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ATTORNEY GENERAL

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Putting Predators Behind Bars

I recently announced sentencings of two predators investigated and prosecuted by my office. Darran Berry of Biloxi, Mississippi was sentenced to 10 years to serve in the custody of the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC), with 5 years to serve and 5 years of post-release supervision. He was arrested during an operation organized by our Human Trafficking Task Force and sentenced on 1 count of promoting prostitution, 1 count of possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) while in possession of a firearm; and 1 count of felon in possession of a firearm.

Dakota Cruse of Vancleave, Mississippi was sentenced to 40 years in the custody of the MDOC, with 7 years to serve day for day without the possibility of parole and 5 years of post-release supervision. He was arrested during Operation Press Your Luck, organized by our Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Cruse will have to register as a sex offender upon release. Predators who seek to exploit others in Mississippi will not go unpunished. My office is committed to holding these individuals accountable.



Securing Our Border

Last month, I visited the border in Yuma, Arizona. This was my second time visiting the border. I thought it was bad the first time, but the neglect of the last

four years is shocking. I am grateful to President Trump for making it a priority to defend the integrity of our nation's borders and our sovereignty, and to make our communities safer by deporting criminal aliens. That is why [I was proud to sign](#) the Mississippi Attorney General's Office up as our state's first and only 287g task force partner with ICE. The failed Biden border policies made us all border states and we all need to step up to take back control and bring safety back to our communities.



Honoring Our First Responders at the 2025 Public Safety Summit

[Last week](#), I hosted the 3rd annual Mississippi Public Safety Summit with Public Safety Commissioner Sean Tindell. Over 600 law enforcement officers, firefighters, prosecutors, and other public safety partners attended this event to share best practices, create partnerships, and learn from nationally recognized speakers. As part of the Summit, we presented four outstanding public servants with the Governor's Public Safety Awards for going above and beyond to answer the call of duty. This year's awardees were:

First Responder of the Year: Sergeant Brian Brock, DeSoto County Sheriff's Office

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year: Investigator Lee Sanders, Madison Police Department

Firefighter of the Year: Battalion Chief Allen Elliot, Pearl Fire Department

Prosecutor of the Year: Assistant District Attorney Jasmine Magee, 2nd Judicial District of Mississippi

We will always appreciate, support, and have the backs of the men and women who protect our communities and keep us safe. Thank you to everyone who joined us this year for the 2025 Mississippi Public Safety Summit. You can view photos from this year's Summit [here](#).

Protecting You from Auto Theft

[I recently announced](#) the sentencing of Martez Davis, known as "Lynch Street Slo," of Jackson, Mississippi on one count of false pretense and one count of

wire fraud. Davis knowingly submitted a fraudulent cashier's check as payment for a vehicle and was sentenced to 10 years in the custody of the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC), with 5 to serve followed by 5 years of post-release supervision. He was also ordered to pay \$49,000 in restitution.

Davis' arrest was made by our Cyber Fraud Task Force, which I established in 2021 through a cooperative effort with the U.S. Secret Service, making Mississippi part of a network of 40 domestic and international cyber operations. In 2024, the Cyber Fraud Task Force was instrumental in the financial recovery of more than \$2.5 million for Mississippi victims. Financial crimes like this undermine hardworking individuals and we are committed to protecting you from their schemes.



Honoring Mississippi's Fallen Heroes

[It was an honor to mark National Police Week](#) this May by hosting the 15th Annual Fallen Officers Memorial Candlelight Vigil with the Mississippi Association of Chiefs of Police and the Mississippi Sheriffs Association. This Vigil serves as a powerful reminder of the lives of the fallen; the men and women who spent their days in service to their friends, neighbors, and even strangers, always with a sense of purpose, duty, and honor. This year, three fallen officers were added to the Fallen Officers Memorial Wall in Jackson to pay tribute to their service to our State:

Micheal E. Griffin
Mississippi Department of Public Safety
EOW: September 4, 2023

Patrolman Troy Floyd
Summit Police Department
EOW: August 8, 2024

Deputy Sergeant Martin Shields, Jr.
Hinds County Sheriff's Office

EOW: February 23, 2025

These officers were more than public servants, they were parents, siblings, and friends. Their sacrifices will not be forgotten, and my office will always support the loved ones they left behind and stand beside those who wear the badge - not just during Police Week, but every day. You can view the photos from the 15th Annual Fallen Officers Memorial Candlelight Vigil [here](#).

May God bless you,



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