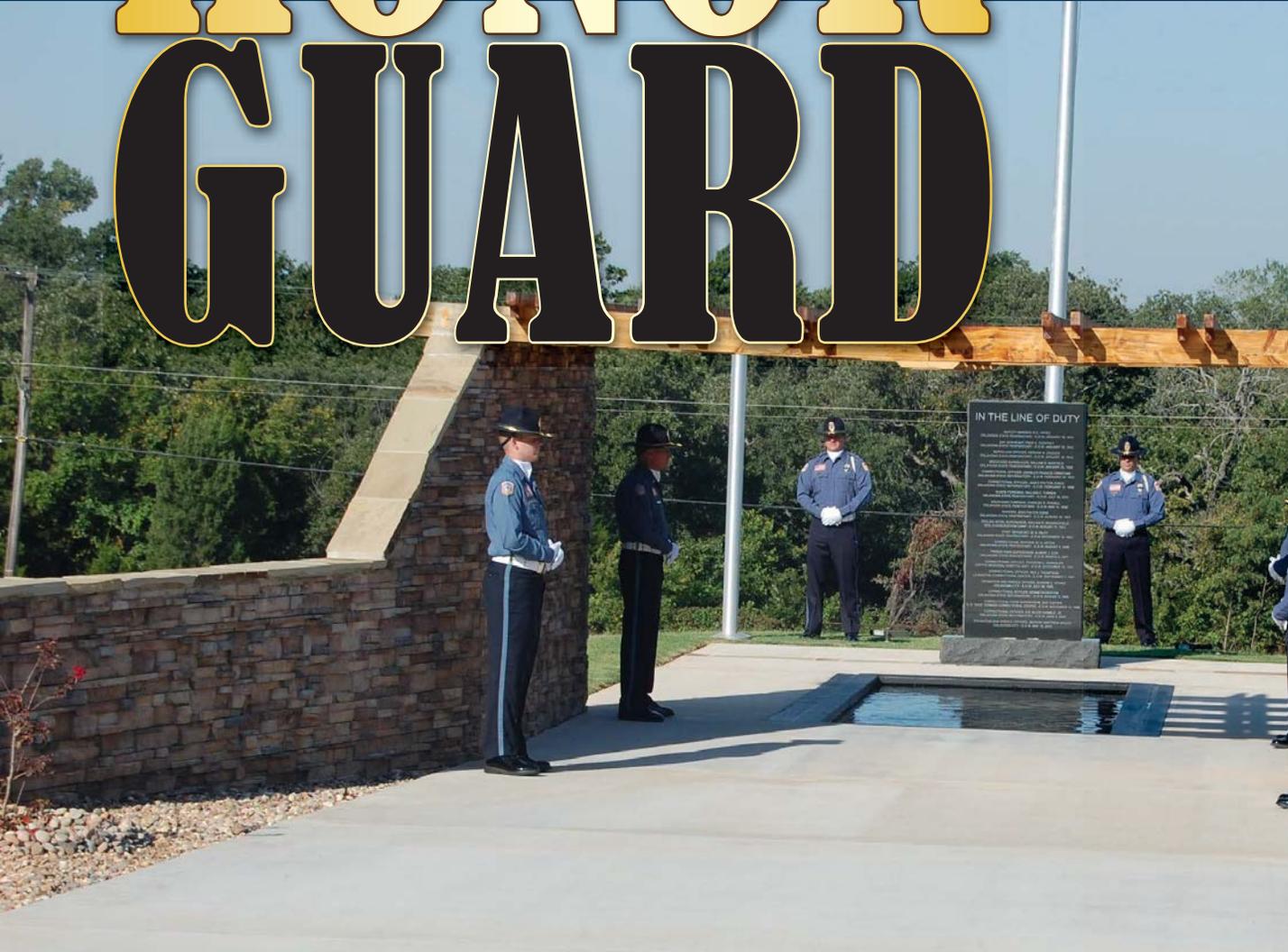
