



## **IN MEMORY OF FALLEN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES LOST IN THE LAST YEAR**

During Correctional Officers Week, the Mississippi Department of Corrections remembers its officers killed in the line of duty and employees who died in the last year.

The Officer Memorial Service was held in the Youthful Offender Unit Visitation Center at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Pearl on May 7.

U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge James E. Graves, the guest speaker, spoke of the importance of remembering the officers for their service. Graves told the audience that while we remember the anger and horror felt over the loss of the officers, we should reflect that "life is a gift and we should thank the giver and make the most of the gifts." "Lastly, we should renew our commitment to become more loving, more tolerant and even more responsible citizens in our democracy," he said.

Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration Derrick Garner read the names of nine officers killed in the line of duty: Iris Jannett Smith (2015), Sidney Harrison (1995), Argentra Cotton (1989), James Amos Meeks (1972), Ammie Bogue Kendall (1963), Chester J. Tullos (1933), John D. Duvall (1928), John O. Lynch (1919), and J.G. Smith (1905).

Deputy Commissioner for Institutions Jeworski Mallett read the names of 14 employees who died since last year: Kevin Gamble, Margaret Addison, Patricia Reed, Dr. William Brazier, Angela Gipson, Doyle Cole, Janet Silas, Scott Swart, Marilyn Philpot, Alfreda Outlaw, Nathan Pitts, Shannon Covington, Barbara Robinson, and Tiara Nicole Hill.

Some family members accepted roses in memory of their loved ones.

In addition to the presentation of roses, Mississippi Correctional Institute for Women Superintendent Tereda Hairston recognized the Memorial Table. Also, the gun firing salutes and the performance of "Taps" by Zoe Brumfield on bagpipes completed the program.



*A room full of MDOC employees and guests gathered for the Officer Memorial Service which resumed in 2018 and held annually (except 2020).*



*The MDOC Honor Guard posted and retired the colors.*



*Carmela States provided the National Anthem.*



*Dr. Beth Masters provided the invocation.*



*Chief of Staff Dr. Mary Ann Ross presided over the event on behalf of the Commissioner.*



*U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge James E. Graves, the guest speaker, spoke of the importance of remembering the officers for their service.*



*The MDOC Honor Guard presented roses and salutes to the honored officers remembered for their service to the agency and the state.*



*The Memorial Table included symbolic remembrances of the honored officers and other employees. This table is our way of symbolizing the fact that members of our profession of corrections are missing from our ranks. They are unable to be with us this morning and so we remember them.*

**This Table, it is small and set for one, symbolizing the frailty of one officer.**

**The Table Cloth is White, symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to the call of duty.**

**The Single Rose displayed in a vase reminds us of the families and friends of our officers.**

**The Yellow Ribbon represents loyalty in waiting for those who are serving.**

**The Place Setting, alone with no friends or family to dine with.**

**A Slice of Lemon reminds us of their bitter fate.**

**Salt Sprinkled on the plate reminds us of the countless fallen tears of families.**

**The Glass is inverted for the honorees cannot toast with us this day.**

**The Chair is Empty for they are not here.**

**The Candle is reminiscent of the light of hope which lives in our hearts to light the way home from their duty location.**

**The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from us.**

**The Sword, for the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit.**