

COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONS

Christopher B. Epps



Commissioner of Corrections
August 2002 to Present

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Christopher B. Epps was appointed Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) by former Governor Ronnie Musgrove on August 30, 2002. He was reappointed to the post on January 13, 2004 by Governor Haley R. Barbour.

Commissioner Epps started his career with the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) in 1982 as a correctional officer at the Mississippi State Penitentiary. His extensive corrections experience with the MDOC includes: Chief of Staff, Deputy Commissioner of Institutions, Deputy Commissioner of Community Corrections, Director of Offender Services, Deputy Superintendent, Corrections Case Management Supervisor, Director of Treatment Services and Corrections Case Manager. Additionally, he has served as Disciplinary Hearing Officer/ Investigator and Director of Records for the agency.

Commissioner Epps has held various leadership positions throughout his career in corrections and in the military. Having served in the armed forces since 1984, Commissioner Epps is a commissioned officer in the Mississippi Army National Guard assigned to the Recruitment & Retention Division at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi. He is an American Corrections Association (ACA) Auditor, and is the former Chairman of the ACA Adult Standards Committee. Additionally, he serves on the Board for Alcohol Services, Mississippi Prison Industries and the Mississippi Drug Court Advisory Committee. He is a mentor with Big Brother/Big Sister of Mississippi and in June 2004, he was elected to the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections of the American Correctional Association for the term of 2004 – 2008. Other appointments consist of serving on the Council of Advisors for the College of Public Service at Jackson State University; appointment by Governor Haley Barbour as Mississippi's Interstate Compact Commissioner for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS); elected as Vice-Chairman of the Wireless Communications Commission (WCC); and a member of the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). He is the former chairman of the Victim Services Committee for the Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) and the former chairman of Workforce Development for ACA. In 2006 he was elected to ACA Nominating Committee.

Commissioner Epps list of accomplishments and awards are numerous and include being named "Professional of the Year" by the Mississippi Association of Professionals in Corrections (MAPC) 2000 and 2004; one of the "50 Most Influential African Americans in Mississippi" by BlackMississippi.com and a recipient of "The Distinguished Public Service Award" by the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), Department of Criminal Justice for his contributions to the criminal justice system. Additional honors include: an Army Commendations Medal; Army Achievement Medal with OLC; Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with OLC; National Defense Service Medal; NCO Professional Development Ribbon; Army Service Ribbon; Mississippi Medal of Efficiency; Mississippi War Medal; and the Mississippi Longevity Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC).

Commissioner Epps correctional/civilian affiliations include the American Correctional Association (ACA), Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA), Southern States Correctional Association (SSCA), and Mississippi Association of Professionals in Corrections (MAPC), the Correctional Peace Officers' Foundation (CPO), the National Guard Association of Mississippi and the National Guard Association of the United States.

A native of Tchula, MS, Commissioner Epps is a graduate of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia with a Master of Arts degree in Guidance and Counseling. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Mississippi Valley State University. He is married to Catherlean Sanders Epps and they have two sons, Chris and Tracey.