



May 6, 2025

MDOC honors, remembers fallen officers in line of duty and employees who died during past year

PEARL – 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 6. Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety Sean Tindell, the guest speaker, spoke of the importance of remembering the officers for their service.

Tindell told the audience that remembering the officers who died in the line of duty and living an honorable life are best ways to honor their sacrifices and legacies. Tindell cited the closing scene from the movie “Saving Private Ryan” to describe the best way to honor the officers whose names were called and remembered.

“Each name we speak today is far more than a badge number or a line on a memorial. Each one represents a life of sacrifice, one of service, one of commitment, one of courage, and ultimately one of sacrifice,” Tindell said. “This ceremony is more than a moment of silence. It is a pledge to remember their legacy, to support those who are still serving, and to live a life they would be proud of.”

Chief of Staff Dr. Mary Ann Ross 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 John Hunt read the names of five employees who died since last year: Donald Lavaan Thompson, William Yates, Alexis Johnson, James Stewart, and Glenn Unuigboje. Some family members accepted roses in memory of their loved ones.

In addition to the presentation of roses, Deputy Administrator Audrey McAfee recognized the Memorial Table. Also, the gun firing salutes and the performance of “Taps” by Zoe Brumfield on bagpipes completed the program.



Major Mamie Terrell performs the National Anthem and moments later, Commissioner Sean Tindell of the Department of Public Safety gives the keynote address.



The Honor Guard gives a salute to each officer killed in the line of duty and MDOC personnel who passed away since last year’s ceremony while actively employed.



The MDOC Honor Guard retrieves the colors at the closing of the ceremony.