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Postcards FROM THE LEGE  **A BLOG ABOUT TEXAS GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

Postcards

Christina Crain has prison named in her honor

By [Mike Ward](#) | Thursday, August 14, 2008, 09:51 AM

Honoring its first woman chairman, the governing board of Texas' prison system this morning voted unanimously to rename a Gatesville lockup for women after Christina Melton Crain.

Crain, a Dallas lawyer, recently retired after five years as chairwoman of the nine-member board.

The Gatesville Unit is one of Texas' primary women's prisons, holding just over 1,500 convicts. The more than 40-year-old lockup was formerly used as youth prison. It began housing adult offenders in 1980.

During her tenure on the board as a member in 2001 and as chair starting two years later, Crain championed new programs for women offenders as an outspoken advocate of rehabilitation and treatment programs for convicts. She argued that such programs saved lives and taxpayer money.

If offenders were not given tools to succeed once they were released from prison, she often said, they would have little choice but to resort again to a life of crime.

Officials said the new name is effective immediately. A number of Texas' 106 prison have been renamed in recent years for former board chairmen and retired prison officials.

The renamed prison was among several honors bestowed upon Crain at an Austin board meeting this morning — ranging from a commendation from President George Bush, congratulatory speeches from Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and House Corrections Committee Chairman Jerry Madden, and a table full of gavels, plaques and other mementos.