The word ‘happiness’ would lose its meaning if it were not balanced by sadness.”
Carl Jung

The Loss of a Great Man
On November 27, 2013, our Department lost one of its finest. Chico Sykes passed away after a long battle with serious illness. He spent almost 25 of his 27 years of employment at Minimum Security where he was well-respected and well-liked by staff and inmates alike. Chico was not only dedicated to his job, but was dedicated to the underprivileged children in his community. He recently became vice-president of the RI Pre-teen League and had started the North End 49ers football team twelve years ago. He stressed the importance of education and saw potential in children who often are ignored. He leaves behind a loving-wife, three children and a host of family and friends who will miss him dearly. May you rest in peace Chico.

Remembering John
On Monday, December 23, 2013 staff at the John J. Moran Medium Security facility held a small dedication ceremony in remembrance of Officer John Littlefield. A stone, donated by the father of Officer Vidal DeMedeiros, was placed in the floor of the Moran foyer where Officer Littlefield stood during roll calls. RIBCO First Vice President, John Lavery, presented Officer Littlefield’s mother and step-father with a plaque recognizing John as RIBCO’s 2013 Correctional Officer of the Year at Moran.

Books Beyond
The Books Beyond program, administered by Mary Louise Joseph, and assisted by Laura Nevadonski, helps to continue the bond between incarcerated parents and their children. It also encourages both the parents and children to read. The program would not be the success it is without the help of the volunteers. If you are interested in lending a hand and can spare an hour a week or once every few weeks please contact Mary Louise at 462-0608 or via e-mail at MaryLouise.Joseph@doc.ri.gov.

Northeast Regional Correctional Industries Conference
The 2013 Northeast Regional Correctional Industries Conference was held in Providence on September 22-25. Speakers included Governor Lincoln Chafee, Providence Mayor Angel Tavares, Congressman James Langevin and Director Wall. The event was very successful with, record attendance and great support from sponsors and exhibitors. During the awards banquet, Denise Boyle was presented with the Exemplary Service Award. Congratulations Denise!

NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION
The next New Employee Orientation for permanent and contract employees is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, January 13th and 14th from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mentors, volunteers and interns only need to attend on Monday, January 13th from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.