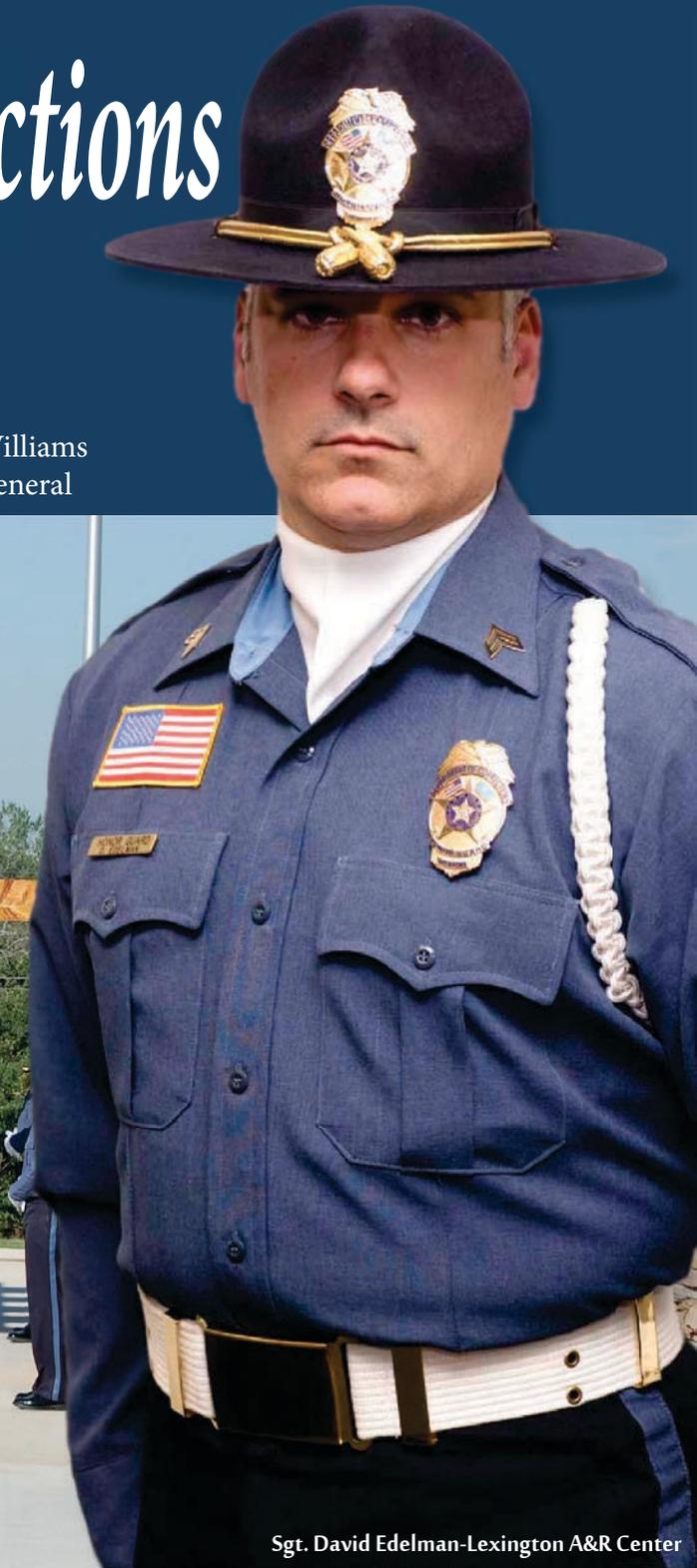


Oklahoma Department of Corrections

HONOR GUARD

by Sgt. Benjamin J. Williams
Office of Inspector General



MEET OUR HONOR GUARD

COMMANDER



Lt. Kevin Angel
Howard McLeod CC

Kevin Angel has worked for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections (ODOC) at the Howard McLeod Correctional Center for 17 years. He graduated from Atoka High School in Atoka, Oklahoma where he still lives with his wife and two daughters.

Kevin is a licensed Evangelist and attends the Southside Baptist Church.

He is a member of the Atoka County Historical Society, FaithRiders Motorcycle Ministry, Correctional Peace Officer Foundation and Oklahoma State Firefighter Association. He is also a volunteer firefighter for the Atoka Fire Department.

His hobbies include riding and restoring motorcycles, restoring antique automobiles, hunting, fishing, woodworking and spending time with his family. His special skills and talents are carpentry, auto mechanics, auto body, leadership and preaching.

David Edelman began his career 10 years ago at the Lexington Assessment and Reception Center in Lexington, Oklahoma where he continues to work today. He states, *"I have achieved various certifications in self-defense tactics and the area of use-of-force, including sniper while with ODOC."* Prior to his career with ODOC, he was involved in the field of personal protection and fugitive recovery.

Upon graduation from Sapulpa High School, David attended Connors State

ASSISTANT COMMANDER



Sgt. David Edelman
Lexington A&R Center

College for two years and then transferred to the University of Central Oklahoma where he received a Bachelor's degree in Business and Safety. He states, *"An interesting fact about me is my love for baseball. I played three years at college and then signed with the Atlanta Braves on their pitching staff. I sustained a major injury in my right shoulder and my playing days were over before I even*

took the mound for the first time."

David served three years in the Air Force during Desert Storm and was assigned to the 23rd Bomb Squadron working with the nuclear and conventional weapons systems of the B-52 bomber. He achieved an early promotion from the Air Force and was awarded a medal for bravery. David was injured during Desert Storm and is a disabled veteran.

David attends Antioch Community Church of Norman and is an active member of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation and Oklahoma Corrections Professionals. He states, *"I currently live in the Oklahoma City/Moore area with my wife and four children, which we homeschool. My biggest hobby is playing guitar. I have played for over 30 years. I also play other instruments but just not as well as the guitar. Another interesting fact is that the platinum hair started arriving when I was 12 years old."*

Thirteen years ago **Travis Showalter** began his career with ODOC at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary. He lives in Richville, Oklahoma with his wife of 14 years and their three kids, twin boys and a daughter.

Travis lists his education and training as CLEET, self-defense, baton, o/c (pepper) spray instructor, sniper training,

ASSISTANT COMMANDER



Sgt. Travis Showalter
Oklahoma State Penitentiary

ASSISTANT COMMANDER



Sgt. Benjamin J. Williams
Office of Inspector General

MEET OUR HONOR GUARD

firearms instructor and CERT. He is a member of the National Rifle Association and the Victory Park Baptist Church.

His hobbies include spending time with his family, hunting, fishing, camping and working around the house.

Benjamin Williams currently works in the Office of the Inspector General in Oklahoma City. Throughout his 9-year career with ODOC he has served in the capacity of Probation and Parole Officer, an NRA Law Enforcement Division Firearms Instructor and is a CLEET Certified Peace Officer. Benjamin is on the board of directors for the Oklahoma Correctional Employees Memorial Foundation, a political action committee chairperson for Oklahoma Correctional Professionals and a member of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation.

He graduated from Tuttle High School, has an Associate of Science degree in Fire Protection Engineering from OSU-OKC, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from the Uni-



Lt. Charles Black
Mack Alford CC

versity of Central Oklahoma. He has worked and held professional licensure as a Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician.

Benjamin is a proud veteran of the U.S. Army and the Oklahoma Army National Guard, having served eight years as a Medical Specialist for the 1-160th Field Artillery. He has attended numerous military schools and has received numerous awards including the Global War on Terrorism and National



Sgt. Kory Conley
William S. Key CC

Defense Service Medals.

Benjamin is a member of Lifechurch.tv, where he serves as a “Switch” youth group leader. He also enjoys participating in activities in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oklahoma and is actively involved in supporting the Wellington Orphanage in Sierra Leone through his participation with Komeo.org.

