



**OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE
KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT**



701 Ball Avenue N.E. - Grand Rapids - Michigan - 49503

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SGT. JOSEPH PLOWMAN NAMED AMERICAN JAIL ASSOCIATION'S
CORRECTIONAL SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR**

On Tuesday, April 29, 2014, Sgt. Joe Plowman was awarded American Jail Association's (AJA) Correctional Supervisor of the Year 2014 Award. This award was presented to him at AJA's 33rd Annual Training Conference and Jail Expo held in Dallas, Texas.

Described as one of those tireless employees who gives his all, Sgt. Joseph Plowman began his career with Kent County as a Corrections Officer in 1992. In 2006, he was promoted to Sergeant and worked as a shift supervisor in the main jail. In 2009, he was assigned as Courthouse and Transfer Crew Sergeant where he works with a Lieutenant to supervise a 27 person staff that provides courthouse security for two courthouses and the transportation for 1,300 inmates. He also manages a large, part-time workforce of non-sworn courthouse security. On his watch, he has dealt with evacuations due to bomb threats and utility malfunctions, as well as the evacuation and transportation of 200 inmates to several neighboring county jails due to a construction crane collapse during the worse snow storm of the season.

A graduate of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy, Sgt. Plowman is considered one of the agency's "go to" people for special assignments. In addition to his regular duties, he manages the agency's alcohol testing program and, in 2013, he was the chair of the Host Committee when the American Jail Association held its annual training conference in Grand Rapids. He is highly regarded by coworkers not only for his leadership but also for his community involvement such as the annual Shop with the Sheriff Program and activities benefiting juvenile diabetes research.

A very personable and approachable individual, Sgt. Plowman isn't a leader simply because he has been placed on a supervisory role; instead, he demonstrates leadership daily by showing his deputies that he is not above performing any of the tasks asked of them. He holds himself to a high level of performance, so it is easy for them to respect him and follow his lead. Because of these characteristics, Sgt. Plowman was nominated and selected by his peers for one of Kent County Sheriff Department's highest honors of 2013 Deputy of the Year-Corrections.

Join us in the congratulating Sgt. Joseph Plowman, from the Kent County Sheriff Department, on being named American Jail Association's Correctional Supervisor of the Year 2014.

Media Contact: Undersheriff Hess (616) 632-6236