



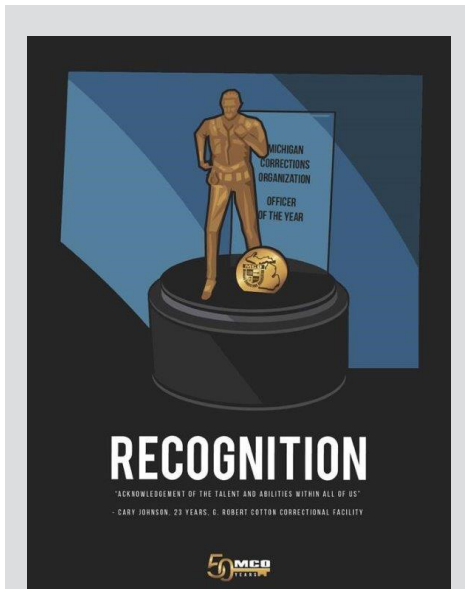
MOVE FORWARD: THE VALUE OF RECOGNITION

MCO honors Corrections Officers of the Year with new awards

For correctional officers, recognition is rarely a motivating factor in performing one's duties or acting to ensure the safety of an institution.

Recognition is this month's value in the Michigan Corrections Organization – [Move Forward Campaign](#). Throughout the campaign, we'll introduce a shared value of our membership, accompanied by a unique poster, every month until Labor Day 2018.

In Michigan, the "Correctional Officer of the Year" is the highest recognition an officer can receive, yet it is rarely sought out or promoted due to personal humility and strong feelings of simply doing ones duty. This selflessness is also reflected on a national level. A simple internet search would return very little in terms of awards and recognition for corrections officers yet many distinctions are bestowed upon others within the law enforcement com-



This month's value in the Move Forward campaign is Recognition. [Click here to view the poster larger on our website.](#)

community.

As union brothers and sisters, it is up to us to recognize the achievements of our colleagues and praise the quick thinking and heroic actions of our co-workers. As an organization, MCO is taking definitive action to lift these qualities up and honor those who have earned the distinction at their facility of "Corrections Officer of the Year."

For the first time ever, MCO will be issuing (aside from the MDOC) custom awards, created and designed to recognize the outstanding men and women who have proven, through their actions, to be of the utmost integrity and character.

Facility award winners will receive a customized wooden box, engraved with the MCO logo. The inside of the box will commemorate the award winner's name, year and facility and include a custom coin created to honor this exceptional achievement.

The statewide officer of the year will receive a superior cast resin upright that sits on a black painted wood base and is referenced on the recognition poster displayed at your facility. Next to the male/female officer is a glass piece to recognize the awardee's name and facility.

Awards will be presented at the facility

by MCO Chapter officials and we encourage all members to participate. Like all corrections officers, these award recipients do a difficult job protecting the people of the state of Michigan and deserve our thanks.

The MDOC's Employee Appreciation Banquet was held May 2 and drew a record-breaking crowd of more than 400 people.

Gov. Rick Snyder made an appearance and congratulated MDOC staff on their work to rehabilitate inmates and keep the public safe. Snyder recently [signed a proclamation](#) making the first full week of May Correctional Officers Week in the State of Michigan.

Officer of the Year Elwanda Ray and all facility COs of the year were honored. In her remarks, Ray encouraged staff to take pride in their work and uplift each other.

"I challenge you, as you go back to your facility, if you think morale is down, what can you do? You?" Ray said.



CO of the Year Elwanda Ray with her award from MCO.

MDOC gives awards to all COs of the year and other exceptional employees, but MCO wanted to give officers a special award that brings to life the brave work corrections officers perform. We appreciate and honor the achievements of officers. [See more banquet photos on Flickr.](#)

MCO leaders and staff would again like to congratulate all facility officers of the year. You should take pride in this great professional achievement.

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:

