



# PRESS RELEASE

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Date: January 15, 2001  
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## MDOC Region III Community Services Division Employees Receive Employee Recognition/Service Awards

Leakesville – The employee recognition awards ceremony for the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) Community Services Division Region III was held today at South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI) in Leakesville, Miss. At the ceremony, two employees received employee recognition awards.

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

Name	Hometown	Years of Service
David Baty	Hattiesburg	5
Bobby Johnson	Crosby	15
Walter Reed	Crosby	15
Paul Welch	Centreville	15
John Whitaker	Woodville	15

Shirley Weidman, Personnel Director for the Community Services Division, announced the names of the employees celebrating service anniversaries while Deputy Commissioner Lora Cole presented each with certificates. “Thank you for your dedication, loyalty and spirit of excellence,” said Weidman. Region III Community Services Director Constance Taylor announced the names of the employees receiving recognition awards. Recipients were presented with certificates and lapel pins. They are:

Tynia Parker	Hattiesburg Probation & Parole Office	Extra Effort Award
Bobby Welch	George County Community Work Center	Extra Effort Award

(more)

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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**

**Tynia Parker**, Correctional Services Aide II of Lumberton, works at the Hattiesburg Probation & Parole office. Parker was nominated for the Extra Effort Award by Constance Taylor, Community Services Director for Region III. Parker was nominated because of her helpful attitude; she is described as knowledgeable in addressing questions and concerns that involve Region III. “Her professionalism and organizational skills cannot be surpassed,” said Taylor.

**Bobby Welch**, of Pascagoula, is the Commander at the George County Community Work Center in Lucedale. Welch was nominated for the Extra Effort Award by Constance Taylor, Community Services Director for Region III. Taylor nominated Welch for the award because of his dedication to the American Correctional Association (ACA) accreditation process.

“He is a valuable asset to the agency with his knowledge and application towards ACA,” said Taylor. “He is vital to Region III in his willingness to motivate his employees in getting the word out about ACA.”

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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](mailto:bgreenleaf@mdoc.state.ms.us).