



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

1450 DUKE STREET

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314-3490703-836-7827

Fax 703-683-6541

NSAMAIL@SHERIFFS.ORG WWW.SHERIFFS.ORG

CONTACT: FRED WILSON

(703) 836-7827 ext. 322

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 2009 AWARD RECIPIENT FOR SHERIFF OF THE YEAR

ALEXANDRIA, VA — The National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) is pleased to announce that Sheriff Mark Luttrell, of Shelby County, Tennessee, has been selected as the 2009 recipient of the Ferris E. Lucas Award for Sheriff of the Year. The recipients of the Sheriff of the Year awards were decided at NSA's Winter Conference in Washington, DC in January 2009. The decision was a rather difficult and competitive one, as there were numerous nominees for the award from many Sheriff's Offices across the country.

The Ferris E. Lucas Award for Sheriff of the Year, named after former NSA President and Executive Director Ferris E. Lucas, recognizes an outstanding Sheriff for the contributions he or she has made to improve the Office of Sheriff on the local, state, and national levels, as well as for his or her involvement in the community above and beyond the responsibilities. Sheriff Luttrell was elected as Sheriff of Shelby County Tennessee in 2002.

Sheriff Luttrell has achieved many firsts in his brief career as Sheriff. He inherited a unique situation when he came to office in September 2002. During a lawsuit in 1996 the relatively new Shelby County Jail was deemed unconstitutional and was described by experts as one of the worst in the nation; a facility that was filthy, unsafe and was controlled by gangs that intimidated jailers and committed violent acts on inmates. The Jail was not only deemed federally unconstitutional but was also under a federal court initiated contempt order for non-compliance. Sheriff Luttrell quickly made the following goals for improvement; remove the unconstitutional jail status, have the jail re-accredited by the Tennessee Correctional Institutional (TCI), accredited by the American Correctional Association (ACA), and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC), and to have the Law Enforcement Division of the Sheriff's Office CALEA accredited.

In June 2005, the Federal Court rendered an Order and Opinion purging Shelby County Tennessee of contempt. By June 2006, a Judge concluded in his court order that the jail was no longer a dangerous place with high levels of violence, rape, and gang control, and was, in fact, safer for both inmates and staff and that this result was due in large part to the diligent work of Sheriff Luttrell. In October 2004, the Tennessee Correctional Institute (TCI) certified the Main Jail and in March 2005, TCI certified the Women's Jail. In August 2006, the Main Jail facility was ACA accredited and in August 2007, the Women's Jail was ACA accredited.

The law enforcement division of the Shelby County Sheriff's Office seemed overshadowed by all of the turmoil surrounding the jail and its problems. Nevertheless, Sheriff Luttrell directed that similar plans be made toward CALEA accreditation. The problem simply stated was that the Shelby County Sheriff's Office did not have any standard operating procedures, only memos. This system of memos ran contrary to the basis of CALEA accreditation, which was that internal standard operating procedure must conform to established CALEA standards. Sheriff Luttrell and a small staff found it necessary to write a complete manual of standard operating procedures, for one of the largest sheriff's offices in the U.S. The SOPs

were put into effect office-wide and were carefully evaluated and verified by CALEA officials. In March 2008, Shelby County Sheriff's Office received CALEA accreditation.

On July 1, 2008, the Shelby County, Tennessee Sheriff's Office received the Agency NSA Triple Crown Award, becoming the 38th such winner. This award represented the culmination of a long and tenuous journey from the depths of court ordered, unconstitutional jail status to accreditation by all three major accreditation bodies.

Additional accomplishments that Sheriff Luttrell should be commended for include being a Memphis City Schools Adopt-a-School Sponsor, creating the Shelby County Sheriff's Office Citizen's Academy, receiving the Lawman of the Year Award presented by the Kiwanis Club, commencing ALERT (Area Law Enforcement Retail Team), the establishment of "Operation Safe Prom," and his work to include Shelby County in the Amber Alert network.

Sheriff Luttrell is the former President of the Tennessee Public Safety Coalition and is a good standing member of the Tennessee and National Sheriffs' Associations.

The National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) is the largest association of law enforcement professionals in the United States, representing more than 3,000 elected sheriffs across the nation, and a total membership of more than 20,000. NSA is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising the level of professionalism among sheriffs, their deputies, and others in the field of criminal justice and public safety. Throughout its sixty-eight-year history, NSA has served as an information clearinghouse for sheriffs, deputies, chiefs of police, other law enforcement professionals, state governments and the federal government. NSA also provides management training for sheriffs and their command personnel at the National Sheriffs' Institute and through other innovative programs, workshops, and seminars. The National Sheriffs' Association, located in Alexandria, Virginia, also oversees the highly successful Triad Program and Neighborhood Watch.



The individuals in the photo from left to right:

Sheriff David A. Goad (was current President of NSA at time of award – now Immediate Past President); NSA Executive Director Aaron D. Kennard, John Bunnell, retired Sheriff of Multnomah County, OR; Mark A. Harris, Vice President of Government Sales and Operations, Verizon Wireless; Sheriff Mark Luttrell; Captain D. Michael Abrashoff, former commander, U.S.S. Benfold and New York Times bestselling author.