



News from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office

Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., Sheriff

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Sheriff's Corrections Deputy Receives National Honor

A Shelby County Sheriff's Office Corrections Deputy has been named **"Female Correctional Officer of the Year"** by the **American Jail Association (AJA)**. Officer Sharon Milburn, who works at Jail East, the women's facility of the Shelby County Jail, was recognized for creating a literacy program to help female inmates learn to read.



L-R Officer Milburn and Shelby County Sheriff Mark Luttrell, Jr.



L-R Officer Milburn surrounded by her fellow staff members and commanders



L-R Chief Jailer James Coleman, Sheriff Mark Luttrell, Jr., Officer Sharon Milburn, Robert Moore, Assistant Chief, Jail Division, Rod Bowers, Assistant Chief, Jail Division

“This calls attention to Officer Milburn’s dedication to help those she serves and further emphasizes the Shelby County Sheriff’s Office has one of the best operated jails in the nation,” said Shelby County Sheriff Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

Last year, Corrections Deputy Milburn took it upon herself to work with inmates with special needs, especially the illiterate. In one instance, she worked daily with a 20 year-old inmate who later, for the first time, learned to read. That story was featured in newspapers and on television stations which led people from across the nation to send Officer Milburn letters of encouragement and hundreds of books for the jail’s library.

“Officer Milburn has inspired many people through her efforts. She knows inmates who learn new skills while in jail are less likely to repeat their criminal behaviors,” said Chief Jailer James Coleman.

Officer Milburn will receive her award April 29, 2009, at the **AJA** Awards Banquet in Louisville, Kentucky. Corrections Deputy Milburn has been with the Shelby County Sheriff’s Office since 1997.

(End of Release)