



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MDOC honors, remembers correctional officers killed in line of duty

JACKSON – The Mississippi Department of Corrections paid respects and remembered Tuesday the ultimate sacrifices made by nine correctional officers killed in the line of duty throughout the state’s history.

MDOC held its fifth annual Officer Memorial Service on May 9 at the Youthful Offender Unit Visitation Center at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Rankin County. In addition to the nine officers killed, the service included 11 employees who passed away since last year’s program while actively employed with the agency. The service included a reading of the officers’ names as roses were placed in empty chairs, a memorial table, a 21-gun salute, and “Taps” played on bagpipes.

Commissioner Burl Cain offered his support for the work and dedication of the agency’s officers for each day that they start a shift. “Our officers work hard in watching our inmates and carrying out the duties they’re assigned to. We are doing everything we can to make our prisons better places to work and for our officers to go home safely, but we always remember those who didn’t as a result of making the ultimate sacrifice in their service to our state.”

The Officer Memorial Service was part of an ongoing schedule of activities across MDOC commemorating National Corrections Officers Week, which President Ronald Reagan established in 1984 and is observed each May. “Our correctional officers are on the front lines every day and they are part of the foundation of what we try to do in helping to rehabilitate the inmates. We appreciate everything they do for us,” Commissioner Cain said.

Attorney General Lynn Fitch served as the keynote speaker for the Officer Memorial Service as she offered thanks for the late officers’ service and appreciation for the work done by current correctional officers and other MDOC personnel.

“It’s an honor and privilege that we celebrate the men and women who work in corrections. They certainly embody truth and justice and they’re human to the core. Every officer here, everyone involved, you give of yourself, you give of your time, you give of your talents to make

a positive change,” Fitch said. “It’s a unique honor to be here to pay tribute to those who we’ve lost. We think of them every day and we think about all of their families and friends. They made the ultimate sacrifice.”

Media note:

<https://www.facebook.com/MississippiDepartmentOfCorrections/>
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MDOC Honor Guard saluting fallen officers



Roses were placed in each chair honoring officers



Commissioner Burl Cain (seated) with Attorney General Lynn Fitch, guest speaker



Memorial Table symbolizing sacrifice