



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **MDOC RECOGNIZES MISSISSIPPI STATE PENITENTIARY OFFICER AS EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**

*Jackson*— The Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) today presented Captain Willie Fuller, a 19-year veteran with the Mississippi State Penitentiary, the state corrections agency's signal "Employee of the Year Award." Captain Fuller received the award at a banquet honoring more than a hundred MDOC employees.

"I am deeply honored to have received this recognition and tell everyone that is a good thing to work for the Mississippi Department of Corrections," said Captain Fuller. "I have held steadfast to a personal philosophy of never giving up and always doing the very best you can. This special award only serves to further inspire me to expand my efforts to serve the public by providing for their safety and wherever possible to help train others entering this challenging profession."

State elected officials from the Senate Corrections and House Penitentiary committees, representatives of Governor Ronnie Musgrove's office, corrections employees and family and friends were in attendance at the special recognition program as the names of the five nominees for the inaugural Employee of the Year award were announced. The awards presentation is part of MDOC's Employee Recognition Awards program initiated in July 2001, with the first awards presented in August 2001.

"I have had the extreme honor of being able to go all across the state of Mississippi telling everyone who will listen how highly skilled, dedicated and professional the employees of the Mississippi Department of Corrections are," said Commissioner Robert L. Johnson. "The public can take great pride in the state employees of the Mississippi Department of Corrections who daily place themselves between danger and public safety."

(more)

In calendar year 2001 there were 117 MDOC employees who were recognized for their daily dedication and hard work in maintaining public safety through offender care, custody, control and treatment. One employee from the three state institutions (Central Mississippi Correctional Facility, Mississippi State Penitentiary and South Mississippi Correctional Institution), the Community Services Division and Central Office were selected as the facilities Employee of the Year nominee.

The five nominees for Employee of the Year included:

- Captain Willie Fuller, MDOC Employee of the Year. Captain Fuller is a 19-year veteran with the Mississippi State Penitentiary (MSP). 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.
- Commander Hubert Davis of the South Mississippi Correctional Institution and a 2-year veteran with the prison system. He received the Security Employee of the Month Award in December 2001. He was recognized for the professional manner in which he conducts himself and in the way he treats his staff with respect and fairness.
- Officer Vivian Frazer of the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility who received the October 2001 Correctional Officer of the Month Award. Frazer a three-year security employee was recognized for her willingness to maintain security-staffing levels, often volunteering to work extra shifts for her fellow officers who need time off to be with children and family members.
- Branch Director II Billy Sisk, a 13-year year veteran with MDOC who received the December 2001 Central Office Staff Employee of the Year Award. Sisk, began his career as a Field Officer before advancing to his current position in MDOC's Training Department. He was recognized for his willingness to "go the extra mile" and for being committed to providing the best training possible for staff.
- Bill Brand Field Officer IV with the Community Services Division, a 12-year veteran with MDOC received the Community Services Division's Staff Employee of the Month in December 2001. Nominated in agency wide competition to receive the 2001 Staff Employee of the Year Award, He was described as someone who encourages others, lends a helping hand and supports his staff in all aspects of their job.

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**MEDIA NOTE:** If you would like a digital picture of the nominees, please contact Bill Greenleaf at (601) 359-5646 or by email at [bgreenleaf@mdoc.state.ms.us](mailto:bgreenleaf@mdoc.state.ms.us)