



NEWS RELEASE

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MSP Superintendent Emmitt Sparkman Named Top Warden for North America and Canada

Jackson—Mississippi State Penitentiary (MSP) Superintendent Emmitt Sparkman will be honored tonight as the top superintendent in North America and Canada. Superintendent Sparkman will receive the 2001-2002 Warden of the Year Award from the North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents (NAAWS) at the American Correctional Association (ACA) *Congress of Corrections* conference banquet in Anaheim, California.

“This is a most prestigious honor and one I can truly say is deserving of Superintendent Sparkman,” said Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) Commissioner Robert L. Johnson. “Superintendent Sparkman’s leadership and management style encourages staff to strive for excellence. He inspires and motivates staff to follow agency policies and procedures, instilling in them the theory of doing the right thing when no one else is around.”

The NAAWS is a national organization comprised of wardens, superintendents, deputy wardens and senior management officials in corrections. The NAAWS received two letters of nomination supporting Superintendent Sparkman. Wackenhut Corrections Corporation nominated Sparkman for his dedication to ACA standards and his professionalism as the former warden of the Marshall County Correctional Facility in Holly Springs, Miss. MDOC Deputy Commissioner of Institutions Chris Epps nominated Sparkman for his superior work as superintendent of Mississippi’s oldest prison facility.

“Superintendent Sparkman promotes listening and active thinking and encourages staff to continually learn about their profession,” said Deputy Commissioner Epps. “His expertise and knowledge of correctional standards assisted MDOC in the accreditation of the 720 unit at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Pearl, Miss., and is also assisting in the Mississippi State Penitentiary aggressively seeking accreditation.”

“I am deeply honored by my colleagues’ recognition of my work in corrections,” said Superintendent Sparkman. “I’m also extremely appreciative of the support I receive from the leadership of the MDOC and the hard work and dedication from the staff at the Mississippi State Penitentiary.”

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Sparkman was named superintendent of the Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman, Miss., in July 2001. He is a 25-year veteran of corrections who has overseen education programs, security, and directed the daily operation of three separate maximum security institutions with populations ranging from 1,000 to 2,500 inmates. He has served as an education consultant, captain, major and adult probation officer, as well as an intake supervisor and director of a juvenile detention center.

“The state of Mississippi is certainly fortunate to have the professional we have in Superintendent Sparkman,” said Governor Musgrove. “His commitment to correctional excellence enhances public safety for all Mississippians.”

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