

Remarks – Deputy Commissioner Rick McCarty  
MDOC Employee Recognition Luncheon  
Ag Museum, March 20, 11:30 a.m.

**(After the Governor departs)**

- Good Morning.
- If you would take your seats so that we may begin our celebration. (Pause a moment)
- I am Deputy Commissioner of Administration and Finance Rick McCarty and I am honored to welcome each of you to the first ever Mississippi Department of Corrections Employee Recognition Luncheon.
- I would like to ask Chaplain Eugene Wigelsworth to come forward for the invocation.
- (Chaplain Wigelsworth delivers invocation.).
- Thank you Chaplain Wigelsworth. At this time I would like to ask our five Employee of the Year nominees and our invited guests at the head table and front of the room to lead us through the buffet lines and enjoy the meal prepared for us today by George's Catering.

**LUNCH**

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**(At approximately 12:20 – 12:30 p.m.)**

- Good Afternoon. Please, continue to enjoy your lunch.
- As we begin our Employee Recognition Awards luncheon, I would like to acknowledge a group of individuals who have assisted in this program by serving as Facility Awards Committee members:
- As I read your name, please stand:
  - Members of the Community Services Awards Committee include Brenda Blanks, John Brinson, Robert Hughes, Shirley Weidman and Ruth West.
  - Members of the South Mississippi Correctional Institutions Awards Committee include Charles Bailey, Monty Eaves, Alton Ellis, Ron McFarland and Clara Mickels.
  - Members of the Mississippi State Penitentiary Awards Committee include Willie Bays, Maud Irby, E.R. Moody, Ruth Washington and Linda Weeks.
  - Members of the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility Awards Committee include Tony Compton, Natalie Holmes, Tina Ladner, Barbara Owens and Jackie Parker.

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- Members of the Central Office Awards Committee include Ann Divine, Floyce Rochester, Denise Barnes, Helene Johnson and Patricia Dean-Wilson.
- Would you all please join me in thanking these individuals for their hard work in ensuring the Employee Recognition Awards program is celebrated at each facility each month.  
**(APPLAUSE)**
- At this time I would like to introduce to you the Deputy Commissioner of Institutions, Chris Epps. (Chris comes forward and Rick takes his seat.)

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- Thank you Deputy Commissioner McCarty.
- The Mississippi Department of Corrections is filled with highly skilled, professionals who truly believe that the work they perform daily is more than just a job....it truly is a matter of public safety.
- There were 117 MDOC employees who were recognized last year for their dedication and hard work.
- The MDOC Service Recognition Awards honors employees in seven different categories. As I call out these categories, I would like for the employees who received awards in them to please stand and remain standing until all categories have been called.
  - Correctional Officer of the Month – 16 Officers received this award in 2001.
  - Security Employee of the Month – 12 Officers above the classification of CO IV received this honor in 2001.
  - Field Officer of the Month – 4 Field Officers were recognized with this honor in 2001.
  - Staff Employee of the Month – this award was presented to 19 non-security staff members of MDOC in 2001.
  - Extra Effort Award – there were 61 honorees of this award in 2001.
  - Heroism – we have 4 MDOC staff members receive this award in 2001.
  - Award of Excellence – three members of the MDOC family received this award for their contributions to their communities.

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- Please join me in congratulating all of our 2001 Employee Recognition Award recipients.

**(APPLAUSE)**

- We are honored to have several distinguished guests with us to share in this celebration.

- From the Governor’s Office, please join me in welcoming:

Armerita Tell, Citizen and Community Services Director  
Peyton Prospere – Chief Legal Counsel  
Lee Ann Mayo – Communications Director

- From Mississippi Prison Industries, please join me in welcoming:

John Miller – President and CEO  
Larry Holly –  
Money Powell –  
Jerry Jeffress –

- From the Mississippi Senate Corrections Committee:  
(Chris – Sherry Robinson is assigned to help you determine Senators attending.)-

Senator Alice Harden  
Vice Chairman Willie Simmons

And

Senate Corrections Committee Chairman Rob Smith, who we invite at this time to come forward and say a few words.

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- (Chairman Smith speaks).
- Thank you Chairman Smith.
  - From the Mississippi House of Representatives Penitentiary Committee:

Representative Reecy Dickson  
Representative Joey Fillingane  
Representative Frances Fredericks  
Representative Robert Huddleston  
Representative Roger Ishee  
Representative Randy Mitchell  
Representative John L. Moore  
Representative Randy Pierce  
Representative Charlie Smith  
Representative Sara Richardson Thomas  
Representative Greg Ward  
Vice Chairman Linda Coleman  
and

House Penitentiary Committee Chairman Bennett Malone,  
who we invite at this time to come forward and say a few  
words.

- (Chairman Malone speaks.)
- Thank you Chairman Malone.

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- Attorney General Mike Moore wanted to join us today but is in Washington on a previously scheduled business engagement. He asked that we read the following letter to you.
- (Read Attorney General letter)
- I want to congratulate each of you for your commitment to MDOC and public safety. (Personal Comments)
- I also congratulate our five Employee of the Year nominees and introduce Interim Deputy Commissioner of Community Services – Lora Cole – to come forward and introduce our nominees.

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- Thank you Commissioner Epps.
- The Mississippi Department of Corrections today celebrates your accomplishments and hard work. Among us are five individuals that have been selected as their facilities Employee of the Year nominee.
- I would like to ask our nominees to stand as I call their names:
  - From the South Mississippi Correctional Institution, Correctional Commander Hubert Davis.

Commander Davis has been employed with MDOC for 12 years, having joined SMCI the year the facility opened in 1989. He received the Security Employee of the Month Award for December 2001. He is recognized for the professional manner in which he conducts himself and in the way he treats his staff with respect and fairness. He is also recognized as a team player that is willing to complete tasks with little or no error. Commander Davis is credited with providing leadership in efforts to achieve American Correctional Association (ACA) accreditation.

Please join me in congratulating Correctional Commander Hubert Davis as the Employee of the Year nominee for the South Mississippi Correctional Institution.



- From the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility, Correctional Officer Vivian Frazer.

Officer Frazer has been employed with the Mississippi Department of Corrections since January of 1999. She received the Correctional Officer of the Month Award for October 2001. She is recognized for her willingness to maintain security staffing levels, often volunteering to work extra shifts and working for her fellow officers who need time off to be with children and family members visiting from a distance. Officer Frazer is described as pleasant, a team player and a role model for all, particularly new officers.

Please join me in congratulating Correctional Officer Vivian Frazer as the Employee of the Year nominee for the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility

- From Central Office, Branch Director and Community Services Division Training Coordinator, Billy Sisk.

Mr. Sisk has worked with the Mississippi Department of Corrections for 13 years. He began his tenure with MDOC as a Correctional Field Officer and excelled to his current position in the Training Division. He is recognized for his willingness to “go the extra mile” – and always prepared to hit the road and visit each facility when asked. Billy always say that his job is to reduce departmental liability, that employees need the “right” training and that he is committed to providing the best training possible. He is described as personable, a professional and a problem solver.

Please join me in congratulating Branch Director II, Billy Sick as the Employee of the Year nominee for the Central Office.

- From the Community Services Division, Correctional Field Officer IV, William “Bill” Brand.

FOIV Brand has worked for the Mississippi Department of Corrections for 12 years. He received the Community Services Division Staff Employee of the Month Award for December 2001. He is referred to as a “leader” among many in the agency, often arriving well before 8:00 a.m. and staying past 5:00 p.m. He is described as someone who encourages others, lends a helping hand and supports his staff in all aspect of their job – to include covering for report or court day. Bill also serves as a Field Trainer for MDOC in the areas of Firearms, OC Gas, PPCT and First Aid/CPR.

Please join me in congratulating Field Officer IV Bill Brand as the Employee of the Year nominee for the Community Services Division.

- From the Mississippi State Penitentiary, Captain Willie Fuller.

Captain Fuller has worked for the Mississippi Department of Corrections for 19 years. She received the Security Employee of the Month Award for October 2001.

Captain Fuller is described as a demonstrated leader and manager in supervising the operations of Area III at MSP. She is also described as a motivator that inspires staff to take interest in their individual and team job performance. Captain Fuller's motto is: "Tighten up every chance you get. Let's get it right by doing the right things the right way." Her goal is to be a part of the "A" team in realizing the Mississippi State Penitentiary as an accredited facility.

