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Agency News

TDCJ observes 32nd National Correctional Officers' Week

In 1984, the U.S. Congress commemorated the public service provided by correctional officers and other staff who work in jails, prisons and community corrections by passing a resolution declaring the first full week of May as National Correctional Officers' Week. President Ronald Reagan praised their commitment to public safety and offender rehabilitation, saying, "No group of Americans has a more difficult or less publicly visible job than the brave men and women who work in our correctional facilities."

As in every year, TDCJ recognized the dedicated service of Texas' correctional professionals by hosting appreciation and memorial events throughout the state. Every correctional facility was encouraged to join in recognizing their service and sacrifice on behalf of public safety.

On Friday, May 6, the Fallen Officer Memorial service in Huntsville was held in honor of all TDCJ employees who have lost their lives in the line of duty, including Officer Timothy Davison of the Telford Unit who died of in-



Correctional officers stand guard beside a memorial established in honor of Officer Davison at the Telford Unit in New Boston.

juries sustained during a July 2015 offender assault. The ceremony was conducted at the Sesquicentennial Plaza of the Texas Prison Museum with TDCJ Executive Director Brad Livingston as keynote speaker.

Addressing the gathering, Executive Director Livingston said, "Officer Davison and the thousands more who work in critical areas of our agency are committed to a cause that's greater than one man or one woman. Unspeakable tragedy may be what brings us

here today, but our unending appreciation for the unsung work of those in criminal justice is what binds us together."

Texas Board of Criminal Justice Chairman Dale Wainwright described the significance of the Living Memorial, saying, "To honor fallen TDCJ staff, the agency, twelve years ago, established a beautiful and enduring living memorial here on the grounds of the Sesquicentennial Plaza." He continued, "Seventy live oak trees currently make up this memorial, each dedicated to an employee who lost his or her life in the line of duty. Today, with heavy hearts, we add one more live oak."

While memorial services across the state honored the memory of Officer Davison and other dedicated public servants no longer with us, the Telford Unit recognized the Davison family with a series of special events held throughout the week, which included a memorial service and presentation of a flag, plaque and cross to Davison's daughters, Stefanie and Maya. ●