

# BERNARD B. KERIK

**BERNARD B. KERIK** is one of the most dynamic, undisputed, controversial and accomplished leaders in law enforcement, correction, and national security in the United States. For more than thirty years, he served his country with distinction, honor, and valor, most notably as the 40th Police Commissioner of the City of New York.

Born in Newark, New Jersey, from unusually humble beginnings, at the age of 3, he was abandoned by his mother, who was beaten to death when he was 9 years old. A high school dropout, he later volunteered for the U.S. Army, earned his GED, and served in the Military Police Corps in Korea and at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. There he taught defensive tactics at the John F. Kennedy Unconventional Warfare Center to U.S. Special Forces and special operations personnel. After his military service, he spent four years in various security assignments in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In 1981, he joined the Passaic County Sheriff's Department in New Jersey, where he served as the Commander of Special Weapons and Operations and as Warden of the Passaic County Jail.

In 1986, he joined the New York City Police Department where his meteoric rise to the top was historic. Following uniformed patrol and plain-clothes assignments in Times Square, he was promoted to detective and assigned to the narcotics division's major case unit. There he earned one of the department's highest honors, the medal for valor, for a gun battle with a drug dealer who had shot and wounded his partner. In 1991, he was transferred to the U.S. Justice Department's New York Drug Enforcement Task Force, responsible for overseeing one of the most far-reaching drug investigations in New York history.

For close to six years, Mr. Kerik served as First Deputy and later Commissioner of the New York City Department of Correction. He was responsible for overseeing the New York City jail system, including Rikers Island, one of the largest and most violent jail systems in the country. Under his command, the department achieved historic reductions in inmate-on-inmate violence, and earned international recognition for violence reduction, efficiency, accountability, and correctional excellence.

In August 2000, Mr. Kerik was appointed the 40th Police Commissioner of the City of New York, responsible for 55,000 civilian and uniform personnel, and a \$3.2 billion budget. His term was marked by dramatic reductions in crime, enhanced community relations, and his unflinching leadership and oversight, as he led New York City through the devastating attacks on the World Trade Center on 9/11, overseeing the rescue, recovery and investigation. In 2001, he was one of the founding members of the Board of Trustees of the Twin Towers Fund, which raised and distributed \$216 million to over 600 families related the emergency service workers killed on

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9/11.

After retiring from the NYPD, and following the fall of Saddam Hussein, Mr. Kerik accepted a request by the White House to lead Iraq's provisional government's efforts to reconstitute the Iraqi Interior Ministry, which consisted of its national police service and intelligence, customs and immigration, and border police. He subsequently served as a national security advisor to His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan and President Bharrat Jagdeo of the Republic of Guyana. Mr. Kerik has conducted security, threat and vulnerability assessments for various heads of state, and led crime reduction, national security, and management accountability assessments for the U.S. Justice Department, Trinidad and Tobago as well as Mexico City.

Mr. Kerik is a 7th Degree Master Instructor in the martial arts, studying both Korean and Japanese Karate, and has been inducted into the *Centurion Black Belt Hall of Fame*, and received the *Joe Lewis Eternal Warrior Award*. He holds a B.S. in Social Theory, Social Structure and Change from the State University of New York (ESC), has attended the John F. Kennedy School of Government's Leadership Program for the 21st Century at Harvard University, and is the New York Times's best-selling author of "The Lost Son: A Life in Pursuit of Justice."

Mr. Kerik has served on the board of directors for Camelbak, MedAire, and TASER International, and served on the advisory board BMW's special products division, focused on their armored car line, and presently serves on the Nine Line Foundation's advisory board.

Considered one of the most decorated police commissioners in the history of the New York City Police Department, in the line of duty, he has rescued people from burning buildings, been stabbed, shot at, and saved his partner who had been wounded in a gun battle. He survived the terror attacks on 9/11, and a bomb plot in Iraq. He has been the target of numerous death threats, seized tons of cocaine and millions in drugs proceeds from the Cali Cartel, and brought cop killers, Colombian drug lords and Iraqi terrorists to justice.

His service to his country has been recognized in more than 100 awards for public and heroic service, including the New York City Police Department's Medal for Valor, plus 29 other medals for excellent and meritorious service. He has been commended for heroism by President Ronald Reagan, and has also received the DEA Administrator's Award from the U.S. Justice

Department, two Distinguished Service Awards from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, The Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and an appointment as Honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. He has served on the Terrorism Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the

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Criminal Justice Advisory Council of St. John's University in New York City, and the Academe and Policy Research, and Emergency Response Senior Advisory Committees for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

On December 3, 2004, President George W. Bush nominated Mr. Kerik as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. One week later, Mr. Kerik withdrew his name from consideration, after admitting that he failed to pay payroll tax for his children's nanny.

Five years of state and federal investigations followed. Mr. Kerik pled guilty to false statements and tax charges primarily relating to his children's nanny and discounted apartment renovations. He was sentenced to 48 months in federal prison. He surrendered to the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons at a minimum-security prison camp in Cumberland, Maryland on May 17, 2010, and was released from custody on October 15, 2013

His unparalleled achievements as New York City's Police and Correction Commissioner, and his 30-year career in the criminal justice field, coupled with his later incarceration, which included time in solitary confinement, has provided Mr. Kerik with a unique and one-of-a kind perspective into the U.S. criminal justice and prison systems, prompting him to become an advocate for criminal justice and prison reform.

