

MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

P.O. Box 157-A, Whitfield, MS 39193 Phone (601) 351-8018 Fax (601) 351-8364 www.msh.state.ms.us

For Immediate Release July 18, 2012 Contact: Adam Moore (601) 351-8262, adam.moore@msh.state.ms.us

MSH POLICE LT. BERNICE THOMAS RETIRES AFTER 36 YEARS

WHITFIELD—Mississippi State Hospital Police Department Lieutenant Bernice Thomas of Brandon recently retired from service at the hospital after 36 years.

Thomas was honored by her friends and coworkers in a reception attended by friends, family and employees who had gotten to know her during her 36 years at the hospital. She began working at the hospital in 1976. During her time there, she attended and graduated from the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Training Academy, worked in several different areas of the hospital, and has held several different supervisory roles.

MSH Police Chief James Blackwell presented Lt. Thomas with a plaque in appreciation of her decades of service to the hospital. Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, a volunteer organization, also presented her with a plaque in recognition of her dedication to the hospital.

MSH, a facility of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and facilitates improvement in the quality of life for Mississippians who are in need of mental health, chemical dependency or nursing home services, by rehabilitating to the least restrictive environment, utilizing a range of psychiatric and medical services, which reflect the accepted standard of care and are in compliance with statutory and regulatory guidelines. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

- 30 -

PHOTO ATTACHED: MSH Police Department Chief James Blackwell (left) presents Lt. Bernice Thomas with a plaque in recognition of her years of service to the hospital. Lt. Thomas retired this month after 36 years of service.