



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Fourteen Mississippi State Penitentiary Employees
Receive Outstanding Recognition Awards**

Parchman – Fourteen Mississippi State Penitentiary (MSP) employees at Parchman, Mississippi were presented Employee Service awards Tuesday, April 2, by Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) Deputy Commissioner Christopher Epps. The employees were saluted for their loyalty and dedication to best correctional practices. “We are deeply indebted to each of you for your dedication and your untiring public service here at the Mississippi State Penitentiary,” said Epps.

**Mississippi State Penitentiary employees
receiving awards for April 2002 included:**

Annie Henry Cleveland, MS	Case Manager MSP – Area III	Staff Employee of the Month
Barbara Brown Sumner, MS	Correctional Officer IV Unit 30, Area II	Correctional Employee Of the Month
Bill McGarrity Parchman, MS	Correctional CA III MSP, Grounds Upkeep	Security Employee of the Month
Shirley Harris Shelby, MS	Correctional Officer IV Unit 27 – Hall Officer	Extra Effort Award
Richard Pennington Sumner, MS	Correctional Law Library Director - MSP	Extra Effort Award
Mitchell Ollie Schlater, MS	Correctional Officer IV Unit 30, Area II - MSP	Extra Effort Award
Doris Hudson Ruleville, MS	Correctional Case Manager Units 22 & 23 - MSP	Extra Effort Award

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**Mississippi State Penitentiary employees
receiving awards for April 20021 continued**

Mike Corbin Parchman, MS	Director of Education & Vocation – MSP	Extra Effort Award
Michael Kelly Parchman, MS	Unit 29 Administrator Mississippi State Penitentiary	Extra Effort Award
Charles Winters Parchman, MS	ACA Accreditation Manager Mississippi State Penitentiary	Extra Effort Award
Gene Rowzee Parchman, MS	Food Services Director Mississippi State Penitentiary	Extra Effort Award
Carole Kimble Cleveland, MS	Pre-Release Counselor Unit 25 - MSP	Extra Effort Award
Anthony Cox Clarksdale, MS	Branch Director II, Pre-Release Program	Extra Effort Award
Curtis Banks Ruleville, MS	Correctional Officer IV Area IV - Unit 32 - D	Heroism Award

The 2:00 p.m. special awards presentation ceremony was held in MSP's Spiritual Life Center. Superintendent Emmitt Sparkman announced the names of the award recipients as MDOC Deputy Commissioner of Institutions Chris Epps presented the employees with lapel pins and certificates. Additionally, plaques were presented to the Correctional Officer of the Month, the Staff Employee of the Month, the Security Employee of the Month, and the Heroism Award recipients.

"I'm proud of everyone who received awards here today," said Deputy Commissioner Epps. "I wish to congratulate you for this recognition and to salute you not only for your dedicated service but also for a job well done." Epps added, "I'm strongly supportive of this awards program. I feel that these presentations serve as a vehicle for the administration to properly recognize our employees for their outstanding performance and dedication."

The Mississippi State Penitentiary (MSP), the state's largest prison, is located in Sunflower County Mississippi. It has the capacity to house 5551 prisoners. "Our prison facility plays a key role in the overall mission of MDOC," said MSP Superintendent Emmitt Sparkman. "It houses all custody levels of prisoners including Death Row," Sparkman added. "MSP has the most difficult assignment of the state's three public prisons due to both its size and the custody level of its prison population which averages approximately 5200 prisoners on a daily basis."

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Annie Henry, Case Manager at Unit 24 Extension and a resident of Cleveland, received the Staff Employee of the Month award at MSP. Henry, a 14-year veteran with the prison system, currently provides case management services to over 200 offenders at the Mississippi State Penitentiary. She serves as chairperson of the unit management team. Nominated by Associate Warden Stanley Flagg, Henry was described as being a highly motivated employee who works hard to get the job done. “She’s professional in every sense of the word,” said Flagg. “She is respected by both staff and inmates alike.”

Barbara Brown, Correctional Officer IV, of Sumner, a 7-year veteran with the prison system, received the Correctional Employee of the Month recognition award. Nominated by Correctional Supervisor Stella Johnson, Brown was characterized as being unwavering in her dedication to her job. Brown serves as kitchen officer at Unit 30. “Officer Brown is highly vigilant,” said Johnson. “She assures that the serving area is maintained clean, every offender is served his proper portion of food, and that meals meet temperature regulations.” In addition to her primary role as kitchen officer, she assumes assignments as medication officer, transportation officer, control room officer, and, on occasion, she substitutes as a tower officer and security and escort officer. “She is a joyful person with whom to work,” said Johnson. “She communicates well with others and equally important is a team player!”

