



DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff Scott Mittelstadt Chief Deputy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 7, 2018

Sheriff Dale J Schmidt

Office: 920-386-4115

dschmidt@co.dodge.wi.us

This week is National Correctional Officer Appreciation Week and on behalf of the entire sheriff's office, Sheriff Dale Schmidt thanks those who work in the Dodge County Detention Facility (Jail) and all corrections officers around the country for their hard work and dedication on a daily basis. Please join the sheriff's office as we recognize our correctional officers, not only this week, but every day of the year. If you happen to know one, reach out and say thank you this week.

The sheriff's office would like to provide the public with insight into the job of a correctional officer. As a result, Correctional Officer Laurie Covington offered the following words:

"I have been a correctional officer with the Dodge County Sheriff's Office since 2002. I started shortly after the current jail opened and Dodge County began to house not only the county inmates but also contract inmates and detainees from the US Marshals and immigration detainees. The population within the facility is very diverse and every day there is a new challenge. In 2017 we booked 4,535 inmate/detainees into our facility.

Whether responding to a medical emergency, booking and housing new inmates or dealing with uncooperative or difficult inmates, we work together as a team. As corrections officers, we are responsible for the custody, safety, security and supervision of inmates in the detention facility. As a training officer, I have heard many of those I have trained comment that they had no idea what was all involved in doing this job. The tasks we perform include data entry, headcounts, escorts to medical appointments and court, video court, allowing inmates time in the gym or library, dealing with upset or mentally ill individuals, issuing and monitoring razors for shaving, snack delivery (yes they can order snacks), laundry exchange, meal service, dealing with inmates who cannot get along with other inmates, medication delivery, booking and releasing inmates and facilitating Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and other programs. There is rarely a dull moment. Over the years I have seen many inmates come and go. Many of those we house in the county jail are people who have made a mistake, own up to that mistake and do their time without incident but there are a few who blame everyone, rebel against the rules and do not take responsibility for their actions. Those individuals would test anyone's patience but we handle those individuals as professionals. At times we endure a barrage of name calling, demands, cell door kicking and destructive behavior but it's all in a day's work.

The correctional officers, maintenance staff, medical professionals and housekeeping staff at the jail are more than just coworkers, we are family. Many holidays and birthdays have been spent here with our jail family. From time to time we have potlucks and each officer will take a quick 10 to 15 minutes, leave the pod in the capable hands of a coworker and run to the breakroom and get some food. Each day we come to work we put our trust and safety in the hands of our coworkers. I am proud to be a member of the Dodge County Detention Facility staff.”

Our correctional officers deal with some of the most difficult people in our community on a daily basis. Please take a moment to thank them for doing a job that many of you would never want to do. The Sheriff certainly appreciates each and every one of them.

Questions may be directed to Sheriff Dale J. Schmidt.

###