

Class 119 Speech

Teyana Whyte

“If you can do this job correctly, there is nothing you can do more noble with your life.” -

Anonymous

Good afternoon to the Honorable Patrick L. Carroll, the Honorable Elizabeth Bozzuto, Executive Director Tais Ericson, Director Murphy, Deputy Director Hatfield, Deputy Director Grosse, all of the Lieutenants, Judicial Branch staff, and guests. My name is Marshal Teyana Whyte and I am proud to be here this afternoon to represent Class 119!

During the Academy we have had many ups and downs as a class but we managed to come together exceedingly well. Throughout the Academy we have truly managed to establish, maintain, and practice our Branch's Pillars of Integrity, Fairness, Respect, and Professionalism, to which is resonating through all of us. With these values that we have earned, we became individuals who are empathetic, passionate, and who are proud to become public servants for the Connecticut Judicial Branch.

We practiced integrity when we spoke up after we made a mistake that was front leaning rest worthy or flutter kick worthy. We challenged each other academically and physically. We were competitive, driven, and determined. And most importantly, we were helpful, respectful, and we had fun. For example, dropping a handcuff key or even dropping a black pen that Lt. Prezioso thought looked like a handcuff key. We even admitted to saying the infamous S word when no one was aware and we addressed the class as a whole when we forgot any of our equipment and accepted whatever corrective action there was to come. Least to say, we did a lot of push-ups.

Class 119, we overcame a lot and we struggled a lot. On the first day some of us did not meet the 500-word requirement for our essays so we had to write another essay. And let's not forget the one we had to write for Lt. Baldwin because we lost to him in our mid-year physical fitness assessment.

Once, we forgot our cover so we decided to wear our cold weather caps outside to uniform inspection instead. And even though that turned out to be a very bad idea, it showed how persistent we were in trying to find a common solution to a problem. We also did extremely well during spray day, though we would all agree that we would rather not do that again. And not to brag but, we are also the class with the most pull-ups on the board! Class 119, the accomplishments we have made together as a class are astonishing! We have practiced professionalism and we grew together as a class which showed each day at the Academy.

To our instructors and lieutenants, we would like to thank you for believing in us, inspiring us, for caring, and for pushing us to great lengths! Your hard work did not go unnoticed and we saw the compassion you all showed to us and to this job.

To our supporters, family, friends, and guests, we thank you as well for helping us through our journey and for being with us today!

Lastly, to Class 119, as we depart today, I challenge us to say, "Thank you" to those who inspired us and those who encouraged us to meet and exceed our expectations. I challenge us to live with the Golden Rule, which is to treat others the way we would like to be treated as we encounter individuals coming through our facilities on a daily basis.

So, as we raise our right hand, we must vow to work diligently and honestly, and we should aim to, "do the right thing, at the right time, the right way, and for the right reason," as Lt.

Gaudet mentioned. And we must aspire to be Marshals who are always Proud, Professional, and Prepared!

Thank you!