

# MDOT Recognizes Longtime Employee



In recognition for the accumulated and continuous experience of those who make public service their life work, the Mississippi Transportation Commission and the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) recognized District 3 employees with five, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30-year service awards at the Yazoo City District Office on Tuesday, May 15. Pictured above Dick Hall, MDOT Central Commissioner; Lester Young, of Holmes County; and Kevin Magee, District Engineer. (Photo by MDOT)

# Federal agency continues distribution of funding for opioid treatment, prevention programs

U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.) announced that Mississippi is in line to receive another \$7.5 million in federal funding to address opioid abuse prevention and recovery work initiatives.

The State Opioid Response Grant program funding is offered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to improve access to opioid treatment, recovery, and prevention programs.

“This funding will allow Mississippi to more effectively respond to opioid abuse,” Hyde-Smith said. “These drugs are dangerous and the state is right to focus on overcoming their terrible toll on families and our communities.”

The funding is the second share of FY2018 funding appropriated to help states com-

bat opioid abuse. The Mississippi Department of Mental Health Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services was awarded \$3.58 million in opioid funding in April.

Congress increased FY2018 appropriations for SAMHSA to combat the opioid epidemic and reduce opioid-related deaths nationwide. Funding was also provided to other federal agencies to address crime and other social problems created by opioids, which President Trump has declared a national emergency.

Hyde-Smith serves on the Senate appropriations subcommittee that will set FY2019 funding for HHS and the ongoing federal effort to help states overcome opioid abuse problems. The subcommittee is expected to take up the FY2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill the week of June 25.

# \*Round My Table

(Continued from page 11.) heat. Whisk in the flour and cook for 1 minute to remove the raw flour taste, whisking constantly. Do not brown the roux. Gradually whisk in the milk and continue cooking until the mixture is smooth and thick; taste and adjust seasoning.

Arrange half of the asparagus in the prepared baking dish; top with the egg slices and half of the white sauce. Arrange the remaining asparagus over the white sauce and pour the remaining white sauce over the asparagus. In a small bowl, stir the cracker crumbs together with the melted butter. Sprinkle the buttered crumbs over the asparagus.

Bake for 25 minutes or until he casserole is bubbly and the crumb topping is golden brown. Cool for 10 minutes before serving.

*May Killebrew Vokaty is a Holmes County native and an award winning food columnist who writes for The Voice of Blythewood and Fairfield County in South Carolina.*

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