

ASPIRE

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2022 Annual Employee Recognition

MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL SPECIAL EDITION



Jimmie Ann Marshall | Building 81, A-Shift | Years of Service: 15

Kevin Moore | Building 78, A-Shift | Years of Service: 20



Gerome Hughes | Building 23, A-Shift | Years of Service: 25

By: Julie Cox

The 2022 Annual Employee Recognition Luncheon was held in Building 71 on May 4, 2022 to honor all 2021 Employees of the Month and to present awards to three extraordinary individuals selected as Employee of the Year in the categories of Direct Care, Clinical Service, and Support Services. Each person selected as Employee of the Year was presented with a \$250 check from Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc. and a special plaque of recognition.

All 36 Employees of the Month for 2021 were recognized during the luncheon and presented with a \$25 gift card and an Employee of the Month pin. In the month of their nomination, each employee was presented with a \$100 check from Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc. and a recognition plaque.



Mission Control for EOY 2022 is where each honoree and guest was welcomed to a fun and festive day.

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Wendy Bailey, Executive Director, DMH, and Jake Hutchins, Deputy Executive Director, Behavioral Health Services, also attended and offered these kind words after the program, “Congratulations to all of Mississippi State Hospital’s employees of the month. You were honored because your co-workers, your supervisors, and your colleagues thought you should be recognized for the outstanding work you have done over the past year. We know the past several years have been difficult, but you never wavered in your dedication to the individuals who were in need of the department’s services and our mission of providing a better tomorrow for those individuals. Everyone has a part to play in supporting others in their recovery and resiliency, and you deserve a heartfelt thank you for the part that you have played. Congratulations again to the Employees of the Month and to the 2021 Employees of the Year.”

The fun kicked off early as our nominees arrived an hour and a half before the luncheon to participate in Board Game themed fun and to compete for prizes. A large MSHopoly board was set up to get the party started. Depending on the roll of the dice, guests might have needed that ‘Get Out of Jail Free’ card or headed over to spin the Wheel of Fortune or take a much needed Time Out! Guests of Honor had the opportunity to take some fancy

pictures with a Red Carpet backdrop. The Fueling Station provided refreshments and a chance to guess the number of beans in a jar to win a \$25 gift card. Bingo was a crowd favorite where participants competed for prizes such as an ice cream freezer and cash. The big jackpot ended up being split between two winners using Bingo Blackout.

Nominees and guests then dined on chicken and green beans, along with a potato and salad bar, and ended their meal with a tasty dessert bar, peach cobbler and ice cream. The event was catered by CURA, an Elior Company.

Mr. Bill Bobbs, President of Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc., kicked off the main event by giving the Welcome and Invocation.

Mr. James G. Chastain, Director of Mississippi State Hospital, provided Introductions and Remarks, he reminded employees that, “The spirit of the game theme is to remind you to take care of yourself both physically and mentally and to remember to make time for fun.” He also added, “This event has been designed to bring a smile to your face and bring some joy to your heart and to let you know that we appreciate who you are and what you do at this hospital every day.”



EOY 2022 MSHopoly had honorees on a roll, the roll of the dice would land you in a number of areas.



Mr. Chastain then “handed the ball” to our Keynote Speaker, Mrs. Sarah Thomas. Mrs. Thomas is the very first female NFL official. She changed the game in the most quintessential male-dominated sport – football – when she officiated her first NFL game on September 13, 2015. On February 7, 2021, she became the first female to officiate the Super Bowl. She is inspiring others to, “Dream big and believe anything is possible.” Sarah spoke about her long journey to get where she is today and how one NFL scout picked her out from a crowd of officials because of her field presence. She told our nominees, “You’re in the seat you’re in because your field presence has been recognized and

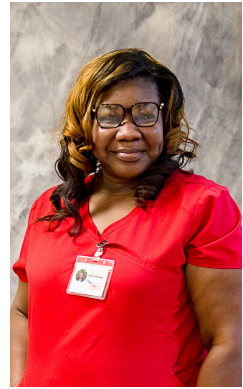
you’re doing it the right way.” Mrs. Thomas closed by encouraging our nominees to, “Keep doing what you’re doing and be the leader to everybody else that isn’t in this room today and let them take your place next year.”

Mr. Bobbs then introduced the 2021 Employee Recognition Committee, and thanked them for their service. They are: Chiquita Boyd, Stacey Davis, Robert Dixon, Beth Killary, Beth Martin, Mary Moore, and Daniel Ratliff. Mr. Bobbs referenced the story of Thomas Edison and the questioning of his many failed experiments and his response that “Those

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ALL 2021 Employees of the Month Honorees



■ Jimmie Ann Marshall



■ Irma Stewart



■ Elizabeth Allen



■ Stephanie Wiggins



■ Jennie Miner



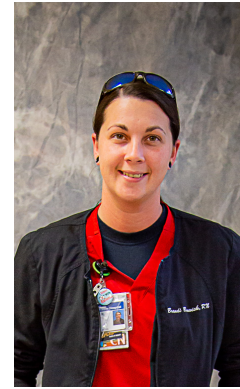
■ Shonnett Wilson



■ Ann Travis



■ Henrietta Gibbs



■ Brandi Barwick



■ Crystal Green



■ Najia Purry



■ Dawn Traxler



■ Tammie Newsome



■ Derrick Berry



■ Nakesha Evans



■ Gerome Hughes



■ Mary "Kristi" Davis



■ Terri Jenkins



■ Kevin Moore



■ Donald Johnson



■ Angie Hartley



■ Sharniece Tory



■ Cherry Collins



■ Paula Usry



■ Laquanda Anderson



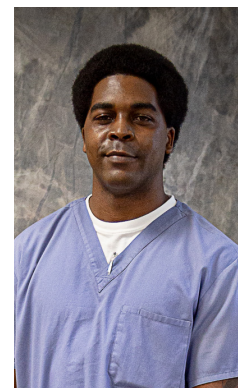
■ Tiffany Chambers



■ Robbie Rhodes



■ April Hamilton



■ Anthony Tate



■ Milton Robbins



■ Robert Hill



■ Jordan Sutton



■ Carley Quinn



■ Bobby "Chad" Mclain



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weren't failures, those were the necessary steps to success.' Mr. Bobbs remarked, "That's the kind of attitude our employees have."

Recognition of the 2021 Employees of the Month was a "team effort" headed up by Mr. Chastain, Mr. Bobbs, Mrs. Thomas, Ms. Bailey, and Mr. Hutchins. Next up was the much anticipated Presentation of 2021 Employees of the Year by Mr. Chastain.

Jimmie Ann Marshall was selected as Employee of the Year for Direct Care. Jimmie has worked on Building 81 for 15 years. When nominating Jimmie for Employee of the Month, Ashley Lilley, RN stated that, "Jimmie takes her responsibility

to supervise the DCWs seriously. However, she never hesitates to help any staff member regardless of their title/position... She is such a pleasure to work with and certainly brightens the mood during this pandemic that we currently face." Jimmie was born in Jackson, MS and is the oldest of three children. She graduated with honors from Lanier High School and enjoyed playing basketball and running track and field. Jimmie has four children and four grandchildren. She enjoys DIY décor and hopes to return to college to become a nurse. When asked about being chosen as Employee of the Year for Direct Care, Ms. Jimmie replied, "I'm greatly appreciative for being chosen, it is an honor to be recognized for your hard work and dedication. It makes me strive even harder." She enjoyed the luncheon and said,

"Everything was beautiful and the food was delicious. My favorite part was the Monopoly game, it was fun to win prizes at the different stations." Ms. Marshall loves the advancement opportunities provided at MSH.

