

## TDCJ observes 19th Annual Fallen Officers Memorial in Huntsville

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice held its 19th annual Fallen Officers Memorial Ceremony on the Sesquicentennial Plaza at the Texas Prison Museum in Huntsville, as part of National Correctional Officers and Employees Week.

This year's May 11 ceremony held special significance as TDCJ honored the loss of Correctional Officer IV Shana R. Tedder of the Crain Unit in Gatesville, who lost her life in the line of duty after being involved in a use of force incident with an offender. Her TDCJ career began in 2005.

Keynote speaker and TDCJ Executive Director Bryan Collier said, "I ask for you to take a moment and notice the oak trees planted around the monument...this year, we'll plant another tree. Tragically, Correctional Officer Shana Tedder passed away on June the ninth while working at the Crain Unit. Her co-workers and her brother will tell you her smile was infectious, her ability and energy to make people laugh was legendary. Ms. Tedder, you will be missed."

Collier went on to say, "It's normal to feel some sadness as we reflect back on those who laid down their lives. But they deserve more than our sorrow. They deserve our pride in the lives they led, our hope for the future, and our continued dedication to their work of making the state of Texas safer."



Correctional Officer V James Polk, a member of the TDCJ Region II Honor Guard, stands with the engraved paver stone for Correctional Officer Shana Tedder during the 2018 Fallen Officers' Memorial Ceremony in Huntsville. The stone will be placed in the walkway of the Sesquicentennial Plaza.

Planted around the perimeter of the Plaza are 71 live oak trees that serve as living memorials of those TDCJ employees who have lost their lives in service to the citizens of Texas over the years.

Texas Board of Criminal Justice Member Patrick O'Daniel said, "As you walk through this memorial now and in the future, I ask you, do not feel sorrow. Instead feel joy and pride for those individuals we are remembering. Their lives had a purpose. They left a mark and their memories will live on. And now it is up to you to remember the fallen by the way you conduct yourselves professionally and personally."

Similar memorial ceremonies were held throughout Texas and across the nation, as well as celebrations held in honor of the professional dedication of those who work in criminal justice, during National Correctional Officers and Employees Week, with many TDCJ units hosting luncheons and other special activities in appreciation of the hard work performed daily by agency employees. ▲