



MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL RECOGNIZES MEMORIAL DAY

WHITFIELD— Mississippi State Hospital patients, residents and employees gathered on Wednesday, May 23 to recognize the Memorial Day holiday and, along with it, all of those individuals who have served or are still serving in the United States Armed Forces.

The guest speaker was Maj. Cregg Puckett, battalion chaplain for the Mississippi Army National Guard, 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group. While Maj. Puckett was the speaker for the program, the guests of honor were all those veterans, Puckett included, who came to the program to hear his message and to be honored by the others present.

“We’re here today to honor our veterans,” Puckett said. “We’re inspired by them. We’re inspired by lives that demonstrate a love of country, a love of family and a loyalty to those they served with for freedom and for justice.”

Several dozen veterans attended the recognition program. Some were employees, but others were hospital patients or residents of Jaquith Nursing Home on the hospital campus. Those individuals who served did so in peacetime, and in conflicts ranging from World War 2 to Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm, and the more recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Some employees are still currently serving as members of the National Guard or Reserve, and several have been on recent deployments or are preparing for upcoming deployments. Mississippi State Hospital also has employees who were unable to attend because they are currently on an active deployment.

In addition to Maj. Puckett and those in the audience, several others showed their respect to those serving, the veterans and the memory of the country’s fallen service members. Boy Scout Troop 229 from Crossgates United Methodist Church acted as the Color Guard for the program, and MSH employees led the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the national anthem.

In his closing comments, Maj. Puckett encouraged everyone to remember that Memorial Day was more than a simple holiday to enjoy time off work.

“I commend you, patriots,” Puckett said. “I commend you for your love of country. You demonstrate that simply by being here today. I encourage you today to remember our heritage, to remember our honored veterans, and to remember our holy creator who sustains us and protects us all.”

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 -

PHOTOS ATTACHED:

Memorial Day 1 – Major Cregg Puckett speaks at Mississippi State Hospital’s Memorial Day and Veterans Recognition Program on May 23. Battalion chaplain for the Mississippi Army National Guard, 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group, Maj. Puckett urged those present to honor veterans and remember that the Memorial Day holiday is in remembrance of all those who did not return from war.

Memorial Day 2 - Boy Scout Troop 229 from Crossgates United Methodist Church acted as the Color Guard for Mississippi State Hospital’s Memorial Day program on May 23.