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Saluting Employees

Two TDCJ employees earn Governor's Volunteer Service awards

Warden Jeffrey Catoe and Chaplain Debbie Dunn were honored for their work at the 22nd Annual Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Awards ceremony, held during the Texas Board of Criminal Justice meeting on April 6 in Austin.

Warden Catoe, a 27-year veteran with TDCJ, received the Criminal Justice Administrator of the Year award for his work as senior warden at the Coffield Unit in Tennessee Colony. He is recognized for his strong leadership and for being firm, fair and consistent in judgment. He and his staff provide critical support for rehabilitative and reentry programs, and Warden Catoe is well known for his welcoming attitude toward volunteers, who work in support of the unit's chaplaincy and education programs. The Correctional Institutions Division's Region II Director Matt Barber praised the award selection, noting that "Warden Catoe is a leader who demonstrates integrity at all times personally and professionally. He exemplifies this every day and it is an honor and a privilege to serve with him."



TDCJ staff members Warden Jeffrey Catoe and Chaplain Debbie Dunn accept their Governor's Volunteer Service awards.

Chaplain Dunn, who was presented with the TDCJ Employee Volunteer award, began serving as a TDCJ volunteer in March 2006, and is now a chaplain at the Plane State Jail in Dayton where she serves as minister for staff, offenders and volunteers. She also travels extensively to minister at other TDCJ units across the state, and has been described by both staff and volunteers as courageous and encouraging, and as someone who always carries a message of hope. Director of Chap-

laincy Operations Vance Drum commended Chaplain Dunn saying, "She is an example of the highest measure of servanthood and professionalism in her ministry. She cares about the offenders and the staff on her facility and we are thrilled that she was the recipient of this award."

First held in 1990, the Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Awards ceremony is an annual event held to recognize the men and women throughout the state who donate their time and effort to aid the victims of crime and help rehabilitate offenders so they can successfully reenter society.

In fiscal year 2016, more than 24,500 TDCJ volunteers provided over 390,000 hours of service. ●