

NEWS RELEASE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Commissioner Claire DeMatteis

Presented by Deputy Bureau Chief of Prisons, Paul G. Shavack, Public Information Officer

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Death of JTVCC Inmate after Lengthy Battle with Parkinson's Disease

Smyrna - On Wednesday, May 20, Carmelo J. Claudio, a 63-year-old inmate housed at the James T. Vaughn Correctional Center (JTVCC) passed away in the prison infirmary after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

Claudio was part of a minimum security housing unit that has been closely monitored for COVID symptoms since April 8, with twice daily temperature checks. As part of the monitoring, he received a proactive COVID test on April 9 that was returned negative.

Claudio was admitted to Bayhealth Hospital, Kent Campus on April 16 due to a decline in his mental status. On admission, a second COVID test was administered, and that test returned positive. Claudio did not have any respiratory symptoms but was tested as part of the hospital's standard COVID protocols.

Claudio remained at Bayhealth Hospital, Kent Campus for treatment for his altered mental status, complications of Parkinson's Disease, and COVID. A follow up COVID test administered on May 14 returned a negative result. Claudio's mental status continued to decline and following consultation between his family and healthcare professionals, he was returned to JTVCC for hospice care in the prison infirmary.

DOC had facilitated video visitation with family members in recent days.

Claudio was pronounced dead at 1:29 a.m.

Claudio, of Hockessin, Delaware, had been in DOC custody since 1987 and was serving two life sentences plus 45 years for 1st Degree Murder, 1st Degree Attempted Murder, Robbery and Conspiracy.

His body was released to the Delaware Division of Forensic Science to determine cause of death.

If you are a crime victim in need of assistance, you are encouraged to call DOC Victim Services at 302-857-5440.

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