Kevin Moore was selected as Employee of the Year for Clinical Service. Kevin works in Therapeutic Recreation and has been on Building 78 for 20 years. He is always interacting and engaging with residents, from wheelchair strolls to smiles. Kevin was born in Jackson, MS and graduated from Richland High School. During high school, Kevin played football and basketball and ran track. He was selected as MVP and All District in football. During his senior year, he received Class Favorite and the Most Athletic award. Kevin earned his degree



from Jackson State University but cheers for the Florida State University Seminoles. Kevin stays active by participating in 5ks and half marathons, working out, and playing basketball and football. He enjoys supporting his nieces and nephews by attending their extracurricular activities.

Kevin also has a soft spot for his puppies. He is looking forward to retirement. Kevin really enjoyed meeting the first female NFL referee, Mrs. Sarah Thomas, at the luncheon. On being selected as Employee of the Year for Clinical Service, he responded, "It was an honor being



recognized by my peers. I was surprised because I was not working for recognition, I was working to help out my building." Kevin likes that MSH allows him the ability to incorporate his career choices. By being in recreation, MSH allows him the opportunity to implement activities that

enrich the residents' lives.

Gerome Hughes was selected as Employee of the Year for Support Services. Gerome has worked at Mississippi State Hospital for over 25 years. He has served in just about every building on campus. He loves working with the patients and coordinating activities of the various units he has supervised. When nominating Gerome for Employee of the Month, Constance Dorsey noted, "He tries to make sure that the building is up to standards when it comes to patient safety. He treats the staff and patients with dignity and respect in every way." Gerome graduated from Scott Central where he was a member of the Marching Rebels Pride Band, the high

school chorus, the varsity basketball team, and served as the student sports writer. He continued his postsecondary education earning degrees from Hinds Community College and Jackson State University. Gerome gives back to his community by serving as a foster parent. He has fostered 12 boys in the past five years. When asked about being selected as Employee of the Year for Support Services, Gerome responded, "I look forward to continuing to bring about a positive change in the healthcare industry for many years to come, I am humbled and appreciative. I like the outstanding level of collaboration and teamwork within the many roles and positions I've had. One of the most important things to me is to enjoy a good

work-life balance. I have the opportunity to help others regain a sense of normalcy and balance in life." Gerome thought the luncheon was awesome and considers himself a board gamer, Monopoly being his favorite.

The 2022 Annual Employee Recognition Luncheon was a project of Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc. Friends allocates funds annually for various employee recognition activities. Since 1978, hundreds of employees have been honored for their outstanding service through this program, and 86 have been recognized as Employee of the Year.



Sarah Thomas

Sarah Thomas changed the game in the world's most quintessential male-dominated sport—football—when she became the first female NFL official. Now she's inspiring others to dream big and believe anything is possible.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER SARAH THOMAS

She officiated her first NFL game on September 13, 2015, between the Kansas City Chiefs and Houston Texans—and on February 7, 2021, she became the first female to officiate a Super Bowl. Today, Sarah's hat, whistle and flag are on display at the NFL Hall of Fame and serve as a testament to her historic achievements. Named one of the Sports Illustrated 100 most influential figures of all time, Sarah is no stranger to being the first or breaking gender-barriers.

Since joining the NFL's roster of officials, she has become a trail-blazing inspiration to women everywhere, embodying the notion that with a belief in self, inner drive, hard work, preparation and a mindset of being the best you can be, no barrier or ceiling is impenetrable. Her story is captured in the five-part documentary series *Earnin' It*, which premiered on

Peacock NBC in 2022 with a focus on the women in football who are opening doors and paving the way for others to follow in their footsteps. Sarah's story also figures prominently in the wildly popular podcast of the same name, which also launched in 2022.

Off the field, Sarah is a Marketing Specialist for Mid-South Rehab, Inc., National Speaker for Keppler Speakers Bureau and a skin care consultant for Rodan & Fields. She was born in Pascagoula, Mississippi and is a graduate of the University of Mobile, where she earned a full scholarship as a basketball player and Academic All-American honors. She has had many national recognitions on her accomplishments throughout her journey, but nothing compares to being a mom to her three beautiful children, Bridley (21), Brady (18) and Bailey (9).