



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Betty Holifield Named Correctional Officer of the Month At South Mississippi Correctional Institution

Jackson – Deputy Commissioner of Institutions Christopher B. Epps presented the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) Correctional Employee of the Month award this week to Betty Holifield, CO IV at the South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI). The award presentation was part of an employee service program instituted by the agency in July 2001 to recognize exemplary employees within MDOC. The new program's first monthly awards were presented in August 2001.

The MDOC currently has over 3,600 people in its employ statewide. SMCI, which began operation in April 1989, currently has approximately 560 employees at the Greene County based prison.

Betty Holifield, employed by SMCI as a Correctional Officer in May 1966, has been with the prison system for five years. Her co-workers describe her as a tireless professional employee who is truly dedicated to her job. She was nominated to receive her signal award by Correctional Officer IV Edna Holmes. "She is not only a true friend to me personally, but to all of her other colleagues as well," said Officer Holmes. "She is a brave lady who is an inspiration to her fellow workers."

Officer Holifield, who is currently receiving chemotherapy treatment, which frequently has a draining effect upon her physically, has continued to work with a cheerful determination. Her other colleagues who joined in placing Officer Holifield's name in nomination for the Employee of the Month award wrote that Officer Holifield was a constant inspiration to fellow workers for her demeanor, her dedication and her professionalism.

Superintendent David Turner said in presenting the plaque to Officer Holifield, "We feel most fortunate here at SMCI to have an employee with Officer Holifield's high standard of dedication, her caring for her fellow workers and her willingness to always help her associates regardless how difficult the situation may be. She truly epitomizes the best qualities in a correctional officer."