Benjamin enjoys best spending time with his wife of twelve years and their

MEET OUR HONOR GUARD



Sgt. Kacy Hallows
Howard McLeod CC

two children around their Edmond home. In his spare time he enjoys training for, and participating in, endurance and multi-sport activities such as local triathlons and the Oklahoma Memorial Marathon.

Charles Black began working at the Mack Alford Correctional Center over two years ago. In his free time, he enjoys fitness and woodworking.



Lt. James Haun
Kate Barnard CCC

In 2012, **Kory Conley** began his career with ODOC at the William S. Key Correctional Center in Ft. Supply, Oklahoma. He promoted to corporal (2013), joined the Honor Guard (2014), CERT team (2014) and in 2015 was promoted to sergeant. Previous jobs outside of ODOC include the Wyoming Department of Corrections and the Shawnee County Detention Center in Topeka, Kansas.

Kory currently lives in Woodward,



Sgt. Jeremy Huffman
Jess Dunn CC

Oklahoma and enjoys taking long drives, being outdoors, working out at the local gym, shooting at the local gun range and working on his car. He states, *"I have always enjoyed being in public service and law enforcement."*

Kacy Hallows graduated from Antlers High School in 2009 and attended Eastern Oklahoma State University. Four years ago he began working for ODOC at the Howard McLeod Cor-

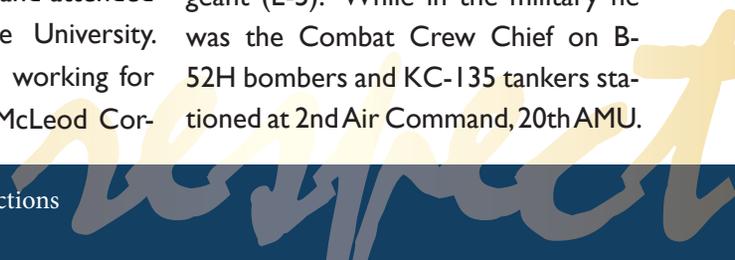
rectional Center in Atoka, Oklahoma. He currently lives in Atoka and enjoys hunting, fishing, spending quality time with family, bowfishing, studying martial arts and reading historical books or biographies.

James Haun has worked for ODOC since 2002. He is a self-defense instructor and has worked at Lawton Community Corrections Center, Oklahoma City Community Corrections Center and is currently at the Kate Barnard Community Corrections Center in Oklahoma City.

When not working he likes to spend his free time volunteering at the blood bank, running, boating and riding his motorcycle.

Jeremy Huffman, a graduate of Bethany High School, has worked for ODOC for 4 years. He currently lives in Checotah, Oklahoma with his wife of 9 years and their 2 children. He has completed various training programs through ODOC including self defense, baton and O.C. (pepper spray) instructor.

Jeremy served in the United States Air Force, reaching the rank of staff sergeant (E-5). While in the military he was the Combat Crew Chief on B-52H bombers and KC-135 tankers stationed at 2nd Air Command, 20th AMU.



MEET OUR HONOR GUARD

He was also stationed at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana for six years and 100th Air Command Mildenhall in the United Kingdom for two years. He has received achievement awards for joint command, group and good conduct medals and is a member of the Disabled American Veterans. In the military, he also received training in Military Aircraft Fundamentals/Boeing Aircraft Mechanics.

In his spare time, Jeremy volunteers with Paint Your Heart Out, an organization that paints houses for people that can't afford to maintain upkeep on their homes. When not working, he enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, riding four-wheelers and weightlifting. He states, "I am also a skilled mechanic, a carpenter and a barbeque cook."



Sgt. Christopher Jamison
Bill Johnson CC

smithing and being in the outdoors.

Jason Mardis was born in Midwest City and homeschooled by his mom from 1st through 12th grade. He earned his GED and has 30 hours of college credit from Northern Oklahoma College. In 2011, he began working for ODOC at the James Crabtree Correctional Center in Helena, Oklahoma and currently lives in Goltry with his wife and two children.



