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Board members offer condolences and express gratitude

By Carmen Villanueva-Hiles, TBCJ member



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On the morning of January 14, 2015, an offender transportation bus traveling through Ector County went through a damaged guardrail, down an embankment and collided with a moving train. Two officers and eight offenders were killed in the collision, and another officer and four offenders sustained serious injuries.

Speaking on behalf of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, I want to extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to the families of those who died in this tragic accident, as well as our hopes and prayers for a speedy recovery to those recovering from their injuries.

The Board also extends its heartfelt gratitude to officers Christopher Davis, Eligio Garcia Jr. and Jason Self for their public service, dedication and sacrifice.

This tragedy is a grim reminder that many TDCJ employees work in a hazardous environment, and potential danger can become an immediate reality. While mourning the loss of Officers Garcia and Davis, and fervently wishing Officer Self a full and complete recovery, the Texas Board of Criminal Justice also wants to once again acknowledge the public service of all agency employees. Your willingness to serve, your devotion to duty and your contributions to public safety are deeply appreciated.

As always during National Correctional Officers Week, TDCJ correctional facilities across the state will host events to recognize

and thank our dedicated employees, as well as honor and remember those who died in the line of duty. While it is important to set aside this time for special recognition, please know that you have our gratitude every day of the year.

Once again, to the families, friends and co-workers of those killed or injured in the accident, we extend our deepest sympathies, and to Officers Christopher Davis, Eligio Garcia Jr., Jason Self and all agency staff who risk their safety to protect the public, thank you! ●