Bill McGarrity, of Parchman, a 24-year veteran with MSP received the Security Employee of the Year recognition award. McGarrity, Director of Grounds Upkeep at MSP, was nominated by Correctional Administrator John Rogers. He was saluted for his untiring service with MSP. “Under his expert leadership, the grounds at the prison have been transformed into a thing of beauty,” said Rogers. “The employees at MSP are deeply in debt to Captain McGarrity for his dedication. Thanks to Captain McGarrity’s appreciation of the architectural value of an old barn, passersby today enjoy the fruits of his labor. The barn which was once an eyesore now serves as the headquarters for the Grounds Upkeep Department.” Captain McGarrity supervises offender work crews in the grounds beautification program in non-security areas at the prison

Shirley Harris, of Shelby, a 12-year veteran with MSP, who serves as Hall Officer at Unit 27, received the agency’s Extra Effort recognition award. Harris was selected to receive the Extra Effort employee recognition award for her added temporary role as acting Unit Administrator at Unit 27 from the end of 2001 through February 2002. Officer Harris was assigned her added management responsibility in the absence of the Administrator. “Harris assumed her new challenge with honor, dedication, and devotion,” said Lieutenant Gregory Neely, who nominated her for the employee recognition award. “While under her supervision, Unit 27 operated in a smooth and efficient manner,” Lieutenant Neely added. Officer Harris was commended for her outstanding management skills. She was further praised for her management skills in properly addressing administrative decisions in the day-to-day operation, paper work, and the needs of staff throughout the time frame of her temporary role as acting Unit Administrator at Unit 27.

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Richard Pennington, Correctional Law Library Director, of Sumner, was nominated to receive the Extra Effort recognition award by Gia McLeod, Director of MDOC's Inmate Legal Assistance Program (ILAP). Prior to his employment to serve as MSP's law library director, Pennington provided legal assistance service under contract as acting Director of MSP's Correctional Law Library. In addition to his role as law library director, Pennington also provides legal assistance as Technician of Area IV at MSP. "Pennington is a very dedicated employee," said McLeod. "He exhibits a willingness to go over and above his duties in working in his dual role responsibility." Pennington was commended for providing legal services to offenders. He was further saluted for serving as a notary for case managers.

Dorris Hudson, Correctional Case Manager, of Ruleville and a 4-year veteran with MSP received an Extra Effort Award in recognition for service as a case manager for Units 22 & 23 at MSP. Nominated by Associate Warden Stanley Flagg, Hudson was saluted for her untiring dedication. "Hudson is undaunted by her large offender caseload," said Flagg. "During the last 90 days, she has provided one-on-one sessions to over 200 prisoners each month. In February she provided case management assistance to 253 inmates. This is an outstanding example of dedication to her job." Case Manager Hudson was further commended for her loyalty to corrections, for playing a helpful role to elevate inmate morale, and for helping make MSP's Area III one of the most productive case management teams.

Mitchell Ollie, of Schlater, a 14-year employee with the prison system, was nominated by Correctional Supervisor Al Bass to receive the Extra Effort award. Officer Ollie, who is assigned to Unit 30, provides security at the facility serving as officer in charge on the third watch. "Ollie exhibits the ultimate traits of a correctional officer in the truest sense of the word," said Bass. "He is dedicated, thorough and vigilant. He has been affectionately dubbed as 'Blood Hound' at Unit 30 for his close attention to security and for his untiring efforts to maintain a safe environment there for both inmates and staff alike. He is firm but always fair in his supervision of offenders, although he has demonstrated that he will not condone any disorder by prisoners." Ollie was commended for his professional influence in the general overall operation of the unit and for his management skills by keeping the unit clean and orderly. He was further saluted for his ability to locate and eliminate contraband discovered during unit shakedowns, a vital concern of all corrections officials to maintaining a safe prison environment.

