



OFFICER ELWANDA RAY HONORED AS MDOC 2018 CO OF THE YEAR



CO Ray

The Michigan Correctional Officers' Training Council has named **Officer Elwanda Ray**, an employee at Thumb Correctional Facility, as the **2018 Corrections Officer of the Year**.

"I'm humble and grateful because I truly, truly do love my job and what I do," CO Ray said. "I love

that I can make a difference in someone's life."

Officer Ray is a firm believer in the power of a positive attitude. She is a mentor in her community, to coworkers, and to inmates in the Burns B unit at Thumb. She hopes the lessons offenders learn in prison will help them lead better lives after release.

"Your attitude can change everything. You don't have to be negative," CO Ray said. "(In my unit), we say good morning, I encourage (prisoners), and hopefully that makes a difference."

Finalists are:

• **Peter Goodreau, Baraga Correctional Facility**

Officer Goodreau is a Security Threat Group team member and a former Emergency Response Team member. He was instrumental in transitioning a general population unit to segregation on short notice.

CO Goodreau uplifts coworkers and has earned the respect of both staff and prisoners, his warden wrote in Goodreau's nomination. He has 21 years with the MDOC.

• **David Rowley, St. Louis Correctional Facility**

Officer Rowley has 23 years with the department and is a great role model for new staff, his nominator wrote. He articulately raises concerns and helped create new movement plans for medication and meal lines.

CO Rowley is a veteran of the Army and Marine Corps. His extensive volunteer work has included coaching, school functions, and helping elderly neighbors with yard work. He is working on a master's degree in professional accountancy.

• **Jerald Nugent, Cotton Correctional Facility**

Officer Nugent, with 17 years with the MDOC, "demonstrates excellence when performing his duties," his warden wrote in his nomination materials.

CO Nugent started a Veterans Day cookout at JCF to support Sweets for Soldiers, a program that sends treats to service men and women. Nugent is a veteran and an MCO Military Advocate at JCF.

• **Tom Johnson, Absconder Recovery Unit**

Investigator Johnson joined the ARU in 2015 after years as a parole agent, probation agent, and SAI drill instructor. Thanks to his prior experience, he brought a wealth of knowledge to the job. Johnson's volunteer work includes coaching baseball teams and mentoring at a county juvenile center.

Congratulations to the finalists and Officer of the Year Elwanda Ray! Read more about them and see photos at mco-seiu.org.

WATCH LIVESTREAM OF HONOR GUARD RAISING SPECIAL FLAG FRIDAY

The Honor Guard will be at the MCO headquarters Friday to raise our special anniversary flag and enjoy a luncheon in celebration of the Honor Guard's 30th anniversary.

Members can go to our [Facebook group](#) to watch a livestream of the Honor Guard raising the flag. Watch for the livestream to start at about 11:45 a.m. Friday, Feb. 16. We will also post a video of the flag raising on [YouTube](#) and [our website](#) after the event.

This month's value in the [Move Forward campaign](#) is Honor. In corrections, honor means we hold ourselves to a high standard and hold our careers in high esteem. The Honor Guard embodies these values and lifts up the best of the MDOC.

Make sure to visit us Friday on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and mco-seiu.org to see the Honor poster.

MEN SENTENCED IN DRONE DROP; MCO ADVOCATES FOR DRONE RESTRICTIONS NEAR PRISONS

The three men charged in the MTU drone drop in August have been sentenced in Ionia County 8th Circuit Court.

Jonathan Larawn Roundtree, Daryl Steven Marshall, and Patrick Corey Seaton Jr. were sentenced by Judge Ronald Schafer, the Ionia Sentinel-Standard reported.

Schafer said he hoped the legislature would address the issue of drones being used in conjunction with furnishing contraband, because "clearly there is a huge safety issue to all penal institutions, including fellow inmates, staff and other people who work there."

[Read more on their sentencing.](#)

MCO has brought attention to this issue over the past year and has met with dozens of legislators across the state to discuss the danger of drones. The House is considering a five-bill drone package that would prohibit drone use near prisons. They are HB 5494, HB5495, HB 5496, HB 5497, and HB 5498. To read the bills, go to the [legislature's website](#) and search for each bill. MCO will continue to advocate for regulations on drone use near prisons.

Now more than ever, it's important that all members stay connected with MCO. Sign up for text alerts now by texting MCO to 787753. Follow us:

