Police Plaza
C/O Room 1407
New York, NY 10038-1403
Instagram: nypdpea**

Erica Bukowiecki - President



**The Policewomen's Endowment Association
Proudly Supports:**

**The National Police Defense Foundation
2026 Annual Awards Dinner**



**The PEA Congratulates All
Distinguished Honorees and Award Recipients**

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2026 AWARD RECIPIENTS

WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Hon. Alina Habba
Senior Advisor to U.S. Attorney General



MAN OF THE YEAR

Sean M. Curran
Director, United States Secret Service



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Francis J. Russo, Director
U.S. Customs Border Protection, (NY)



BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR

KellyAnne Conway, Founder
KALConsulting, LLC



PRESIDENTS AWARD

Sgt. Vincent Vallelong, President
NYPD Sergeant's Benevolent Association



EXCELLENCE IN MEDIA AWARD

Kyle S. Reyes, CEO
Law Enforcement Today Magazine



MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Commander Anthony Lordo, Jr.
United States Park Police (NY)



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LT. DET. JOSEPH PETROSINO ASSOCIATION IN AMERICA, INC.

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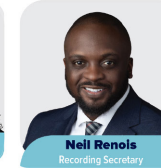
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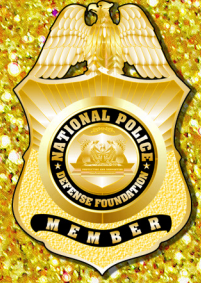




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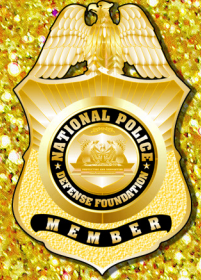
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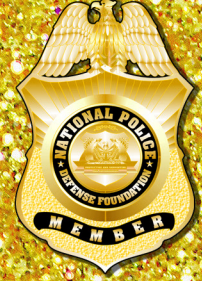
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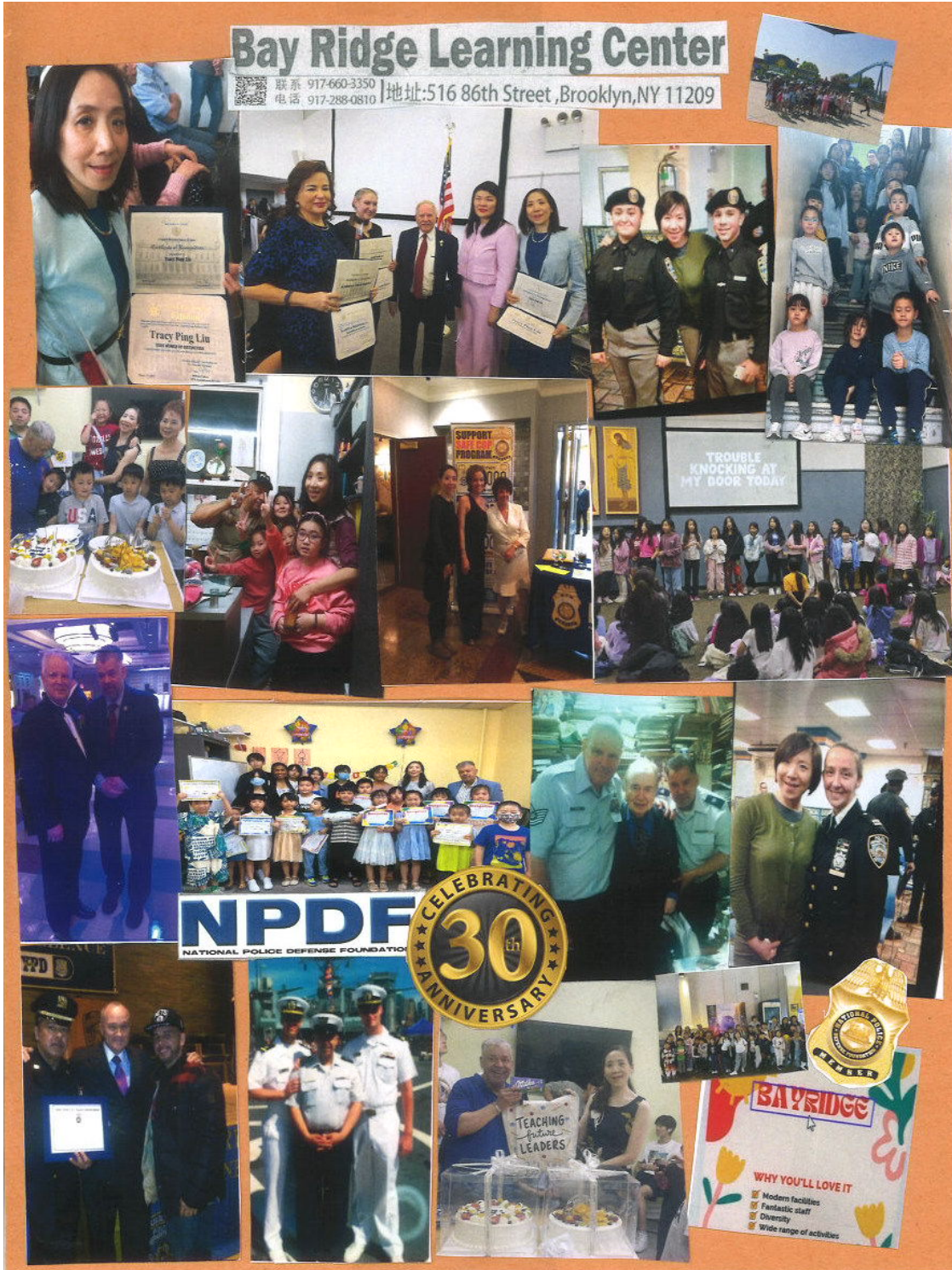
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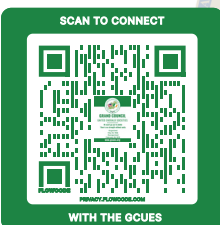
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Women of the Year



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IN HONOR OF SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

With deep gratitude and respect for those who stand watch over our nation

Sean M. Curran

Director, United States Secret Service

Your leadership stands at the front line of safeguarding our nation's highest ideals and its people. Through quiet strength and unwavering vigilance, you protect the foundation of American freedom.

Francis J. Russo

Director, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (NY)

Your lifetime of service reflects a steadfast commitment to duty, integrity, and the security of our nation. Through every challenge, your leadership has strengthened the shield that protects our homeland.

Commander Anthony Lordo, Jr.

United States Park Police (NY)

Your service embodies honor, courage, and a deep devotion to those you lead and protect. Through your dedication, you stand as a guardian of both community and country.

CLOSING BLESSING

May the Almighty bless you for your service, strengthen you in your mission, and protect you as you continue to protect this great nation.

May God always watch over the watchmen.

Rabbi Michael & Rabbi Matthew Melnicke
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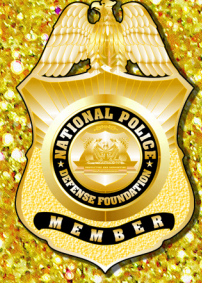
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