



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

AVERY D. NILES, COMMISSIONER

A MESSAGE FROM THE

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner

Jim Shuler, Director
Office of Communications



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COMMISSIONER NILES TO HOST DJJ “BLESSING OF THE BADGES”

Special Dedication Ceremonies at D.O.C. Forsyth-Georgia Campus

(FORSYTH - GA) Georgia’s juvenile justice Commissioner Avery D. Niles announces the department’s first “*Blessing of the Badges*” event this **Thursday, March 20, 2014** at the **Department of Corrections Tift Campus in Forsyth, Georgia**. Law enforcement officers from every Georgia juvenile justice special operations group and secure facility will be represented at these solemn ceremonies, where a prayer will be offered on behalf of every DJJ corrections officer before the agency’s new badges are placed in service.

“This event is planned to recognize the dedication and commitment of our entire cadre of law enforcement professionals serving the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, across the spectrum of their criminal justice responsibilities,” said Commissioner Niles.

The DJJ Blessing of the Badges is scheduled for 1:30PM March 20th at the Roberts Chapel on the Department of Corrections Campus in Forsyth, Georgia. ***News Media is invited to attend.***

- Department of Juvenile Justice Commissioner Avery D. Niles will be Master of Ceremonies.
- District 10 DJJ Board Member Willie C. Bolton will deliver the keynote address.
- Dedication Services will be conducted by Department of Corrections Chaplain Danny Horne.

DOC Chaplain Danny Horne will offer prayers of dedication as the agency’s new badges are pinned on officers from the DJJ Special Operations Unit, Investigations Unit and Transportation Unit. Juvenile detention center directors from 25 DJJ secure facilities around the state will be accompanied by their heads of security and one Juvenile Corrections Officer (JCO) as packets of new badges are dedicated for distribution through the statewide ranks of JCO’s.

“As Georgia’s new Juvenile Justice Reform Law provides our officers with new guidance, this new badge shows the bearer is a person of integrity, character and courage,” said Commissioner Niles. “It’s the sworn officer’s insignia of authority and the commitment that comes with authority. Ceremonies like this are a vital component for building a modern agency’s sense of pride while meeting the many challenges of our 21st century mission.”

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(PAGE TWO)

“For the rest of their career”, said Niles, “Every time these officers put on that badge, it’s their emblem of acceptance of civic responsibility to provide safety and security. It’s their public promise of service as the community’s shield to protect against wrong doing and harm, and a pledge to hold young offenders accountable to become productive and law-abiding citizens.”

Roberts Chapel on the Department of Corrections Tift Campus is located at 300 Patrol Road in Forsyth, Georgia, 31029. News Media is invited.

From Atlanta, take **I-75 South** to **Exit #187** into Forsyth, GA

Right off of ramp onto Cabiniss Road

Left at **1st Stop Light**, next to Burger King

Travel **0.4** miles on Patrol Road

Right at SOSTC Main Entrance

(478) 992-2999

For additional directions see the Georgia Department of Corrections homepage:

<http://www.dcor.state.ga.us/>

Watch for photos and coverage of the event on the Department of Juvenile Justice **“News & Views”** webpage at <http://www.djjnewsandviews.org/> .

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