



## Cait Conley honored a Weather Underground reporter in Rockland — then couldn't name the man Cuomo pardoned for the Brinks murders

BY: Keith S. Shikowitz, Editor in Chief/Investigative Reporter



One of the most horrific events in Rockland County history happened on October 20, 1981 at 3:55 pm... The Brinks armored truck robbery. Two officers were killed in the incident.

In a Women's History Month [post](#), Cait Conley honored Lucinda Franks as a "trailblazer in American reporting" — and her own graphic acknowledged that Franks' Pulitzer-winning work centered on the Weather Underground. That makes the post harder to explain, not easier: Conley knew the connection and posted anyway, in a district where the 1981 Brinks murders are living memory.

The Brink's Robbery is sacred to us, and we dislike seeing it politicized. It appears Ms. Conley did not know Rockland County's history before entering this race. Pat Casey, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Rockland County PBA, stated this.

I became aware of the article Ms. Franks wrote after Cait Conley recognized her. I would have expected Ms. Conley to select another award-winning female journalist from the Hudson Valley, rather than one who authored a favorable article about a terrorist organization just one month after that same organization attacked Rockland County. The Hudson Valley is full of great female journalists. Choosing someone like Ms. Franks, especially while campaigning to represent Rockland County, suggests that Rockland's history is not important. Casey added.

"So it's a slap in the face to the families of the slain officers in the entirety of the district." Said a Nyack constituent

Rockland County still publicly commemorates the Brinks murders with an [annual Nyack memorial](#). [Nine people](#) associated with the Black Liberation Army and the Weather Underground were convicted in the case. For Rockland law enforcement families, this is not distant history.

[In a recorded interview](#) with the Rockland Post on April 17, 2026, Conley was asked directly whether it was appropriate to celebrate Franks' Weather Underground reporting in a district where families still gather every October to mourn. Rather than address the question, she pivoted to her military service record. When pressed further, she said she does not think "we should punish journalists for reporting on facts", ignoring the question entirely. The interviewer was not asking about punishment; he was asking about the judgment behind the post.

The sharpest moment came when the interviewer asked whether Conley agreed with Governor Cuomo's pardon of a person convicted in connection with the Brinks murders — David Gilbert, a Weather Underground member who received a pardon in 2021. Conley's response on tape: "I honestly don't know what you're referring to." She then asked the interviewer to identify the person while she looked it up. A candidate asking Rockland families for their vote did not know the name of the man pardoned for helping kill two of their officers.

<https://youtu.be/maSbRYobkF4>

Taken together — the post, the graphic, the interview, the pardon blank — this is about her judgment as a candidate. Conley has attended the Brinks memorial. She is aware of the history in the abstract. But when asked specific questions about it on camera, she did not have the answers. That is the story.

Casey also pointed out what is very important to the members of Rockland Law Enforcement and their community: that we always remember the Brink's Robbery and the families that are still affected. The Brinks Memorial serves as a constant reminder that evil came to Rockland 45 years ago, and while good men and families paid the ultimate price, their memory and sacrifice will never be forgotten or tarnished. This message is echoed annually at the memorial and scholarship event by Rockland officers such as Undersheriff Robert Van Cura, Sheriff Louis Falco, and Orangetown Lieutenant Daniel Wilson. It is disheartening to see the victims, their families, and the Rockland County community repeatedly let down—first by New York State granting parole to convicted terrorists, then by academia celebrating them, and now by a congressional candidate honoring a journalist who, just one month after the attack, published an article without once referring to the perpetrators as what they were: domestic terrorists.

The biggest question in this whole thing is, "How can she be expected to represent the district and the communities within if she doesn't even know the specifics of one of the most important events that happened in it?"

