



PRESS RELEASE

MISS. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS * 723 N. PRESIDENT ST. * JACKSON, MS 39202 * (601)359-5600 * (FAX: 5738)

Date: January 18, 2002
Contact: Ken Jones
Phone: (601)359-5608
Fax: (601)359-5624

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Eleven MDOC Mississippi State Penitentiary Employees Receive Outstanding Employee Recognition Awards

Parchman – Eleven employees at the Mississippi State Penitentiary (MSP) at Parchman, Mississippi were presented Employee Service awards today by Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) Commissioner Robert L. Johnson. The employees were saluted for their loyalty and dedication to corrections' cause. "We are deeply indebted to each of you to you for your unwavering loyalty and your untiring public service here at the Mississippi State Penitentiary," said Commissioner Johnson.

Mississippi State Penitentiary employees receiving awards for December 2001 included:

Queen Childs Ruleville, MS	Correctional Officer IV, Unit 24, Area III, Property Officer	Correctional Officer of the Month
Patricia Reed Shelby, MS	Correctional Supervisor, Unit 29, Area I	Security Officer of the Month
Barry Sanders Clarksdale, MS	Correctional Case Manager MSP, Area III	Staff Employee of the Month
Billy Burchfield Parchman, MS	Communications Technician Telecommunications Dept.	Extra Effort Award
Brandon Burchfield Parchman, MS	Property Officer IV Property Office	Extra Effort Award
Thomas Seger Parchman, MS	Facilities Maintenance Manager, Maintenance Dept	Extra Effort Award

(more)

**Mississippi State Penitentiary employees
receiving awards for December 2001 continued**

Jimmie Melton Parchman, MS	Correctional Supervisor Unit 29	Extra Effort Award
Herman W. Knight Parchman, MS	Fire Safety Chief Fire Safety Department	Extra Effort Award
Carrie Gallion Shelby, MS	Correctional Officer, Central Security Control Room	Extra Effort Award
Barbara Lee Mound Bayou, MS	Branch Director II, Pre-Release Program	Extra Effort Award
James Brewer	Correctional Commander Unit 32, E - Building	Award of Excellence

The 2:00 p.m. special awards presentation ceremony was held in MSP’s Administration Building conference room. Superintendent Emmitt Sparkman announced the names of the award recipients as Corrections Commissioner Robert L. Johnson presented them with lapel pins and certificates. Additionally, plaques were presented to the recipients of the Correctional Officer of the Month, the Staff Employee of the Month, the Security Employee of the Month, and the Award of Excellence.

The Mississippi State Penitentiary (MSP), which encompasses over 16,000 acres of rich delta soil, is located in Sunflower County Mississippi. “MSP plays a key role in the overall mission of MDOC,” said prison Superintendent Emmitt Sparkman. “Our facility currently has the capacity to house 5551 prisoners.” Sparkman added, “MSP is the largest public prison in the Magnolia State and, by far, it has the most difficult assignment of the State’s three public prisons due to the size of its prison population.” MSP’s daily population averages over 5200 inmates. Commissioner Johnson congratulated the prison staff for its outstanding effort. “We are extremely proud of the nearly 1800 highly dedicated employees here at MSP,” he said. “Your assignment is difficult and you must constantly be vigilant in the name of public safety.” He added, “It is only fitting that we recognize those who daily place their lives on the line for their fellow man. Each employee is to be commended. I am extremely proud to join with Superintendent Sparkman in presenting these service awards to this outstanding group of employees.”

Queen Childs, Correctional Officer IV, of Ruleville, received the Correctional Officer of the Month award. Officer Childs, a 16-year veteran with the prison system, currently serves as property officer for Area III that includes property, warehouse and disposal. “I have the deepest admiration for Officer Childs,” said Correctional Commander Earnest Dawson, who nominated her to receive the award. “She epitomizes the ideal officer. Officer Childs is firm but fair and is always security conscious.” Since joining the ranks of the Mississippi State Penitentiary Officer Childs has climbed through the ranks and has served in a variety of roles including hall, medication, transportation and control room officer.

(more)

Patricia Reed, Correctional Supervisor, of Shelby, received the Security Employee of the Month award. A 13-year veteran with the prison system, Lieutenant Reed works at Unit 29. Area I Warden Dwight Presley, who nominated her for the service award stated, “Lieutenant Reed is untiring in her efforts to make her area of operation run more efficiently. She constantly strives to enhance her management skills.” Since her promotion to the rank of lieutenant in May of 2000, Lieutenant Reed has completed computer program training in Access and Power Point. Also she has received instruction in form creation, business proposal preparation and numerous other courses offered by MDOC Training Department. As the result of her training, she successfully designed and implemented a roster plan for Area I which enabled management to visually identify, by shift, area staff members regular days off. Lieutenant Reed’s plan subsequently facilitated management’s ability to properly deploy security post assignments. The new plan has not only resulted in a major decrease in double shifts but it also has led to a noticeable decrease in unexcused absenteeism by security.