Please join me in congratulating Captain Willie Fuller as the Employee of the Year nominee for the Mississippi State Penitentiary.

- At this time I would like to ask the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners to come to the stage. (While they are joining you, continue speaking.)
- MDOC is blessed to have organizations that support the work that we do.
- Mississippi Prison Industries has given MDOC 20 of the grills that you see set up throughout the room. Each of our Employee of the Year nominees will receive a grill and the remaining 15 grills we are using as door prizes. As you leave, check under your seat. If you have a sign that reads – "Congratulations from MPIC" you win one of the grills as a gift from MPIC.

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- Additionally, Reservoir Stationers has graciously donated fine writing pens to each of our Employee of the Year nominees.
- And....Attorney General Mike Moore has sent a little something to our nominees in the form of a cash award of \$250 dollars.
- We would like to present these items and more to our nominees, starting with Commander Davis. (Present plaque, pen and check)
- Correctional Officer Vivian Frazier. (Present plaque, pen and check)
- Branch Director II Billy Sisk. (Present plaque, pen and check.)
- Field Officer IV Bill Brand. (Present plaque, pen and check.)
- Captain Willie Fuller. (When Captain Fuller comes forward, make the following statement):

**Captain Fuller, for your untiring dedication, professionalism and commitment to public safety, the Mississippi Department of Corrections is pleased to name you as the MDOC Employee of the Year for 2001.**

**(Applause.....After the applause, hand her the plaque, certificate, pen and then hold up the \$1,000 check and let her know her cash award is for a little more – then state it is for one-thousand dollars.)**

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- (If Captain Fuller wants to say a few words, she can now.)
- We congratulate Captain Fuller and all of our nominees for their outstanding achievements and dedication to MDOC.
- At this time it is my honor to introduce Commissioner Robert L. Johnson.

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- Thank you Lora.
- Captain Fuller, Bill, Billy, Vivian, Hubert, Deputy Commissioners, distinguished guests and MDOC employees.
- It is said that “Happy people plan actions, they don’t plan results.”
- I can truly say that this is one room full of happy people.
- I have had the extreme honor of being able to go all across this state telling everyone who will listen to me how highly skilled, dedicated and professional the employees of the Mississippi Department of Corrections are.
- A year ago I charged Human Resource Director Cheryl Lunsford with the task of creating an Employee Recognition Awards program and then implementing it.
- Cheryl, you have done so admirably and I, along with the Deputy Commissioners and your fellow co-workers, thank you for the exceptional job you have done.
- MDOC has many accomplishments to be proud of in the two years I have had the good fortune to be Commissioner.
- We have successfully maintained compliance with the oldest federal consent decree in the state for close to two years. This is a major accomplishment.

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- We have strengthened public safety by:
  - Increasing the number of correctional officers working at our prisons;
  - Removing potential security threats to staff and the public by changing out commissary items provided to inmates;
  - Obtaining financial resources to strengthen security at our maximum-security facilities; and
  - Returned to the basics in mastering our profession.
  
- We have also:
  - Broadened our Intensive Supervision Program into all circuit court districts – an expansion due in large part to the continued commitment of our Field Officers; and
  - Provided victims of crime a voice in the correctional system.
  
- We have had our share of disagreements along the way and there have been many hard times and difficult decisions to make.
  
- I am proud of the decisions we have made with the choices we have been given...and extremely proud of our agencies commitment to be fiscally responsible.
  
- I am grateful for the Senators and Representatives who serve on the Senate Corrections and House Penitentiary committees.
  
- Yours is also a difficult task and one at times I do not envy. I appreciate your willingness to discuss issues with us and support us in our ultimate mission of providing for public safety.

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- There are tough times ahead. But I am confident that the challenges can be met.
- Your recognition as employees that promote the best in corrections through hard work, dedication, and a spirit of professionalism are proof enough that you have the skills and desire to achieve great things.
- (Parable)
- (Quote)
- Captain Fuller, congratulations on your recognition as Employee of the Year for 2001.
- Bill, Billy, Vivian and Hubert – congratulations for being recognized as the best for your respective facilities.
- To the 117 MDOC staff members who made a difference last year – my congratulations to each of you.
- Thank you and God Bless.