



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Southern District of Mississippi

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FORMER UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DUNN LAMPTON DIES

Jackson, Miss - Former U.S. Attorney Dunn Lampton died of natural causes on Wednesday, August 17. A career prosecutor, Lampton served as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi (which covers the southern 45 counties of the state) from September, 2001 through January, 2009.

Upon his retirement in January, 2009, Lampton said it had been a great honor and privilege to serve the people of Mississippi and the American public as United States Attorney, and he was proud of the accomplishments of his office. Lampton had the privilege of hiring a total of 50 employees, including 24 Assistant U.S. Attorneys, a number equal to the size of the office at the time he began his tenure. He was especially proud of hiring 6 minority AUSA's and 6 minority support employees, the most minority hires by any U.S. Attorney in the history of the Southern District.

During Lampton's tenure, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Mississippi received two Attorney General Awards and ten Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys Director's Awards for national enforcement priorities such as: anti-terrorism, Americans with Disabilities Act enforcement, environmental enforcement, financial/white collar crime enforcement, counter-narcotics enforcement, law enforcement recovery initiatives after Hurricane Katrina and initiatives to prosecute Katrina fraud. The office also received national awards and recognition for its "Weed and Seed" community crime prevention programs and the successful prosecution of civil rights "cold cases" from the 1960s.

Lampton was also recognized by the local community for his efforts in law enforcement, receiving the Pat Yarborough Award given by the Metro Jackson Chamber of Commerce for his devotion to excellence in law enforcement.

The 1960s-era civil rights cases successfully prosecuted by the office under Lampton, were the cases of U.S. v. Avants and U.S. v. Seale. Lampton personally served as lead prosecutor in the Seale case. In 2008, members of the Seale prosecution team were selected for the Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service, one of the Department of Justice's top awards.

Lampton always praised the federal, state and local law enforcement agencies for their cooperation during his years in office, and he was proud that the U.S. Attorney's Office had been an active partner in the creation of the State's first law enforcement fusion center as well as a separate cyber-crime fusion center, both of which were federal/state initiatives.

In addition to criminal prosecutions and civil defense of the federal government, Lampton had a substantial role in law enforcement coordination. As the chief federal law enforcement officer of a federal judicial district, the U.S. Attorney oversees a Law Enforcement Coordination Committee (LECC) and multiple special program initiatives such as the “Weed & Seed” Crime Reduction and Prevention Program, the Project Safe Childhood Program focused on internet crimes against children, and the Project Safe Neighborhoods and Project Sentry Programs targeted at combating illegal firearms and prosecuting felon-in-possession cases.

Numerous law enforcement training programs were sponsored by the U.S. Attorney’s Office during Lampton’s tenure, including special Anti-Gang Conferences which hosted over 350 law enforcement personnel from across the State. In addition to doubling the size of the West Jackson Weed & Seed in the State’s Capital City, a new Weed & Seed Site had produced numerous successes in the East Biloxi/D’Iberville area on the Gulf Coast. The East Biloxi/D’Iberville initiative was the site of “Operation Sweet-Tooth” which became a national Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) operation.

Lampton served as co-chair for the Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) when it was named as the top HIDTA site, and its local director received an Executive Office of U.S. Attorney’s Director Award.

In the wake of 9/11, the U.S. Attorney’s Office, under Lampton’s leadership, sponsored an Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council or ATAC. The ATAC has worked to provide information sharing and awareness/training programs that compliment the operational work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) led Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). Lampton cited the State’s central location along the Gulf Coast, and the Southern District’s military and critical infrastructure facilities as reasons why federal, state and local cooperation was so important.

On a national level, Lampton served on four different subcommittees of the Attorney General’s Advisory Committee, including the Executive Working Group, the Native American Issues Subcommittee, the Environmental Issues Subcommittee, and the Military Issues Working Group. The Attorney General’s Advisory Committee is comprised of a group of U.S. Attorneys who provide reports and make recommendations to the Attorney General on matters relating to U.S. Attorney’s Office operations and law enforcement efforts around the country.

Prior to serving as U.S. Attorney, Lampton served for 20 years as District Attorney for the 14th Judicial District of Mississippi. He also had served as an Assistant District Attorney for five years. In the military, Mr. Lampton served for over 30 years and was as the State Staff Judge Advocate, the Mississippi National Guard’s leading attorney. Lampton retired from military service as a Brigadier General in the Mississippi Army National Guard.

“Dunn is going to be missed. Having known Dunn for twenty years, I considered him not only a colleague but a good friend. He was the epitome of a career prosecutor. Dunn will be remembered for his tireless and unwavering pursuit of justice as a prosecutor. Dunn loved his family and he loved the law. He lived each day of his life trying to do what was right. His integrity was beyond reproach and he served the people of Mississippi with great honor,” said U.S. Attorney John Dowdy.

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