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Other employees nominated by Deputy Commissioner of Institutions Christopher Epps to receive Extra Effort awards in recognition of their valuable contributions to the cause of corrections were:

Mike Corbin, of Parchman, Director of Education & Vocation, 31- year veteran
Michael Kelly, of Parchman, Unit 29 Correctional Administrator, 17-year veteran
Charles Winters, of Parchman ACA Accreditation Manager, 27-year veteran
Gene Rowzee, of Parchman, Food Services Director, 12-year veteran
Carole Kimble, of Cleveland, Pre-Release Counselor, 12-year veteran, and
Anthony Cox, Correctional Administrator, Unit 29, an 18-year veteran at MSP

“Following our agency’s announced plans to seek full American Correctional Association (ACA) accreditation over a year ago, I formed a traveling audit team of highly knowledgeable veteran employees at MSP. Their job was to assist MDOC’s agency wide efforts to reach full accreditation by September 2002,” said Deputy Commissioner Epps. “Because of this team’s deep loyalty to the corrections’ cause, outstanding progress has been made toward the fruition of our goal to gain agency wide accreditation. The team has conducted five audits at different facilities to ensure that they are in compliance with agency policies and procedures. I’m confident that we will meet our September 2002 goal on schedule.”

The audit team was commended for their invaluable assistance in the ACA effort and was saluted for their many long hours of hard work spent away from their jobs and homes to make the agency’s goal a reality.

Curtis Banks, of Ruleville, third watch security officer at MSP Unit 32 D Building received the Heroism Award for saving the life of an inmate Lorenzo Golden on the evening of February 14. Banks, a 17-year veteran with the prison system, was nominated for the recognition by Correctional Administrator Earnest McGee. “Officer Banks was confronted with making a difficult value judgement decision on the proper course of action to save the life of an inmate lying prostrate on his cell floor gasping for breath,” said McGee. Banks quickly surveyed the situation and resorted to the first aid instruction he had received during his correctional officer training years earlier. He quickly applied the Heimlich Maneuver. After several thrusts, he successfully dislodged the food from inmate Golden’s throat and subsequently saved his life. “Our agency is extremely proud of Officer Banks,” McGee continued. “Banks’ heroic act is a testament to his dedication to his job and his life-saving response reflects well on the preparatory training MDOC correctional officers receive in dealing with these kind of emergencies.”

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Other MDOC employees that reached a milestone in service years to MSP during March:

Mississippi State Penitentiary Service Awards		
NAME	TOWN	YEARS
Clyde Davis	Drew	5
Ronald Drungole	Tutwiler	5
Tnaja Grainger	Clarksdale	5
Johnnie Grant	Greenwood	5
Lottie Johnson	Clarksdale	5
Althea Lewis	Shelby	5
Brinda Mabry	Schlater	5
Tracy Meredith	Sumner	5
Willie Pickett	Webb	5
Mildred Rome	Ruleville	5
Laquita Sandifer	Drew	5
Shelly Scallions	Charleston	5
Linda Smith	Drew	5
Tammie Strickland	Itta Bena	5
Hillard Wade	Greenville	5
Dwyla Wiggins	Rosedale	5
Patricia Williams	Parchman	5
Brenda Willis	Drew	5
Jeffery Carver	Grenada	10
Sheriona Collins	Friars Point	10
Winfred Hill	Glendora	10
Jane Holman	Grenwood	10
Jimmy Hunt	Parchman	10
Louis Jamison	Marks	10
Robert Tidwell	Holcomb	10
Robert Tolbert	Ruleville	10
Kathy Archie	Greenwood	15
Al Bass	Cleveland	15
Angela Burnice	Cleveland	15
Vickie Collins	Clarksdale	15
Dexter Epps	Clarksdale	15
Manuel Galabiz	Duncan	15
Emma Hawkins	Greenwood	15
Linda Jones	Greenwood	15
Leonard Lindell	Clarksdale	15
Bonnie Pyron	Parchman	15

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Other employees that reached a milestone in service years to MSP during March include:

NAME	TOWN	YEARS
Gail Riley	Cleveland	15
Martin Rutledge	Parchman	15
Robert Scott	Shelby	15
Shirley Thomas	Rome	15
Arletha Williams	Tutwiler	15
Vincent Holmes	Cleveland	20
Jacqueline Parker	Cleveland	20
Taylor Williams	Cleveland	20
Sylvia Cole	Parchman	25

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MEDIA NOTE: If you would like a digital photograph of the service award recipients, contact Kent Crocker at (601) 359-5646 or e-mail him at: kcrocker@mdoc.state.ms.us.