



PRESS RELEASE

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

Pearl – The employee recognition awards ceremony for the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) Community Services Division Region II was held today at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility (CMCF) in Pearl, Miss. At the ceremony, three employees received employee recognition awards.

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

Name	Hometown	Years of Service
Bryan Burton	Starkville	5
John Edwards	Starkville	5
Johnny Hancock	West Point	5
Cedric Jones	Shuqualak	5
Sean Smith	Lena	5
Palma Taylor	Florence	10
David Edwards	Yazoo City	15
Buford Tate	Kosciusko	20

Shirley Weidman, Personnel Director for the Community Services Division, announced the names of the employees celebrating service anniversaries while Commissioner Robert Johnson presented each with certificates. Commander Valerie Buie, acting Region II Community Services Director, announced the names of the employees receiving recognition awards. They are:

Gail Smith	Hinds County Probation & Parole Office	Field Officer of the Month
Karl Phillips	Madison County Community Work Center	Correctional Officer of the Month
Mary Dortch	Madison County Community Work Center	Extra Effort Award

Recipients were presented with certificates and lapel pins; in addition, the correctional and field officers of the month were presented with plaques. "I am delighted to be here to witness the ceremony today," said Commissioner Johnson. "I am always gratified to see so many people working so hard to accomplish our mission. I encourage you to continue your hard work."

(more)

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.

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

Gail Smith, Field Officer III of Jackson, works at the Hinds County Probation & Parole office in Jackson. Smith was nominated for the Field Officer of the Month Award by her supervisor, Steve McCraney, Field Officer IV. Smith was nominated for the award because of her “can do” attitude. Smith is a valuable employee who serves on many committees in addition to her daily job duties.

“Officer Smith’s dedication and drive to accomplish and surpass goals is paramount to the success of the Hinds County Probation & Parole Office,” said McCraney.

Karl Phillips, Correctional Officer II of Madison, works at the Madison County Community Work Center. Phillips was nominated for the Correctional Officer of the Month Award by Valerie Buie, Commander of the Madison County Community Work Center. One of the reasons Buie nominated Phillips is because of his dedication to his work; in the past two years, Phillips has never called in sick or missed a day of work.

“Officer Phillips never complains or displays a negative attitude,” said Buie. “He is always professional, open-minded and works extra hard to make sure that all tasks are completed.”

Mary Dortch, Correctional Officer II, of Yazoo City, works at the Madison County Community Work Center. Valerie Buie, Commander of the Madison County Community Work Center, nominated Dortch for the Extra Effort Award. Dortch designed a filing system for the center and makes sure that all paperwork is filed correctly.

“Officer Dortch is an outstanding worker,” said Buie. “She reports for duty on time and ready to work.”

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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.