

Walter “Joey” Holmes is retiring on May 20, 2022, after more than 28 years of service with the Vermont Department of Corrections. Joey began his DOC career at the Woodstock Community Correctional Center in 1993 after honorably serving 4 years with the United States Marine Corps. Joey is a graduate of the 2nd Vermont Correctional Academy and transferred out of the jail in 1996 to begin working as a CO III at the Brattleboro Probation & Parole Office. He was promoted to a CSS I in 2003 and later transferred to the newly formed Springfield Probation & Parole Office in 2007, where he has remained ever since.

Joey has always been very active in the union and has held different positions over the years to include Chapter President and Council. He is passionate about fighting for better pay, better benefits, and better working conditions. Joey has always attended the annual chapter meetings and rumor has it, he has won more 50/50 raffles than anyone else. He is never one to be shy with his thoughts and feelings and for that the union has only improved.

Joey is a big spirit with a big heart. He is quick to lend a hand or offer advice...even when you do not want it. He literally would help anyone at any time but bear in mind that he may not show up on time or prepared. When he does show up, you will learn a new way to do things and likely enjoy a laugh or two as he is a fun person to be around.

He has had many hats throughout his career. One of our favorites is that he has was a worm farmer. He dreams big and sees the glass as half-full. He truly is a Success Coach and has helped countless people both personally and professionally.

We will certainly miss him, and our work will likely decrease because of him. He is infamous for showing up late and to make up for that he likes to stir up business at 1600 hours and likes to involve others in his work. If he sees you sitting idle, he will certainly direct you as to what you will be doing.

McDonalds will also miss him. He likes to visit them several times a week and sometimes several times a day. He is a big fan of the breakfast sandwiches and has been known to smash an ice cream.

Joey Holmes, you truly are one of a kind and a wonderful friend, brother, and asset to VSEA, to the State of Vermont, and to the Department of Corrections. Best of luck brother! Woot Woot!!