



PRESS RELEASE

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Four MDOC Mississippi State Penitentiary Employees Receive Inaugural Employee Recognition Awards

Jackson - The first employee recognition awards program ceremony was held this week at the Mississippi State Penitentiary (MSP). At the inaugural ceremony, four employees at MSP were recognized.

Mississippi State Penitentiary Employees that received awards for August 2001 include:

Willie Henderson	MSP Alcohol and Drug Department	Staff Employee of the Month
Luth Ann Cockroft	MSP Unit 4 – Regimented Inmate Discipline (RID)	Extra Effort Award
Tammy Griffin	MSP Central Security – Inmate Locator Department	Extra Effort Award
Jeffrey Robinson	MSP Unit 26	Extra Effort Award

MSP Superintendent Emmitt Sparkman announced the names of the award recipients while MDOC Commissioner Robert L. Johnson presented each with certificates and lapel pins. The Employee of the Month winner also received a plaque.

“We find ourselves most of the time dealing with the negative and this ceremony helps us recognize and be motivated by the many positives, that being our professional correctional staff,” said Superintendent Sparkman.

The MDOC Employee Recognition Program originated in July 2001 and August was the first month to nominate fellow MDOC employees for the following awards:

- Correctional Officer of the Month;
- Field Officer of the Month;
- Staff Employee of the Month; and
- Security Employee of the Month.

(more)

In addition, MDOC established the Heroism Award and Extra Effort Award. The Heroism Award is given to MDOC employees who go above and beyond the call of duty in heroic efforts to either save the life of an individual protect other lives from encountering life threatening situations. The Extra Effort Award is designed to recognize employees who go the extra mile or take on additional duties to assist in a project in order to get it done.

MDOC will hold awards ceremonies each month to officially recognize outstanding employees.



(From left to right) MSP Central Security, Inmate Locator Tammy Griffin, Extra Effort Award recipient, MDOC Commissioner Robert L. Johnson, Correctional Officer Luth Ann Cockroft, Extra Effort Award recipient, MSP Superintendent Emmitt Sparkman, MSP A&D Case Worker Willie Henderson, MS P Staff Employee of the Month, and Correctional Officer Jeffrey Robinson, Extra Effort Award recipient.

Mississippi State Penitentiary Service Award Recipients

Willie Henderson, Alcohol and Drug Case Manager, was nominated for the Staff Employee of the Month Award by James Wilkerson, Assistant Director of the Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program. Henderson has been providing assistance to inmates in his unit and has been overseeing the assistance to inmates at a second unit for a total caseload of 396 offenders. He manages this large caseload professionally and without complaint.

Luth Ann Cockroft, Correctional Officer IV, was nominated by Correctional Supervisor Eugene Anderson for the Extra Effort Award. Cockroft is never late to work and has reported to work everyday for the last six (6) months despite crippling arthritis and his replacement surgery. Cockroft is a motivator and challenges those around her to carry herself in an ethical and professional manner, to press beyond minor aches and pains and try to work as hard as she does.

Tammy Griffin, Correctional Inmate Locator, was nominated by her supervisor Joyce Winters for the Extra Effort Award. Griffin was diagnosed with cancer in December 2000, and has reported to work faithfully, seldom asking for time off. Griffin has had surgery due to her illness and continues treatment for cancer, but never complains and tries her best to handle her job without assistance from her co-workers. Her courage is an inspiration to all that work with her.

Jeffrey Robinson, Correctional Officer IV, was nominated by his immediate supervisor Manuel Galabiz for the Extra Effort Award. Robinson performs his duties in a professional manner and sets an excellent example for new officers and veterans on how to perform the duties of a correctional officer. Robinson is a motivator and skilled communicator who continually strives to enhance his skills on a daily basis.

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MEDIA NOTE: If you would like a digital photograph of the Service Award recipients, contact Claire Papizan at (601) 359-5689 or by email at cpapizan@mdoc.state.ms.us.