

Remembering our Heroes

We celebrate the lives of
colleagues who were lost
to us during the epidemic.



KEITH PHILLIP

**Secure Care Treatment Aide 1 • Rockland
Psychiatric Center • 33 years of service**

Staff at Rockland Psychiatric Center first became acquainted with **Keith Phillip** in the Barsa Pavilion in 1987. Often mistaken for a nurse, Mr. Phillip frequently wore a white top reminiscent of a nurse uniform.

Soon, everyone at Rockland Psychiatric Center and the Rockland Hospital Guild of became familiar with his warm and cheerful personality.

He loved to share a joke and was fond of coming up with nicknames for his coworkers. And they, in turn, bestowed on him the honorary titles of Mayor of Rockland Psychiatric Center; the Chef of the Rockland Guild – including CLUE 1, 2, and 4; the Comedian of the Grounds of RPC; and the Master of Ceremonies for retirement parties.

Mr. Phillip was a dedicated advocate for his fellow staff members at administrative meetings and learned sign language with a passion. He loved his family, enjoyed cooking, and was the proud owner of an old car that he called “The Battleship.”

“Keith Phillip, a treasure, the measure of a man,” wrote one colleague. “If God judges one by the deeds he has done, then Keith rides among the angels in Heaven. He is gone too soon but the legacy he leaves should not and cannot be erased.”



WILLIAM PLANTT

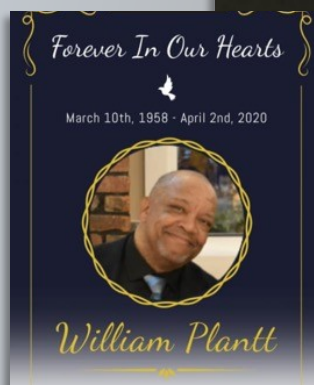
**Safety and Security Officer • Kirby Forensic Psychiatric
Center • 16 years of service**

Officer William Plantt was a member of the Kirby Forensic Psychiatric Center Safety Department for the past 16 years, joining the department in 2004.

His coworkers say that Officer Plantt always brought with him a big smile, a pleasant disposition, and a positive attitude. Eager to pitch in at work or help someone who needed assistance, Officer Plantt was always willing to talk and share life on a personal level.

Affectionately known as “Billy,” he was a wonderful husband and devoted father to his children.

“He was easygoing and a gentleman,” wrote one colleague. “A great friend and coworker. He will be missed by all of us who knew him here.”



KENNETH RICKETTS

MHTA • Kingsboro Psychiatric Center • 18 years of service

Anyone who knew **Kenneth Ricketts** knew him by his voice – one would hear him before one would see him. Mr. Ricketts was a happy man – quick with a greeting and a smile, which caused those around him to smile right back.

He knew how to make patients comfortable and laugh and how to bring out the best in them. All his coworkers came to understand that a Code Red was going to go better because of his presence.

One colleague recalled when Mr. Ricketts was able to calm and disarm a client who had brought a firearm into a residence. The client was large in stature and unpredictable in nature. Without knowing whether the gun was loaded or not, Mr. Ricketts stepped up to the moment and was able to de-escalate and disarm him without anyone being injured.

Something that many people did not know about Mr. Ricketts is how much he would check-in or do things for those in need. From helping with personal needs, checking in with coworkers who were dealing with personal issues, giving staff members rides when needed, giving energy when staff were exhausted, shopping for those in need, and always giving without ever asking for anything back.

“Kenneth Ricketts was special,” wrote one colleague, “and without a doubt was **more** than essential to all at Kingsboro.”



WILLIAM THOMAS

MHTA • Manhattan Psychiatric Center • 19 years of service

Many staff at Manhattan Psychiatric Center described **William Thomas** as “So caring to the clients, always having a smile, and so easy going.” Colleagues were always impressed with his deliberateness and calmness in the face of chaotic days.

A Dedication To Mr. Thomas

*To a wonderful man we will miss so much
Caring and kind and a special man
The people who knew him was deeply touched
He had nice thoughts and a good heart
He made the world a better place
He brought a smile to everyone's face
He had a good soul that would always be remembered
We are grateful to have him as part of our lives.*

– By **Craig S. Martin**, Senior Recreation Therapist