



PRESS RELEASE

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MDOC Region I Community Services Division Employees Receive Employee Recognition/Service Awards

Parchman – The employee recognition awards ceremony for the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) Community Services Division Region I was held today at Mississippi State Penitentiary (MSP) in Parchman, Miss. At the ceremony, three employees received employee recognition awards.

In addition, five community services employees were recognized for their years of service to MDOC. Community Services Region I employees that reached a milestone in service years during December include:

Name	Hometown	Years of Service
Nanette Trotter	Coila	5
Barbara Allen	Greenwood	15
Gregory Johnson	Rosedale	20
Johnny Johnson	Rosedale	20
Michael McKee	Marks	20

Shirley Weidman, Personnel Director for the Community Services Division, announced the names of the employees celebrating service anniversaries while Deputy Commissioner Lora Cole and Region I Community Services Director John Brinson presented each with certificates. “Thank you for your dedication, loyalty and spirit of excellence,” said Weidman. Deputy Commissioner Cole announced the names of the employees receiving recognition awards while Brinson presented each with certificates and lapel pins. The recognition award recipients are:

Bill Brand	Pontotoc County Probation & Parole Office	Staff Employee of the Month
Don Wicha	Webster County Probation & Parole Office	Extra Effort Award
Caroline Banyard	Flowood, Pike & Quitman Pre-Release Centers	Extra Effort Award

The MDOC Employee Service Award Program originated in July 2001 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.

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In addition, MDOC established the Heroism Award and Extra Effort Award. The Heroism Award is given to employees who go above and beyond the call of duty in heroic efforts to either save the life on an individual or prevent other lives from dangerous 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 ceremonies each month to officially recognize outstanding employees at all three state institutions (Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman, Miss; Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Pearl, Miss; and South Mississippi Correctional Institution in Leakesville, Miss.) and at the MDOC central office in Jackson.

Community Services Division Service Award Recipients

Bill Brand, Field Officer IV of Pontotoc, works at the Pontotoc County Probation & Parole office in Pontotoc. Field Officer III Jim Nance nominated Brand, his supervisor, for the Staff Employee of the Month Award. Brand is a past president of Mississippi Association of Professionals in Corrections and a member of Southern States Correctional Association.

“Bill Brand is the type of field officer that every employee would want to have on their team,” said Nance. “He does not complain, looks forward to the next challenge and is a forward thinker; he is always trying to anticipate what will come next.”

Don Wicha, of Eupora, is a Field Officer III at the Webster County Probation & Parole office in Eupora. Wicha also assists with training other field officers on firearms, CPR and first aid. In addition to these duties, Wicha is assigned as preliminary probation hearing officer for his area.

Wicha was nominated for the Extra Effort Award by Bill Brand, Field Officer IV. “During his career with the Department of Corrections, Don has always done his job in a fair and impartial manner and accepted and performed any extra duties asked of him,” said Brand.

Caroline Banyard, of Ruleville, is a Branch Director over the pre-release centers in Flowood, Quitman and Pike county. Banyard has been over the pre-release centers since the program began in 1997. In addition, Banyard has assisted with the pre-release program at South Mississippi Correctional Institution in Leakesville, Miss.

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MEDIA NOTE: MDOC has digital photos of award recipients. If you are interested in receiving a photo, please call Bill Greenleaf at (601) 359-5646 or e-mail him at bgreenleaf@mdoc.state.ms.us.