



PRESS RELEASE

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Musgrove Proclaims May 6 – 12 as Employee Correctional Week

Governor Ronnie Musgrove has declared May 6 – 12, 2001, as the first Correctional Employee Week for the state of Mississippi. National Correctional Officer Week is an annual event that recognizes the millions of people who work in the field of corrections and are responsible for maintaining the public's safety by ensuring the safe and secure incarceration of inmates.

As part of Correctional Employee Week, the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) Community Services Division has selected employees that have gone above and beyond the call of duty to recognize during the week. In Region IV, Community Services Director Ray Hinton is that person.

Hinton has an extensive background in the law enforcement arena. From 1970 – 1972, Hinton was a member of the secret service for President Richard Nixon. Hinton left Washington, D.C., and headed back to the South to work in Petal. Hinton served as a police officer there for 4 years; he started off as a radio dispatcher, worked his way up the chain of command to lieutenant, and eventually served as interim police chief for 10 months. On May 5, 1980, Hinton began his career with MDOC as a probation and parole officer. Eventually, Hinton was promoted to a Community Work Center Director at Forrest County Community Work Center in Hattiesburg. After 5 ½ years at the community work center, Hinton began his position as Community Services Region 4 Director.

As the Community Services Director for region 4, Hinton oversees 7 community work center in the southern region of the state, including Harrison, George, Forrest, Jackson, Jefferson, Pike and Wilkinson counties. Over the years in his various positions, Hinton has witnessed a lot of changes in the field of corrections. "We've gotten real up to date equipment to work with now," Hinton said. "When I started at MDOC, we had manual typewriters. You were uptown if you had an electric one. We even used to go and get our pens and pencils from the banks."

Hinton says that most of these technological changes have occurred in just the last 8-19 years. "We're well on our way," Hinton said. In his spare time, Hinton said he used to like to fish; he just doesn't get to lately. Hinton is married to Betty Hinton and they have two sons and one daughter.

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Media Note: The Mississippi Department of Corrections has a digital photo of Ray Hinton is available to media organizations that would like a copy. If you are interested, e-mail Claire Papizan, MDOC Communications Specialist, at cpapizan@mdoc.state.ms.us or call 601.359.5689.