



## BEHIND THE BADGE

*"Mississippi's law enforcement are the best in the nation. Time and time again, these brave men and women answer the call to protect and serve, putting their lives on the line to protect ours. The Secretary of State's Office is proud to honor their service to our great State."*

*Pellunt*

### **Kristen Arendale Brandon Police Department**

A newcomer to law enforcement, Kristen Arendale graduated at the top of her academy class. Kristen, a single mother, said she did not "grow up" wanting to become a police officer but has since come to realize it is her "calling" in life.

"I find a great deal of satisfaction in helping and serving others," she said.

"Every morning, while getting ready for work, I realize it may be my last day. I say a prayer, kiss my daughter while whispering 'I love you' into her ears," Kristen said. "When I make it home at the end of my shift, I thank the Lord for watching over me and hug my daughter."



When not at work, Kristen says she enjoys spending time with friends and family, playing with her dogs and riding her motorcycle.

"I wish people would come to realize the color of their skin does not matter, because we are all the same on the inside," she said.