Cpl. Jason Mardis
James Crabtree CC

Jason enjoys working out and studying in his spare time. He states, "My special skills are communication, cooperation, and leadership and my career goal is to remain with the Department of Corrections and seek every opportunity for advancement. I believe I can improve the agency by working hard, building morale, and supporting my leadership. My role model is my father for showing me that everything we do matters."



C.M. Andrew Sievert
Dick Conner CC

Andrew Sievert works at the Dick Conner Correctional Center in Hominy, Oklahoma as a case manager and is currently a member of ODOC's CERT team and Honor Guard. Andrew received a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice degree from Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska. He says, "I enjoy outdoor activities, such as, hunting, fishing, camping, and bike riding."

On April 30, 2015, Andrew Sievert will be leaving the agency to move with his wife to Iowa where she will do her internship. We will miss Andrew and wish him and his family the best of luck.

Serving to Honor You!

THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS CEREMONIAL HONOR GUARD



"No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave."

– Calvin Coolidge

THE ARGUMENT COULD BE MADE

that no group of public safety professionals understands the above quote by the 30th president of the United States of America more than those of you who have chosen a career in the honorable field of corrections. No matter what your title or which district, unit, division/facility you are assigned, the common denominator is a shared mission to protect people. Despite the different ways this is accom-

plished from job classification to job classification, the nature of your chosen career in the field of corrections remains the same - worthy of honor. You as a correctional professional are not only due honor because of the disproportionate amount of giving required in comparison to what you will ever receive in return, but rather because the purpose of your sacrifice is a life devoted to public service and a safer Oklahoma. So..., at least according to Calvin Coolidge, "Honor" should be your reward.

As evident by OP-110240, this belief is also shared by your employer, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections (ODOC). OP-110240 provides for the creation of the agency's Ceremonial Honor Guard. This policy states that in the event of an ODOC employee's death (whether in-the-line-of-duty or not) your surviving family member(s) may request military-style honors at your funeral and graveside services,

to include a flag presentation ceremony conducted by the ODOC Ceremonial Honor Guard. These honors are also available upon request of the surviving family member(s) of a *retired* ODOC staff member. These times are solemn occasions, but it is the last final act of respect the agency can provide to "HONOR" a devoted employee.

The ODOC Ceremonial Honor Guard is an elite group of officers recognized for their professionalism and their ability to operate with drill-like precision during ceremonious occasions and events. The Honor Guard renders honors and courtesies at ODOC ceremonies, funerals of current and retired employees (as requested by family members), and other occasions as authorized by the Director. In recent years, the ODOC Honor Guard has been requested to attend ceremonies and services honoring corrections and law enforcement pro-

professionals all over the United States. The Honor Guard has represented the agency and its professional values at countless funerals for beloved agency employees and members of the corrections and law enforcement community throughout the country. Some of these high profile occasions have included the funerals for the in-the-line-of-duty deaths of: Arkansas Department of Corrections Sergeant Barbara Ester, our own ODOC Probation and Parole Officer Jeffery M. McCoy, Washita County Sheriff's Deputy Douglas Hanna, Washita County Sheriff's Deputy Brian Beck, former ODOC Correctional Officer and Burns Flat Police Officer Kristian Willhight, Colorado Department of Corrections Director Tom Clemments, and retired California Department of Corrections Correctional Peace Officer and founder of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation Larry Corby. Most recently team members have been sent to represent the agency at the

funerals of murdered Washington D.C. Department of Corrections Deputy Director Carolyn Cross, murdered Georgia Department of Corrections Correctional Officers Jamal and Anisa Mobley (brother and sister), and the funeral for the in-the-line-of-duty death of Oklahoma Highway Patrolman Nicholas Dees.