Barry Sanders, Case Manager, of Clarksdale and a 10-year veteran with the corrections department, received the Staff Employee of the Month award. Nominated by MSP Associated Warden Stanley Flagg, Sanders was characterized as a highly professional team player that is respected by both staff and inmates alike. “Mr. Sanders’ contribution to MSP is to be highly admired,” said Deputy Warden Flagg. “Due to a regrettable recent shortage in our case management staff at Area III, Mr. Sanders regrettably has incurred a caseload nearly double the normal size for a case manager. In spite of this difficult situation, he has managed his added responsibility.” Case Manager Sanders was praised for his leadership ability and the manner by which he utilizes organizational staff and also how he employs management skills to perform Area III job assignments to assure that the area operates efficiently.

Billy Burchfield, of Parchman, was nominated by MSP superintendent Emmitt Sparkman to receive the Extra Effort award for his volunteerism efforts at the prison. Burchfield, a 6-year veteran with the prison system is a communications technician with the Telecommunication Department at MSP. In addition to his regular job, he finds time to serve as a volunteer fireman with the prison’s fire department. “Employees serving on the volunteer fire department receive no extra benefits,” said Superintendent Sparkman. “They frequently risk personal injury to serve the institution and community.” Mr. Burchfield along with the other members of the prison fire department were praised for their role in containing and bring under control a fire at Unit 29 gymnasium on the evening of November 14, 2001. Because of their quick response, property damage was minimal and the correctional facility did not have to be evacuated thus eliminating a potential threat to public safety. Superintendent Sparkman added, “It is an honor and a privilege to recognize Billy Burchfield for his spirit of volunteerism. He is a true asset to our family of dedicated workers here at MSP.

(more)

Brandon Burchfield, Property Officer IV and 6-year veteran with the prison system, was nominated to receive the Extra Effort award by MSP Superintendent Emmitt Sparkman. Mr. Burchfield, whose normal prison assignment is working with the prison's property office overseeing, identifying, and keeping track of all state owned property at the prison, serves as a volunteer fireman at the prison as a public service. "It is deeply gratifying to see an employee go beyond the call of duty in service to his fellow man," said Superintendent Sparkman. He added, "Mr. Burchfield is an exemplary employee who is willing to risk personal injury at the risk of personal injury to serve the institution and the community." Superintendent Sparkman saluted Mr. Burchfield and the prison fire department for their heroic efforts in containing a fire at Unit 29 gymnasium on the evening of November 14, 2001.

Randy Seger, Facilities Maintenance Manager, of Parchman and a 6-year veteran with MSP received an Extra Effort Award in recognition for serving as a volunteer with the prison fire department. His full time role at the prison is to provide general maintenance and upkeep to all facilities at MSP. Nominated by Superintendent Emmitt Sparkman to receive the service award, he was commended for his dedication to the prison system and for serving as a volunteer on the fire department. "Randy Seger is an outstanding employee and a valuable asset to MSP," said Superintendent Sparkman. "We owe a debt of gratitude to him for his untiring loyalty and particularly for his volunteer efforts with the fire department. He played an enormous role in helping to prevent injury and loss of property at Unit 29 gymnasium on the evening of November 14, 2001. Because of his courageous efforts along with the other dedicated members of the fire department, a potential loss of property was avoided by their dispatch in bring the fire under control."

Jimmie Melton, of Parchman, was nominated by Superintendent Emmitt Sparkman to receive the Extra Effort award for serving as a volunteer fireman with the prison fire department. Lieutenant Melton, who serves in a supervisory role at Unit 29, is a 17-year veteran with MSP. "We are indeed most fortunate to have a person with Lt. Melton's leadership skills and ability to so unselfishly volunteer his time to serve the institution and community. He receives no extra benefits for this public service. The prison system owes a great debt of appreciation to him and the other volunteers for their public service. The volunteer fire department plays an invaluable service to the institution and to the community. Mr. Melton and all other volunteer fire fighters are to be saluted for their spirit of volunteerism."

