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**Secretary Gary E. Westcott**

**Probation and Parole Academy Class #48 Graduates**

BATON ROUGE, La. – The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C) – Division of Probation & Parole officially welcomed 20 new Probation and Parole Officers to the Department after they took the oath of office this afternoon during a swearing in ceremony at the Jefferson Baptist Church in Baton Rouge.

Probation and Parole Director Corey Acosta addressed the graduates, and the Honorable Judge Chris Hester from the 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals administered the oath of office.

The new officers are assigned to 13 of the state's 21 district offices. During the ceremony, the Department recognized the efforts of cadets who excelled in various areas. Jason Boulet of Lafayette District received the Academic Award, as well as the Top Gun Award; Mary Woodhouse from Monroe District earned the Physical Fitness Award and the Overall Award of Excellence.

Louisiana's approximately 650 probation and parole officers are critical links between law enforcement, the court system, and public safety. Officers supervise approximately 46,815 offenders released into communities statewide on probation, parole, diminution of sentence or medical furlough. They emphasize public safety while also helping the individual access resources that will aid in his/her efforts to become a productive member of society.

The Department's P.O.S.T. (Peace Officers Standards and Training) Academy began in September of 2024 with 26 cadets. After 20 weeks of intense law enforcement officer training, 20 officers completed testing on February 13th, 2025.

Probation and Parole officers routinely engage in high risk search warrants and assist local, state and federal authorities with investigations and information. Officers participate in crime prevention initiatives in Baton Rouge and New Orleans as well as various law enforcement task forces. Probation and Parole officers are some of the most proficient in the State at searching residences and clearing buildings due to the nature of their work.

Congratulations to the **Probation and Parole P.O.S.T Academy Class #48**.

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