



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Penitentiary Training Academy to be named for Ron 'RJ' Johnson

(Pierre, S.D.)- The staff training academy at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls will be dedicated in memory of the late Senior Correctional Officer Ron 'RJ' Johnson during a ceremony on the one year anniversary of his death.

The dedication ceremony is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. at the Penitentiary on April 12.

"RJ personified the necessary attributes of a correctional officer through honor, courage, and dedication," said Doug Weber, Director of Prison Operations and Penitentiary Warden. "It is a fitting tribute that all current and future staff members will receive their pre-service and in-service training in a building named in RJ's memory."

Improvements have recently been made to the training academy, including upgrades to the interior of the building. A new sign and flower beds are being added to the building's exterior.

Penitentiary and other Department of Corrections staff members conducted various fundraisers in order to raise the money necessary to pay for the building improvements. Donations were also accepted for the project.