

J. Al Cannon, Jr., Esq.  
Sheriff, Charleston County



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October 22, 2014

Mr. Mike Willis  
U.S. Deputy Sheriff's Association  
319 S. Hydraulic St., Suite B  
Wichita, Kansas 67211

Dear Friend,

Working as public servants, in a profession such as ours, we are required to deal with a multiplicity of situations and bear witness to some of the most evil acts committed in our society. An evil act took the life of one of our own and injured another one of our deputies on September 8, 2014. While assisting his fellow deputies with a disturbance call at the Gardens on the Ashley Apartment Complex in Charleston, Deputy Joseph "Joe" Matuskovic was shot and killed in the line-of-duty. He made the ultimate sacrifice in protecting our community. Deputy Michael Ackerman, who was serving as a back-up deputy was also shot. Additionally, during this tragic event, a veteran County employee, a great public servant, and a dear friend, Larry Britton, who was serving in a support role for our deputies, died following an apparent cardiac event. Subsequently, law enforcement and the community responded with overwhelming support and sympathy during this incomprehensible event. The overwhelming support we have received is an excellent reminder of the bond between those in public safety and the communities we serve. This tragic event will never be forgotten. It will forever be cemented into our minds and remembered by our community.

On behalf of the men and women of the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, I want to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude and thankfulness to you for your unyielding support to the family of Deputy Sheriff Joseph Matuskovic and to us. Please know that the Sheriff's Office family is grateful for you taking the time to embrace us and stand with us during this very difficult time.

Thank you for caring.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Al Cannon, Jr." in a cursive style.

Sheriff J. Al Cannon, Jr. Esq.