



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS



PRESS RELEASE

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July 21, 2010 Execution of Joseph D. Burns 7:00 p.m. News Briefing

Parchman, Miss. - The Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) today conducted the mandated execution of state inmate Joseph D. Burns. Inmate Burns was pronounced dead at 6:50 p.m. at the state penitentiary at Parchman.

At 6:16 p.m., the MDOC received word from the Mississippi Attorney General's Office that the U.S. Supreme Court refused to delay the execution of Joseph D. Burns and the scheduled execution proceeded.

MDOC Commissioner Christopher Epps said during a press conference following the execution that the evening marked the close of the Joseph D. Burns case. Burns, 42, was convicted of capital murder in Lee County in 1996 for the 1994 robbery and murder of Floyd Melvin "Mike" McBride.

"It is our agency's role to see that the order of the court is conducted in a manner which is professional and with decency and dignity. That has been done and the cause of justice was championed today," said MDOC Commissioner Chris Epps.

"In this final chapter tonight, it is our heartfelt hope that the family of Mike McBride may now begin the process of healing. Our prayers go out to you as you continue life's journey," said Epps.

Inmate Joseph Daniel Burns apologized to the family of Mike McBride, quoted the 23rd Psalm and delivered personal messages to his family during his final statement.

Epps concluded his comments by commending Deputy Commissioner of Institutions Emmitt Sparkman and the entire Mississippi State Penitentiary security staff for their professionalism during the process.

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