



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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PRESS RELEASE

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May 19, 2010 Execution of Paul E. Woodward 7:00 p.m. News Briefing

Parchman, Miss. - The Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) today conducted the mandated execution of state inmate Paul E. Woodward. Inmate Woodward was pronounced dead at 6:39 p.m. at the state penitentiary at Parchman.

MDOC Commissioner Christopher Epps said during a press conference following the execution that the evening marked the close of the Paul E. Woodward case. Woodward was convicted in 1987 for the crimes of capital murder (with the underlying crime of rape), kidnapping and sexual battery of Rhonda Crane in Perry County in 1986.

“It is our agency’s role to see that the order of the court is carried out professionally with dignity and decency. That has been done and justice was championed today,” said MDOC Commissioner Chris Epps.

“In this final chapter tonight, it is our heartfelt hope that the family of Rhonda Crane may now begin the process of healing. Our prayers go out to you as you continue life’s journey,” said Epps.

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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