The services that the ODOC Honor Guard offers to family members who have lost a loved one include posting at the funeral as well as the folding

and presentation of an Oklahoma and American flag (when appropriate). With the recent purchase of a new bugle, the ODOC Ceremonial Honor Guard now also has the ability to play Amazing Grace and Taps while the appropriate flag is being folded. The services the Honor Guard renders for family, friends, and colleagues of the dearly departed is a precious memory for many as evidenced by the many thank you cards, notes, and calls the Honor Guard has received throughout the years.

In addition to these types of services, the ODOC Honor Guard has also participated in the following events:

- Annual Correctional Peace Officers Foundation National Memorial Service (Texas, Washington D.C., Nevada, and Washington state);
- National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial (Washington D.C.);
- Department of Human Services Conference;
- Special Olympics;
- ODOC Awards Ceremony and Training Event;

- Oklahoma Correctional Association Conference;
- National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice Conference;
- Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision Conference;
- Oklahoma Correctional Employees Memorial Foundation Service;
- Oklahoma Law Enforcement Memorial Service;
- Concerns of Police Survivors Project Blue Light Service;
- All ODOC cadet graduations and probation/parole officer commissioning ceremonies; and,
- Posting of the colors for the NBA's Oklahoma City Thunder basketball game.

One may begin to understand with the list of events above the level of commitment that is required to remain proficient and perform tedious drill and ceremonial maneuvers in many different settings.

While being a member of the Honor Guard is an honor within itself, the



individual members of the team will be quick to tell you that it is less about them and more about the opportunity to represent all the dedicated staff across the entire agency in a manner that promotes a positive public image. Being a part of the ODOC Honor Guard requires professional values, honor, integrity, respect, loyalty, and selfless service. Their representation of the department requires an appearance and demeanor that reflect the positive professional nature of our agency and the field of corrections.

“...the Oklahoma Department of Corrections Honor Guard requires professional values, honor, integrity, respect, loyalty, and selfless service.”

HONOR GUARD QUALIFICATIONS

Facilities, community corrections centers, and probation/parole districts may have staff represented in the Honor Guard. To qualify for the Honor Guard members must volunteer, have completed at least one year of service with the ODOC, have body weight in proportion to body height in accordance with OP-110240, be available on short notice to perform in Honor Guard functions, possess a high level of integrity and job proficiency, maintain physical appearance and decorum which promotes confidence and projects a professional public image, have received no formal disciplinary action in the last year, and must have met or exceeded all standards on the most recent employee performance appraisal.

An interview of the prospective team member is required but is by no means the final deciding factor on whether an employee is selected for the team. The prospective member will be required to successfully complete their first training with at least a “meets standards” in performing all basic marching and drill and ceremony movement. Members must also possess the ability to perform with a team.

All members train semi-annually to ensure proficiency in all basic marching, drill and ceremony movement. This training is intense with many long hours of grueling marching practice and drills. The members take this training very seriously and their performances are evidence of their dedication.



2013 National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial (Washington D.C.)



2011 Project 2000 XXII (San Antonio, Texas)



2013 Oklahoma Correctional Employee Memorial (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)



Pictured (L-R): Lt. Kevin Angel, Reginald Hines, Lt. James Haun, Sgt. Travis Showalter, CTO Andrea Jordan, Lt. Caitlin Holmes, and Debbie Moore.

Someone You Should Know

~ Debbie Moore ~

by Benjamin J. Williams

Within the Oklahoma Department of Corrections (ODOC) there exists an elite group of correctional staff that participate as members of the agency's nationally recognized Ceremonial Honor Guard. Members on this team are called upon at any given time, and on short notice, to participate in flag ceremonies, posting of colors, parades, memorial ceremonies, and funerals. One member of the team is a constant part of EVERY function the ODOC Ceremonial Honor Guard participates in and has been a vital contributor to their success in recent years. You have possibly seen the Honor Guard in our Inside Corrections publication, on the ODOC home page, at the funeral of a beloved co-worker, or at a state-or-agency-related function. Behind the scenes coordinating it all is the ODOC Honor Guard Coordinator, Debbie Moore.