After his release, and at the request of the U.S. Government Accountability Office, Mr. Kerik briefed their directors on fraud, waste, abuse and corruption within the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), and has testified before, and briefed numerous U.S. House and Senate committees, on sentencing reforms, mass incarceration, solitary confinement, programs, and the collateral consequences of felony convictions. He was one of the founding members of Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime and Incarceration, established by the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law, which consists of current and former leaders of the law enforcement community – police chiefs, sheriffs, district and state's attorneys, U.S. Attorneys, attorneys general and other leaders focused on reducing crime, while also reducing unnecessary arrests, prosecutions, and incarceration. In 2015, he published his second book, "From Jailer to Jailed: My Journey from Police and Correction Commissioner to Inmate 84888-054," which stresses his calls for national criminal justice and prison reform.

He remains an avid supporter of America's war against terror, and advocate for our nation's military, and local, state and federal law enforcement.

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## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

### **Department of Correction - City of New York (Rikers Island)**

- Averaged 133,000 annual admissions, with a daily population of 20 – 22,000 inmates
- Managed \$900 Million Annual Budget  
From 1995 – 2000
- 93% Reduction in Inmate Violence (Slashing and Stabbings)
- 72% Reduction in Serious Use of Force Incidents
- 33% Reduction in Overtime Spending
- 31% Reduction in Staff Sick Abuse
- 48% Reduction in Assaults of Staff
- 164% Increase in Searches Conducted
- 50% Increase in Weapons Seized
- Reduced medical waiting times, from up to six hours, down to one hour.
- Reduced attorney/client waiting times, from up to four hours, to under 45 minutes.
- Established TEAMS, a performance measurement and accountability system, a finalist in Harvard University's Innovations in American Government awards program
- Eliminated through compliance, close to 100 federal court ordered consent decrees

### **Police Department - City of New York**

- Managed a \$3.2 Billion Dollar Budget, and a staff of 55,000 (41,000) uniformed personnel
- 4.3% Reduction in Murder (66.7% In Mayor Giuliani's 8 Year Term)
- 12.2% Reduction in Major Felony Crimes (62.5% In Mayor Giuliani's 8 Year Term)
- 74% Reduction in Felony Shootings
- 16% Reduction in Response Times (First Decrease in 10 Years)
- 11% Increase in Gun Seizures
- 13% Reduction in Officer Shootings
- Re-Organized the Gang Division
- Revised a Stop and Frisk Policy to Flag Civil Rights Abuses
- Re-Organized the Criminal Intelligence Division, to merge NYPD and all federal intelligence databases
- Commanded the NYPD response, rescue, and investigative operations during and in the aftermath of the attacks of 9/11
- Enhanced Community Relations and Officer Morale

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## AWARDS AND HONORS:

**Police Department - City of New York** (30 medals for excellent, meritorious and heroic service)

- **1 Medal for Valor** – For acts of outstanding personal bravery intelligently performed in the line of duty at imminent personal hazard to life under circumstances evincing a disregard of personal consequences.
- **1 Honorable Mention** – For an act of extraordinary bravery intelligently performed in the line of duty at imminent and personal danger to life.
- **5 Commendations** – For an act of grave personal danger in the performance of duty.
- **10 Meritorious Police Duty** – For acts of intelligent and valuable police service demonstrating special faithfulness or perseverance, highly creditable acts of police service over a period of time.
- **13 Excellent Police Duty** – For intelligent acts materially contributing to a valuable accomplishment, or the submission of a device or method adopted to increase efficiency in an administrative or tactical procedure.
- U.S. Presidential Letter of Commendation, (Heroism - President Ronald Reagan)
- Appointed Honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Royal Order of the British Empire (CBE), by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
- The Ellis Island Medal of Honor
- Appointed Knight Commander, Military Constantinian Order of St. George
- Golden Star Leadership Award, Los Angeles, California
- Special Achievement Award, Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office, City of New York
- Man of the Year Award, Honor Legion, Police Department - City of New York
- Man of the Year Award, Detective's Endowment Association, Police Department - City of New York
- The Liberty Award, New York State Senate
- Brooklyn Law School, LELSA - "Man of the Year Award"
- DEA Administrator's Award, U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration
- Distinguished Person of the Year, NYC Correction Captains Association

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- Distinguished Service Award, New York Shields
- Distinguished Service Award, New York City Retired Detective's Association
- 2 Distinguished Service Awards, US Department of Homeland Security
- Dedication and Commitment Award, New York City Correction Officer's Association
- NYC Correction Guardians Association, President's Appreciation Award
- International Association of Chiefs of Police (member and former member of Terrorism Committee)
- Criminal Justice Advisory Board, St. John's University (Former Member)
- Detective's Endowment Association, NYPD (Member)
- Mayor's Medal of Honor (Heroism - City of Paterson, New Jersey)
- Mayor's Meritorious Commendation (Heroism - City of Passaic, New Jersey)
- Medal of Merit, New Jersey State Police Benevolent Association (PBA - Heroism)
- Medal of Valor, International Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association
- New Jersey State PBA Silver Card (Life Member)
- Honor Legion, Police Department - City of New York (Member)
- Honor Legion, State of New Jersey (Member)
- National Council of Columbia Societies in Civil Service, Honorary Member
- Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association of New York (Former Member and 2nd Vice President)
- International Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association (Member)
- Vice Chairman, Boy Scouts' Greater New York Council Law Enforcement Exploring Division
- Michael John Buczek Foundation (Former Chair - Awards Committee)
- Honorary Doctorate, Michigan State University
- Honorary Doctorate, New York Institute of Technology
- Honorary Doctorate, Manhattanville College
- Honorary Doctorate, College of New Rochelle
- Honorary Doctorate, Iona College
- President's Medal, Hunter College
- A 7th Degree Master Instructor in the Martial Arts, Korean and Japanese Karate
- The Centurion Black Belt Hall of Fame
- The Joe Lewis Eternal Warrior Award