



PRESS RELEASE

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

Date: September 25, 2001
Contact: Claire Papizan
Phone: (601) 359-5689
Fax: (601) 359-5738

Six MDOC Community Services Division Employees Receive Inaugural Employee Recognition Awards

Jackson - The first employee recognition awards program ceremony was held today at the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) central office for the Community Services Division. At the inaugural ceremony, six employees in the Community Services Division were recognized.

Community Services Employees that received awards for August 2001 include:

Jim Nance	Union County Probation & Parole Office	Field Officer of the Month
Joann Johnson	Yazoo County Community Work Center	Staff Employee of the Month
Greg Ferrell	Copiah County Probation & Parole Office	Extra Effort Award
Beatrice Griffin	Yazoo County Community Work Center	Extra Effort Award
Jim Nance	Leake County Probation & Parole Office	Extra Effort Award
John May	Yazoo County Community Work Center	Heroism Award

Interim Deputy Commissioner of Community Services Lora Cole announced the names of the award recipients while MDOC Commissioner Robert L. Johnson presented each with certificates and lapel pins. The Field Officer of the Month, Employee of the Month and Heroism Award winners also received plaques.

“The Community Services Division is filled with people with lots of enthusiasm and intelligence – the cream of the crop,” said Interim Deputy Commissioner Cole.

(more)

The MDOC Employee Recognition Program originated in July 2001 and August was the first month to nominate fellow MDOC employees for the following awards:

- Correctional Officer of the Month;
- Field Officer of the Month;
- Staff Employee of the Month; and
- Security Employee of the Month.

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 plans to host an employee recognition awards ceremony each month to officially recognize outstanding employees. Ceremonies are scheduled 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

Jim Nance, Correctional Field Officer III, works at the Tupelo Probation & Parole office in Union County. Nance was nominated for the Field Officer of the Month Award by his immediate supervisor, Bill Brand. Nance is currently supervising caseloads in two counties and also court terms. He is very professional, polite and remains positive in his work. Nance was recently awarded the Line Officer of the Year Award at the Mississippi Association of Professionals in Corrections conference in Vicksburg, Miss.

Joann Johnson, Correctional Services Aide I, works at the Yazoo County Community Work Center. Johnson was nominated for the Staff Employee of the Month Award by her supervisor, Commander Walter Lockhart. Johnson has been described as a “go getter” and performs her duties in a most proficient manner. Johnson is professional and an “A-1” team player.

Greg Ferrell, Correctional Field Officer III, works at the Copiah County Probation & Parole Office under the supervision of Ronnie Brown. Ferrell was nominated by Brown for the Extra Effort Award because of his willingness and capability to handle the training needs for 21 officers in his area in addition to his regular duties as a probation/parole officer.

Beatrice Griffin, Correctional Officer II, works at the Yazoo County Community Work Center in Yazoo City. Griffin was nominated for the Extra Effort Award by her immediate supervisor, Commander Walther Lockhart. Griffin was nominated for this award because of her zeal in taking on the extra task of being the “clothing officer.” Griffin ensures that the offenders are clothed according to the policy and procedures of MDOC.

(more)

Jim Nance, Correctional Field Officer III, works at the Tupelo Probation & Parole office in Union County. Nance was nominated for the Extra Effort Award by his supervisor, Bill Brand. Nance was nominated for this award because of his eagerness and willingness to go the “extra” mile to help his fellow man in time of need. Nance assists with computer questions and even assisted the county in a tornado rescue effort. Nance is very professional, polite and has a positive attitude.

John May, Correctional Officer IV, works at the Yazoo County Community Work Center. May was nominated for the Heroism Award by his supervisor, Commander Walter Lockhart. May was nominated for this award because of his concern, dedication and quick-thinking ability while on the job in an emergency situation regarding the health of an offender.

###

MEDIA NOTE: If you would like a digital photograph of the Service Award recipients, contact Claire Papizan at (601) 359-5689 or by email at cpapizan@mdoc.state.ms.us.



Community Services Division Service Awards Recipients

Front row seated left to right: Janet Williams, Extra Effort Award; Joann Johnson, Staff Employee of the Month; and Beatrice Griffin, Extra Effort Award.

Standing left to right: John May, Heroism Award; MDOC Commissioner Robert L. Johnson; Greg Ferrell, Extra Effort Award; and Jim Nance, Field Officer of the Month and Extra Effort Award