Debbie Moore is the agency contact for all requests for the Honor Guard's participation in ceremonies and events throughout the state and country. While she receives no extra compensation for these duties, Debbie takes ownership in her role of making sure all the fine details are worked out for every event. She contacts team members for each event, communicates with funeral directors about details of a particular funeral service, orders all the team's equipment needs, and coordinates the team's travel and lodging needs. Debbie does it all and is the perfect person for

this role! She exemplifies the characteristics the Honor Guard team stands for and is one of the most caring individuals many of us will ever know.

Debbie has grown to care for each of the members on the team as if they were her own children. So much so that when she transferred from the Division of Institutions to Field Support one of her major concerns was her ability to remain the Honor Guard Coordinator. Ask some of the members on the team and they will tell you they all affectionately think of her as a mother figure and occasionally respectfully refer to her as "momma." This is not surprising to those who know Debbie Moore! Although she takes great pride in her work for the agency and her role with the Honor Guard, above all else she is a dedicated wife, proud mother, and devoted to her Christian faith and to her church. Away from work, Debbie is involved in her community volunteering for many different projects and in many different capacities at her church. It takes a special person to be on the ODOC Honor Guard and one even greater still to manage all the activities in the manner in which it is accomplished by Debbie Moore. Because of Debbie's hard work the Honor Guard has represented the agency and its professional values at countless funerals for beloved agency employees and members of the correctional/law enforcement community throughout the country.

2013 Oklahoma Correctional Employee Memorial (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)



Correctional Peace Officer Foundation Memorial, May 14-16, 2013, Reno, Nevada



2013 National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial (Washington D.C.)



2013 National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial (Washington D.C.)



2014 Oklahoma Correctional Employee Memorial (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)

THANK YOU LETTER

TO THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS HONOR GUARD

ODOC Honor Guard,

I wanted to reach out on behalf of the family of retired Sgt. Martha Marie Smith. The Oklahoma Department of Corrections Honor Guard responded to our request to assist with her funeral services on January 04, 2014. I want to convey just how much that meant to not only me, but to our entire family. Having the Honor Guard there was single-handedly the most important thing to us because of what her career at the Oklahoma Department of Corrections and James Crabtree Correctional Center meant to her.

The men and women that came to represent the Oklahoma Department of Corrections did an incredible job of paying respects to my mother. The professionalism they portrayed was absolutely impeccable. Upon arrival in the sanctuary, the team was set up and looked absolutely stellar. The attention to detail was superb. Their salute to our mother as they left the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service was something I had never observed. That was extremely meaningful and powerful to watch and we appreciate how personalized their efforts were to pay respect to our mother. However, when we arrived at the cemetery this is where they showed how outstanding they really are as a team. Their dedication to their role was truly tested given the significantly adverse weather conditions. The wind was blowing over 30 miles per hour and it was less than 20 degrees with the wind chill. From standing at attention throughout the entire arrival of the family to the conclusion of the graveside service to the folding of the flag, the level of precision under those circumstances is something I have never observed.

I had been an Honor Guard member for 15 years, and the level of professionalism your officers portrayed at our mother's service was nothing less than amazing. First and foremost, enduring those freezing wind conditions with zero concerns for their well being was nothing less than spectacular. To be able to fold a flag in those conditions is nothing short of amazing. They had a mission to pay respect to a former employee and they accomplished that mission impeccably well. Those men and women should be commended for their efforts and I would like to personally thank each of them for providing those services.

I truly appreciate what each of those officers's did to honor our mother. It was truly an honor to have them at our service and I wish I could have met each of them to thank them, but I hope this can begin to suffice. They represented the Oklahoma Department of Corrections in the very best manner possible. My mother would have been extremely proud.

Michael F. Smith

CAPTAIN

MECKLENBURG CO. SHERIFF'S OFFICE, CHARLOTTE, NC



**DO YOU
REMEMBER
WHEN THE
HONOR GUARD
WORE THESE
COLORS?**

