JERRY MASSIE RETIRES

After 42 Years with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections (ODOC)

On Friday, March 27, 2015, the Communications staff along with Jerry's family, ODOC employees and members of the media joined together to wish Jerry Massie a fond farewell after 42 years of service to the State of Oklahoma.

Jerry grew up in Enid, Oklahoma with two sisters, one older and one younger. He graduated from Enid High School and attended Phillips University in Enid receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology in 1972. After graduation, he applied for a probation and parole officer position with ODOC. When asked why he wished to work for ODOC he says, *"I needed a better job after working several part-time jobs."*

On March 19, 1973, Jerry was hired as a probation and parole officer. He says, *"Our office was located at Thunderbird, which is the Oklahoma City Community Corrections Center today. We had 39 probation and parole officers."* In 1973, all probation and parole officers had to be Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (C.L.E.E.T.) certified. He says, *"There was a great deal of on-the-job-training."*

Jerry had only been with ODOC for a few months when a riot occurred at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester, Oklahoma. Many probation and parole officers, including Jerry, were assigned to assist at the facility. *"That was the most memorable experience for me and an eye opener,"* he says.

Jerry has held various positions with ODOC to include probation and parole officer, probation and parole assistant district supervisor, correctional case manager supervisor and house arrest coordinator. On July 1, 1986, he was promoted to

Leo McCracken was the director of ODOC when Jerry was hired in 1973.

the public information officer.

In May of 1988, two years after becoming the public information officer, a hostage situation occurred at Mack Alford Correctional Center in Stringtown, Oklahoma. Jerry sayss, *"The toughest thing about this job is when employees get hurt or killed in-the-line-of-duty, as it was in this case."* The situation lasted two to three days and he was constantly answering media questions.

Jerry was also there for the 1990 execution of Charles Troy Coleman, convicted of the 1979 shotgun slaying of John Seward and his wife, Roxie, after they interrupted a burglary at a relative's home. This was the first execution by lethal injection in Oklahoma. *"It's not a nine to five job when you have to deal with the media. You get called at all hours of the night from different news outlets,"* Jerry says.

Jerry is the last of eight employees hired at the same time. He says, *"I really formed some good friendships with those I started with. We were all young. Straight out of college and just starting a new career. All we had was each other."*

Asked what his plans were after retirement he says, *"I didn't think that I could play more golf than I am doing now, but that is my goal after I retire."*

Jerry and his wife, Neville, will be married 36 years in August. He says, *"The best memorable moment at the Department of Corrections is when I met my wife, Neville. She started two years after I did."*

Jerry Massie is the last of a dying breed who can be **TEED OFF** now and not be angry about it.

Jerry and his wife, Neville.

Photo I.D. Cards

Jerry has worked for 10 ODOC directors. *(ODOC has only had 11 directors).*

Jerry and friends on the golf course.

JERRY MASSIE RETIREMENT PAR-TEE

March 27, 2015
OKC, OK

Jerry with Communications' staff.

Jerry and Terri Watkins enjoy pictures of Jerry through 42 years of service.

Margie Weaver congratulates Jerry.

Jerry with Kelli Hall.

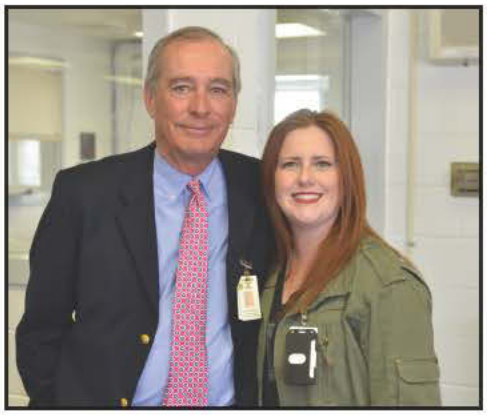
Neville Massie and Ed Evans.

Margie Weaver and Denise Burgdoff.

Ashlee Clemmons and Tom James.

Janet Dowling with Jerry.

Jerry with Gary Elliott.



Jerry and Marilyn Davidson.

Jerry is presented with "The Phone." (See inset)

Jerry Johnson (retired ODOC employee) congratulates Jerry.

Bob Wilkerson and Charles Berreth.

Maxine Walters and Kathy Davis.

Amandia Callen and Staci Bliss.

David Cincotta and Jerry share a laugh.

Jerry with Tulsa World reporters Cary Aspinwall and Barbara Hoberock.