

NEWS RELEASE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Commissioner Claire DeMatteis

Presented by Jason P. Miller, Chief of Communications and Community Relations

245 McKee Road | Dover, DE 19904 | Office: 302.857.5232 | jason.miller@delaware.gov

DOC announces non-COVID inmate death

Dover, DE -- The Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) today announced that **Joseph E. Watson**, a 61 year-old inmate from James T. Vaughn Correctional Center (JTVCC), died of cancer on Sunday, May 2.

Watson had been receiving medical treatment for metastatic lung cancer that had spread to multiple organs. He was recently discharged from an area hospital where he had been receiving treatment and was returned to JTVCC where he was placed on hospice care. Watson was pronounced dead in the JTVCC infirmary at 10:42 a.m. today, May 2.

Watson, of Elsmere, Delaware, has been in DOC custody since 2014 and was serving a 15-year sentence for Rape Second Degree of a minor and Unlawful Sexual Contact with a minor. 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.

-END-