



PRESS RELEASE

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MDOC NAMES SMCI CHAPLAIN AS 2002 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Jackson— The Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) today presented the agency's second annual Employee of the Year award to Sister Kathleen Spurlin, a 24-year veteran with MDOC. Spurlin currently works as a chaplain at the South Mississippi Correctional Institution in Leakesville. Sister Spurlin received the award at a banquet honoring more than a hundred MDOC employees.

Governor Ronnie Musgrove was the featured speaker at the event, which included a handful of state elected officials from the Senate Corrections and House Penitentiary committees, corrections employees, and family and friends of the five nominees of the Employee of the Year award. MDOC initiated the employee recognition awards program in 2001 and hosted the first Employee of the Year luncheon last year to honor employees who received employee awards during the year.

"We've got some of the best, hardest working people of the state of Mississippi working at the Department of Corrections," said Governor Musgrove. "You all have a tremendous responsibility doing all that you do with little help. Thank you for the job you do and thank you for your commitment."

In calendar year 2002 there were 116 MDOC employees who were recognized for their daily dedication and hard work in maintaining public safety through offender care, custody, control and treatment. An employee from each of the three state institutions (Central Mississippi Correctional Facility, Mississippi State Penitentiary and South Mississippi Correctional Institution), the Community Corrections Division and Central Office were selected as the Employee of the Year nominees.

The five nominees for Employee of the Year included:

- Sister Kathleen Spurlin, MDOC Employee of the Year. Spurlin, Chaplain II at the South Mississippi Correctional Institution in Leakesville, has been an employee of MDOC for 24 years. Spurlin received the Staff Employee of the Month Award for April 2002.

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- Forrest “Smitty” Jordan, American Correctional Association (ACA) manager, Central Mississippi Correctional Facility (CMCF) in Pearl. Jordan, who has been an MDOC employee for five years, received the Staff Employee of the Month Award in April 2002.
- Josephine Rogers, Accounting Auditing Technician, at the MDOC’s Central Office in Jackson. Rogers received the Staff Employee of the Month Award for February 2002. Rogers has been an MDOC employee for seven years.
- Lee McTeer, Community Corrections Associate Director, for MDOC’s Community Corrections Division Region 1. McTeer, an MDOC employee for nine years, received the Staff Employee of the Month Award in November 2002.
- Ether Ware, Sergeant, Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman. Ware received the Correctional Officer of the Month Award in April 2002. Ware has been an MDOC employee for 15 years.

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MEDIA NOTE: If you would like a digital picture of the nominees, please contact Bill Greenleaf at (601) 359-5646 or by email at bgreenleaf@mdoc.state.ms.us