

Detention Service Commander

Donald Pressnell #1877

Date of Employment: 16-June-1983

Sheriff's Served under:

Don Byrd

Jim Bowles

Lupe Valdez (Current)



I consider it an honor to have served the citizens of Dallas County for over 26 years in various capacities as a Correctional Officer. I hired on at the Department on June 16th 1983. Spent 8 years as a DSO assigned to Central Intake, Release Section and the West Tower. I was promoted to Detention Service Supervisor in 1991 and was 1 of only 3 Detention Service Supervisors assigned to the Release Section. There had not been any other non-sworn Supervisors in the Release Section prior to 1991. I was promoted to DSM in 1995 and transferred to the Suzanne Kays Facility. I have served as a Detention Service Manager in the North Tower, and Decker Jails as well. I was promoted to Detention Service Commander in April of this year and currently assume responsibility of the Decker and George Allen Jails.

I have been married for over 27 years and have three young men ranging from the age of 17 to 22. We have homeschooled all three boys and so far two of them have graduated. My family and I are active members of Gateway Church in Southlake. I volunteer once a month as a camera operator and on occasion as video shader. My wife works in the book store, my three sons work in the technical arts department as lighting technician, live video director at our North Richland Hills Campus and as the DVD duplication specialist

When I was working at the Decker Jail on 1st Watch as a Lieutenant several years ago there were only a few Officers working at the jail because it was not completely open. We did have several new (probationary officers) working on 1st Watch and a few Training Officers. One night I came out of the supervisors office on my way to the elevators to make a round. As I approached the elevator I noticed the elevator doors open and a roll of toilet paper came rolling out on the floor from inside of the elevator. Confused as to where this roll of toilet paper came from I looked inside of the elevator and there stood a probationary officer in full fire gear. When I gained my composure from laughter I asked him what he was doing. He said that his training officer told him that I wanted to see him demonstrate his fire drill training by responding to the supervisors floor and rolling out the toilet paper as if it were evacuation chains. Again, trying not to laugh too hard I explained that he had done a fine job and that we needed to go back up to his assigned floor. While on the elevator I explained that I wanted him to roll the toilet paper out of the elevator when we arrived on his floor, he did so and the officers assigned to that floor began laughing very loudly until I stuck my head out of the elevator. Needless to say they were strictly encouraged to find something productive to do on their assigned floor.

Added 9-Aug-2010