



PRESS RELEASE

MISS. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS * 723 N. PRESIDENT ST. * JACKSON, MS 39202 * (601)359-5600 * (FAX: 5738)

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Contact: Claire Papizan
Phone: (601) 359-5689
Fax: (601) 359-5738

Four MDOC Region III Community Services Division Employees Receive Employee Recognition Awards

Jackson - 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 in Leakesville, Miss. At the ceremony, four employees were recognized.

Community Services Employees that received awards for February 2002 include:

Robert Minor	Hattiesburg Probation & Parole Office	Field Officer of the Month
Shirley Wooten	Hattiesburg Probation & Parole Office	Staff Employee of the Month
Larry Hill	Jackson County Community Work Center	Extra Effort Award
David Sullivan	Jackson County Community Work Center	Extra Effort Award

Region III Community Services Director Constance Taylor announced the names of the award recipients while MDOC Commissioner Robert L. Johnson and Interim Deputy Commissioner of Community Services Lora Cole presented each with a certificate and lapel pin. The field officer of the month and staff employee of the month recipients also received plaques.

“It is important to recognize the hard work and dedication of our employees in promoting public safety,” said Commissioner Johnson. “I appreciate each of you and the job you are doing for the Mississippi Department of Corrections.”

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
- Security Employee of the Month

(more)

In addition, MDOC established the Heroism Award and Extra Effort Award. The Heroism Award is given to MDOC employees who go above and beyond the call of duty in heroic efforts to either save the life of 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 holds 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

Robert Minor, of Hattiesburg, is a Field Officer III at the Hattiesburg Probation & Parole Office. Minor was nominated for the Field Officer of the Month Award by Constance Taylor, Community Services Director for Region III. Minor, who has been with MDOC for 20 years, was nominated because of his hard work, dedication and good work ethics.

“The Mississippi Department of Corrections is very fortunate to have someone who is devoted to their work and the community,” said Taylor. “He is someone who can be depended on, treats everyone with respect and is always more than willing to help.”

Shirley Wooten, of Hattiesburg, is a Correctional Services Aide I at the Hattiesburg Probation & Parole Office in Hattiesburg. Wooten was nominated for the Staff Employee of the Month Award by Charles Bunnell, Field Officer IV in Region III. Wooten was nominated because of her willingness to always go above and beyond the call of duties assigned to her. Wooten is known for volunteering to help other employees before she is even asked.

“Ms. Wooten brings a sense of enthusiasm and pride in her work,” said Bunnell. “Her attitude is always kind, but firm, when dealing with staff and offenders. Her work is efficient and always done in a cheerful manner.”

Larry Hill, of Ocean Springs is a Correctional Supervisor at the Jackson County Community Work Center in Pascagoula. Hill was nominated for an Extra Effort Award by Constance Taylor, Community Services Director for Region III. Hill was nominated because of his ability to fix anything, find anything and generally do anything he can to make the community work center run smoothly and efficiently.

“Lieutenant Hill is someone who loves his job and enjoys the work he does,” said Taylor. “He is literally the glue that holds the Jackson County Community Work Center together.”

David Sullivan, of Lucedale, is a Field Officer II at the Jackson County Probation & Parole Office in Pascagoula. Sullivan was nominated for an Extra Effort Award by Constance Taylor, Community Services Director for Region III. Sullivan was nominated because of his hard work and efforts in starting the Intensive Supervision Program (House Arrest) in Jackson County.

“Due to Officer Sullivan’s hard work and dedication to the Mississippi Department of Corrections and the agency’s goals and objectives, the Intensive Supervision Program is a complete success,” said Taylor.

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Media Note: If you would like a digital photograph of the award recipients, send an e-mail request to Bill Greenleaf at bgreenleaf@mdoc.state.ms.us or phone him at: (601) 359-5646.