



NEWS RELEASE

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Christopher B. Epps' Name Placed In Nomination By Mississippi Governor Ronnie Musgrove To Become Commissioner Of Corrections

Jackson – Governor Ronnie Musgrove has submitted Christopher B. Epps' name in nomination to the Mississippi Senate for confirmation as Commissioner of Corrections for the state's prison system. State law mandates that confirmation of the Governor's nomination for commissioner shall be made with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Epps, a native of Holmes County is married and the father of two sons. He is a graduate of Mississippi Valley State University and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and a Master degree in Guidance and Counseling from Liberty University. He is an 18-year veteran in the United States Army Forces and currently holds the rank of Major.

Epps joined the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) in 1982 as a correctional officer at the Mississippi State Penitentiary. Throughout the course of his 20-years tenure with the prison system, he has held a wide range of responsible positions including: disciplinary hearing officer; case manager; case manager supervisor; Director of Treatment; Deputy Superintendent - Chief of Security; Director of Offender Services; Chief Records Officer; Chief of Staff; Deputy Commissioner of Community Corrections; Deputy Commissioner of Institutions and since September 2002, Commissioner of Corrections.

Epps, a veteran corrections practitioner, is heavily involved in professional associations. He holds active memberships in the National Association of Probation Executives, State Executives Probation and Parole, the Southern States Correctional Association, the Mississippi Association of Professionals in Corrections, the Association of State Correctional Administrators and the American Correctional Association. Since 2000, Epps has played a lead role in MDOC's first time effort to gain full accreditation by the American Correctional Association. MDOC has passed the 60% mark of its goal to reach system wide accreditation. The agency has targeted October 2003 to attain full accreditation of all of its facilities.