



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 18, 2020

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2020 GOVERNOR'S INITIATIVE FOR VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

February 18, 2020 (JACKSON, Miss.) – The Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service (Volunteer Mississippi) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2020 Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Excellence (GIVE) Awards. The 2020 GIVE Award Recipients are:

Dr. Jo Ann O'Quin, Oxford

The *Marsha Meeks Kelly Award for Lifetime Achievement in Volunteer Service*

Andrew Bartolotta, Southaven

Outstanding Service in the Promotion of Volunteering & Community

Chief Cyrus Ben, Choctaw

Outstanding Community Building by a Public Servant

Barbara A. Benson, Grenada

Outstanding Humanitarian Service

Dr. Barbara Mayfield Coatney, Waveland

Outstanding Volunteer Leadership by a National Service Participant

Elise Deano, Bay St Louis

Outstanding Achievement in Youth Advocacy

Katina Davis Holland, Tupelo

Outstanding Service in the Promotion of Healthy Communities

Joy A. Lubritz, Hattiesburg

Outstanding Achievement in Family Sheltering

DeVoyce C. Morris, Mound Bayou

Outstanding Achievement in Strengthening Families & Communities

Bob Reese, Starkville

Outstanding Achievement in Animal Advocacy

Marta Smally, Horn Lake

Outstanding Achievement in Educational Outreach

Becky Tilton, Ridgeland

Outstanding Service by a Public Servant

This distinguished group will be honored at a private ceremony at [The Westin Hotel of Jackson](#) on [April 20](#), kicking off celebrations for National Volunteer Week.

"Mississippi's legacy in volunteerism runs deep," said Monica Ritchie, Executive Director for Volunteer Mississippi. "We are honored and privileged to recognize these 12 outstanding individuals representing volunteer excellence for the state of Mississippi."

The GIVE Awards were established through the Office of the Governor and Volunteer Mississippi to recognize individuals and organizations making an outstanding impact in their communities through their gifts of service, advocacy, and outreach on behalf of the citizens of Mississippi. Nominations are made by the general public, and a group of industry peers serves as judges to review the submitted information and to determine the recipients. Nomination information is released by Volunteer Mississippi in January of each year.

For more information about the GIVE Awards, contact Krista Estes, Volunteer Network Officer, at kestes@ihl.state.ms.us or by calling (601) 432-6306.

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About Volunteer Mississippi

The Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service (also known as Volunteer Mississippi) was established in 1994 to encourage a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility to America. Volunteer Mississippi works to engage and support Mississippians in service to their communities through volunteerism and national service programs. As a state service commission, Volunteer Mississippi administers funds through the Corporation for National and Community Service to address critical community needs and engage Mississippians in service. Learn more at volunteermisssissippi.org.