

# Dillard honored posthumously for pro bono work

Special to The Clinton Courier

Retired Chancellor W. O. “Chet” Dillard of Clinton gave free legal advice to help the poor, and continued his work at Mission First Legal Aid even as illness claimed his voice.

Mission First Legal Aid recently honored Judge Dillard posthumously with its Distinguished Pro Bono Service Award.

Mission First Legal Aid has a small staff, and relies heavily on the work of volunteers, said Director Carlyn Hicks. “The volunteer lawyers are the heart and soul of the legal aid ministry,” she said. From August 2017 through July

2018, volunteer attorneys gave more than 1,900 hours of free legal service, Hicks said. Mission First Legal Aid has served about 14,000 people since the program began in 2006.

Judge Dillard, who retired from the Hinds Chancery bench in 1995, came regularly to the Mission First Legal Aid Office in Jackson. He would take a stack of case folders of people needing legal help and call each one, talking at length about their problems. He solved some problems over the phone. Those who needed more



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Carlyn Hicks (right) of Mission First Legal Aid presents Robert and Marilyn Dillard of Clinton with the Mission First Legal Aid Distinguished Pro Bono Service Award that was awarded to Judge “Chet” Dillard.

extensive help were referred for follow-up with other attorneys. He continued to work with Legal Aid, offering research and other assistance, even when illness left him unable to speak.

“Even when he lost his voice, he was still trying to figure out how to be a voice for those who do not have a voice,” Hicks said.

Judge Dillard died July 30, 2017, at 87. His wife of 62 years, Marilyn Dillard, and son Robert Dillard, accepted the award at a ceremony at Mississippi College School of Law.

# Clinton Police Department shows decrease in crime in 2018

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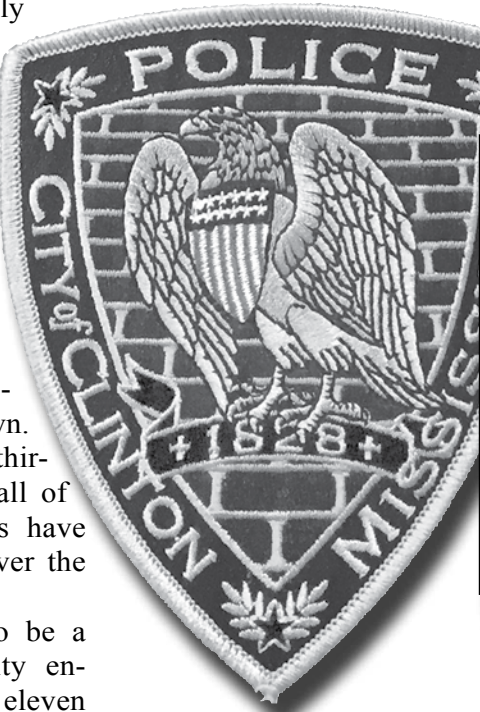
The Clinton Police Department continues to work diligently to serve the needs of residents and to provide a safe and secure city. In a recent address to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, Clinton Police Chief Ford Hayman explained how the department has been working hard to increase their presence and visibility in neighborhoods and business districts throughout town. With the addition of nearly thirty new officers since the fall of 2013, Clinton’s crime stats have shown a steady decrease over the past five years.

House Watch continues to be a popular tool for community engaged policing. In the first eleven months of 2018, Clinton Police performed 8,233 House Watch checks each week. This personalized presence places officers in neighbor-

hoods, directly engaging citizens and building a partnership to reduce crimes, especially

crimes remain their biggest concern due to the desire to feel safe in their homes, businesses and community. In an analysis of property crime statistics since 2009, property crimes within the city of Clinton have shown significant downward

ment in the second half of 2013, the city of Clinton had averaged close to 300 property crimes each year. Since 2013, the city has seen a steady decline of property crimes from 308 in 2013 to 119 in 2018. According to property crime statis-



2018 Felony Property Crime Numbers			
▶ Auto Burglary	47	(94)	-50%
▶ Residential Burglary	38	(57)	-33%
▶ Business Burglary	16	(14)	+14%
▶ Grand Larceny	18	(33)	-46%
▶ Total for 2018	119	(198)	
▶ Represents a 40% DECREASE in Total Felony Property Crime from 2017			

Crime statistics through November of last year show a decrease in crime in Clinton for 2018.

property crimes. To register for CPD House Watch, visit [www.clintonms.org/housewatch](http://www.clintonms.org/housewatch).

For many residents, property

trends that appear to coincide with the addition of new police officers to the force.

Prior to the growth of the depart-

ment in the second half of 2013, the city of Clinton had averaged close to 300 property crimes each year. Since 2013, the city has seen a steady decline of property crimes from 308 in 2013 to 119 in 2018. According to property crime statis-

tics for the first eleven months of 2016, that trend continues to show significant improvement, already down forty percent from 2017.

Community engagement campaigns continue to be an important component of the crime reduction efforts. “Lock it

cont. on page 42

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