



Dear MAPC Members,

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the beginning of the 2011-2012 Mississippi Association of Professionals in Corrections. It is a great honor and privilege to serve as your next President.

I would like to thank all Past Presidents who have walked before me. Thank you for your dedication, diligence and hard work in making this the distinguished organization it is today.

A special thank you to the Mississippi Department of Corrections Commissioner, Christopher B. Epps, for your support and service to this excellent organization, and thank you for helping me develop personally, as well as professionally.

To former Deputy Commissioner, Lora Cole, thank you for your words of wisdom and Mrs. Ruth West thank you for nominating me for the Executive Board 5 years ago. I find your confidence in me humbling and I will do my all to live up to your expectations.

Past President, Robert Taylor, Executive Board, Regional Chairperson, Committee Chair, and its members are to be commended for the excellent conference this year.

This year's theme will be **"THE POWER OF TEAMWORK"**. It will take all of us working together to accomplish our goals. There is no **"I"** in teamwork.

I put forth a challenge to each one of you to get involved in this organization by either serving on a committee through recruitment, finance and/or community services. You will obtain a great sense of achievement.

To quote former U.S. President John F. Kennedy, "ask not what your country can do for you; ask what can you do for your country?" Consequently, ask not what this organization can do for you; ask what can you do for this organization?

Integrity is my personal treasure; I pledge, as your President, to work diligently to do the best of my ability to uphold the by-laws of this organization as we move forward to the next century.

In closing, I wish all of you a happy and safe holiday this coming year.

May God Bless You All.

Sincerely Yours,

*Viruth "Lek" Phongam*

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2011-2012 MAPC President