



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Six MDOC Mississippi State Penitentiary Employees Receive Outstanding Employee Recognition Awards

Jackson – Commissioner Robert L. Johnson presented the Mississippi Department of Corrections’ (MDOC) employee recognition awards this week to six employees at the Mississippi State Penitentiary (MSP) at Parchman, Mississippi. “I wish not only to salute today’s service award recipients, but also to extend my deep appreciation to all of our loyal dedicated men and women within the ranks of security for a job well done,” said Commissioner Johnson.

The awards presentation was part of an employee service program instituted by the agency in July 2001 to recognize exemplary employees within the MDOC. The state corrections agency currently has over 3,600 people in its employ statewide.

**Mississippi State Penitentiary employees
receiving awards for October 2001 included:**

Rosie Brown	Correctional Officer IV Unit 29, I & J Buildings	Correctional Officer of the Month
Willie Fuller	Second Watch Correctional Commander, Area III	Security Employee of the Month
Auberia Billups	Secretary Executive Area V, Wardens Office	Staff Employee of the Month
Barry Sanders	Correctional Case Manager, Area III	Extra Effort Award
Annie Henry	Correctional Case Manager, Area III	Extra Effort Award
Terry Davis	Correctional Officer III Unit 22	Heroism Award

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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 each employee with lapel pins and certificates. Additionally, plaques were presented to the Correctional Officer and the Security Employees of the Month and also to the recipient of the Heroism Award.

"The Mississippi State Penitentiary plays a key role in the overall mission of MDOC," said prison Superintendent Emmitt Sparkman. He noted that MSP was the State's largest public prison and had, by far, the most difficult role in the state prison system of providing custody, care, and supervision for the most dangerous element of the prison population. MSP's daily population averages over 5200 inmates. Commissioner Johnson expanded Superintendent Sparkman's comments at the awards presentation by adding, "We are extremely proud of the nearly 1800 highly dedicated employees at MSP who literally work around the clock in the name of public safety. It is only proper and fitting that we recognize those who daily place their lives on the line to assure a safer society for all. Each officer is to be commended. I am extremely proud to join with Superintendent Sparkman in presenting these service awards to this outstanding group of employees."

Rosie Brown, Correctional Officer IV, was nominated to receive the Correctional Officer of the Month service award by Lieutenant Helen Davis, Correctional Supervisor based upon her professional demeanor and her untiring dedication to her job. "She's an ex-military woman," said Lieutenant Davis, and "Unit 29 is most fortunate to have a person with her organizational ability and discipline. Her professional conduct garners respect from the offender population she so ably supervises. She's a top sergeant in my book." Officer Brown was also commended for her willingness to work extra shifts in order to allow another officers time off during family emergencies and sickness. She was commended for being a team player and a leader who played a vital role working with her peers in carrying out the strategic mission of MDOC consistent with principles of correctional management.

Willie Fuller, Correctional Commander, was nominated to receive Security Employee of the Month by Area III Warden Maud Irby. A 19-year veteran with MDOC, Commander Fuller was commended in her role as supervisor for always being fair and expecting her staff to always perform at their best. "Commander Fuller is a true leader," said Warden Irby. "She directly supervises security operations at Units 15, 22, 23, 28, 42, and the Mississippi Prison Industries Corporation during the second watch." Commander Fuller was commended for her efforts to seek training to improve her job skills. Following completion of a recent training course at the National Institute of Corrections in Longmont, Colorado dealing with Operational Practices for Women in Corrections, Commander Fuller returned to her job and immediately developed a schedule for all area III employees to attend the refresher training. Warden Irby stated, "We are indeed fortunate to have a person with Commander Fuller's leadership ability on MDOC's team."

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Auberia Billups, Executive Secretary for the Warden at Area V, was nominated to receive Staff Employee of the Month service award by Warden Robert Armstrong. “Ms. Billups represents all of the characteristics of an ideal employee,” said Warden Armstrong. “She is professional in dealing with staff, but her true professionalism and knowledge is most noticeable as she deals with the public; particularly with the countless daily requests made by relatives of offenders. Ms. Billups is that special kind of person who fosters a favorable public opinion of MDOC by those outside the prison system.” Ms. Billups was commended for dedication and her principal role in helping to rewrite the institutional visitation rules and regulations.

Barry Sanders, Correctional Case Manager at Area III was nominated by Associate Warden Stanley Flagg to receive to receive the Extra Effort service award. “Correctional Case Manager Sanders has played a vital role for Area III over the past 60 days,” said Associate Warden Flagg. “Through his untiring efforts, he has provided case manager services to 200 offenders per month, twice the amount normally handled by a case manager in a 60 day period.” Because of his extra effort, the Area III staff has inducted Correctional Case Manager Sanders into their honorary elite 200 club over the past two months. The 200 Club case managers provide one to two sessions for offenders per month. They must not only have a one on one meeting with the offender, but they must make entries concerning the meeting in each offender’s file, complete staff requests and make follow-ups. “Associate Warden Flagg stated, “Correctional Case Manager Sanders has played a vital role in Area III’s case management success”

Annie Henry, Correctional Case Manager at Area III, recipient of MDOC’s Extra Effort service award, was nominated by Area III Associate Warden Stanley Flagg. “Correctional Case Manager Henry is an untiring employee who is dedicated to her job,” Associate Warden Flagg stated. “Over the past three months, Case Manager Henry has averaged meeting with 200 offenders per month in Area III, associate Warden Flagg said. “Case Manager Henry often uses her personal car to ensure that inmate services will be met in a timely manner. This is the true mark of a dedicated employee.”

Terry Davis, Correctional Officer III at Unit 22, Area III, was nominated to receive MDOC’s coveted Heroism Award by Lieutenant Evelyn Johnson, Correctional Supervisor. On October 1, 2001, Officer Davis found Offender Robert Coney #47968 lying unconscious on the zone during a routine security check. Utilizing his correctional officer training, he immediately administered CPR on Offender Coney and successfully revived him. “His action showed a high degree of professionalism,” said Lieutenant Johnson. “His action was heroic. It demonstrated bravery that is to be highly commended. We are most fortunate to have a person with Officer Davis’ valor in our employ at the Mississippi State Penitentiary,” Lieutenant Johnson exclaimed!

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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