(more)

Service Awards –MSP

Page 5

January 18, 2001

Wesley Knight, of Parchman and Fire Safety Inspector at MSP, was nominated to receive the Extra Effort award for his volunteer role with the prison fire department. A 3-year employee with MSP, Knight was saluted for his role along with the other volunteer fire fighters for successful and heroic efforts in controlling a fire at Unit 29 on the evening of November 14, 2001. “Words can not express our thanks to Mr. Knight and the other members of the fire department for their quick response. Their dedicated response unquestionably prevented a potentially hazardous situation from getting out of control. Because of their action, there was minimal property damage.”

Carrie Gallion, Correctional Officer, of Shelby, who is assigned to the Central Security Control Room at MSP, received the Extra Effort award for her role in the emergency relocation of 209 offenders from the Bolivar County Correctional Facility in Cleveland. She was saluted for her dedication following a deadly tornado that struck the facility during early morning hours on Saturday, November 24, 2001. Nominated by Branch Director Marion Mason, Ms. Gallion was commended for her untiring dedication in the handling of a potentially grave situation that was of vital interest to the public’s safety. “She took the initiative to call in the appropriate staff required to handle the transfer process and transportation for the offenders that had to be relocated after the tornado struck the prison facility,” said Ms. Mason. “And, in spite of the fact that Officer Gallion had worked from midnight until 8 a.m., she remained at her post to assist in the emergency operation for an additional four and one-half hours until all 209 transfers had been typed to complete the inmates relocation.” Ms. Mason continued, “Officer Gallion is a valuable asset to the prison operation and a true team player.”

Barbara Lee, Branch Director II, of Mound Bayou and a 20-year veteran with the prison system, received the agency’s Extra Effort award for her outstanding performance as a Data Entry Operator and Counselor the Pre-Release Program at MSP. “Ms. Lee is a highly motivated leader,” said Jacqueline Parker, Director of the Pre-Release/Alcohol & Drug Treatment Program, who nominated her for the award. “She is extremely productive and a highly professional supervisor who motivates by example those with whom she works.” Ms. Lee was commended for her work in developing an instrument for tracking recidivism of offenders who complete the Pre-Release program. Her innovative project now provides recidivism data and statistics that are included in daily reports to employers, MDOC officials, and to legislators.

(more)

James Brewer, Correctional Commander of Cleveland, and a 24-year veteran with the prison system received the agency’s prestigious Award of Excellence for his work with young offenders and for his public service to the community. “Commander Brewer is truly a phenomenal person,” said Deputy Warden Streeter, who nominated Brewer for the service award. “Commander Brewer is a truly dedicated employee who is genuinely concerned for his fellow man as evidenced by the way he works with the offender population. He is fair but firm and is well respected by those he supervises.” Commander Brewer was commended for hi civic involvement. He works with scouts and is deeply active in the One Hundred Men of Bolivar County where he currently serves as chairman of the committee to promote a better life style for area youth. Additionally, he serves as president of the Headstart Parent Committee.

Other MDOC employees that reached a milestone in service years to MSP during December include:

Mississippi State Penitentiary Service Awards		
Irie Knighten	Rome	5
Jay Philley	Drew	10
Ruby Raney	Parchman	10
George Davenport	Morgan City	15
Willie Hawkins	Greenwood	15
Cordell Liddell	Carrollton	15
David Ruffin	Doddsville	15
Walter Barnes	Clarksdale	20
Nathaniel Boss	Shelby	20
Ethel Carlize	Cleveland	20
Wayne Davis	Drew	20
Delois Douglas	Parchman	20
Robbie Free	Parchman	20
Willie Gilmore	Clarksdale	20
Cornell Grant	Tutwiler	20
Barbara Hardy	Cleveland	20
James Hicks	Ruleville	20
Marie Hoskins	Ruleville	20
Robert Irons	Lambert	20
Beverly Johnson	Mound Bayou	20
James Jones	Cleveland	20
Barbara Lee	Mound Bayou	20
Otis Lee	Clarksdale	20
May Leflore	Cleveland	20
Marion Mason	Shelby	20
James Patterson	Tutwiler	20
Margaret Peterson	Parchman	20

Other employees that reached a milestone in service years to MSP during December include:

Fred Smith	Ruleville	20
Lillie Smith	Parchman	20
Charles Sledge	Clarksdale	20
Chester Stanford	Rome	20
Ezell Stanley	Greenwood	20
Brenda Thompson	Shelby	20
John Waller	Cleveland	20
Earnest Dawson	Cleveland	25

<30>

MEDIA NOTE: If you would like a digital photograph of the service award recipients, contact Bill Greenleaf at (601) 359-5646 or e-mail him at: bgreenleaf@mdoc.stste.ms.us