We are proud to announce that the Pearl Police Department Officer of the Month in February is Detective [Justin W Barnette](https://www.facebook.com/justin.w.barnette?__tn__=K-R&eid=ARCdFQozH-Ska7yH5CaoCI9xg27a4ISWh5Saa4AXBILPUjOvJvUI4CBG3FT5xgAjK1FKApi2GYU7rWnw&fref=mentions&__xts__%5B0%5D=68.ARBQ0hKhjguNiL1xU2LBQdGhnO9RXL2b7xRarKpYi8J1XN-q8uqwHfXcNaGzFArBF4AdoDKb_SuFftP2vDG5QbcMx0slRuYdA6RONDD1Sawh2OtDXq_GzodFzqjloKbQGAA1QcdbEoP_8Koim-j4YTY67sdc_bpi2KV7W7QNdhbaW2gfRvCsUHNavvIs2FQsfCH4RSJ4IHv5ND3r27cYlQUg6SJRFpyyj9WLqnaUziwWHWrtFeeleWpi-poV7fuACrTvXIJ8baKydgvMRtbhTstahT1iFfS8e4nN1lT3751Nfh5q3lcnc-LTqFmAUtLKt8Dlw-aCVMsEYdvq2va_MBCJig). Justin is a graduate of Pearl High School and Hinds Community College. He began his career with the Pearl Police Department in 2003 as a reserve officer. In June 2011, Det. Barnette completed training and graduated from the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officer’s Training Academy (MLEOTA). He has served the Pearl Police Department in several roles. Det. Barnette started as a patrol officer and was later transferred to the traffic division, where he served as a DUI Enforcement Officer. After serving two years as the DUI Enforcement Officer, he was promoted to Detective, serving in the Juvenile Investigations Division. Det. Barnette was later transferred to the Criminal Investigations Divisions, where he is still serving today.
On December 31, 2018 Detective Barnette responded to a local hospital, after learning of a shooting that occurred on Interstate 20 West. During the incident, a female was shot in both legs and a male was shot in the face. Det. Barnette took this incident personally. During the next few weeks, Det. Barnette headed up the investigation, with little to nothing to go on. Through pure perseverance, dedication and determination, Det. Barnette was able to identify one of the four suspects involved in the incident. The suspect was arrested on unrelated charges and brought to the Pearl Police Dept. With the assistance of the Mississippi Bureau of Investigations and his fellow investigators in the Criminal Investigations Division of the Pearl Police Department, Det. Barnette was able to identify and arrest three additional suspects that were determined to be involved in the incident. Det. Barnette put countless hours into this investigation, working long hours and spending invaluable time away from his family; however he never lost sight of the need to get the dangerous individuals off of the street and out of our community. We would like to take this opportunity to show our appreciation to Det. Barnette and his family and to let him know that his dedication to this city and this department has not gone unnoticed.
The Pearl Chamber of Commerce presented Detective Barnette with a framed certificate, a $100 Bass Pro Gift Card and a Cracker Barrel Gift Basket along with a gift card for a meal for 2 people. The Alumni House Sports Bar & Grill donated a $25 Gift Certificate; The Pearl Municipal Credit Union donated a $25 Visa Gift Card; McAlister’s Deli donated a certificate for a meal for two; O’Charley’s donated 2 $10 off coupons; Jose’s Mexican Restaurant donated a $25 Gift Certificate; Eclipse Nutrition donated a certificate for 5 FREE shakes; Revell Hardware donated a stainless steel tumbler and Great American Cookie donated a chocolate chip cookie cake.