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Gov. Christie: This Story Is A Symbol Of Hope To Those Trying To Overcome Addiction

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Gov. Christie: This Story Is A Symbol Of Hope To Those Trying To...

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Transcript:

Governor Christie: Gail Naples is here today. A New Jersey native born in Englewood and raised in Cresskill, and I'd like to tell Gayle's story because she's not going to. She will come up here and say a few things but she told me this morning, when we sat and spoke with each other, that she didn't want to look backward, she wanted to look forward and that's what today is really all about. As a young adult, Gayle committed a series of criminal offenses before she received the treatment and the support that she needed to manage her addiction. She makes no excuses for the time decades ago, when addiction led her into her mishaps with law enforcement. She accepts full responsibility for what happened, but to fully move forward she has requested that I grant her a pardon of her past crimes, and you saw that I just did. For all that she's achieved over the past three decades, the State of New Jersey can do its part to recognize Gail for her successes and her willingness to help others. Her story should be broadcast as a symbol of hope and influence to those who are trying to overcome the disease of addiction and those who are in the midst of recovery now, already. And so I'm thrilled to be here with someone who is truly a hero. Someone who has re-made their own life, and I'm happy just to have a small part in acknowledging what she's already accomplished and achieved and hope that it gives her even further inspiration to make tomorrow another day of recovery for her and for her family.

Gail Naples: It's all because of recovery, I wouldn't be here, if it wasn't for recovery. I wouldn't be standing here, if I wasn't on this path. So, today I'm a productive member of society. I own my own home, I'm employable, I travel, I live life to the fullest. I'm a daughter, a sister, a wife, a mother, a friend, a person in recovery. I've been involved with friends of recovery in Orange County, and this is an organization that helps remove the stigma of addiction, which is really important. It just speaks volumes. I've worked at the country jail since 2006, as a volunteer. I try to bring hope

to the inmates and the women who are incarcerated and are stuck in the prison of this disease, as well. I worked to get a Certificate of Good Conduct in the State of New York. I'm a notary. You know, all these things, all these positive things that are a result of recovery and moving forward one day at a time and you know. I have a life beyond my wildest dreams. It's a miracle. It is just a miracle. Thank you all. Thank you.

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