



Charleston County News Release

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See photos from ceremony: <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/newsimages/cannon.htm>

Charleston County Detention Center Named for Sheriff Al Cannon

On Tuesday, Nov. 29, [Charleston County Council](#) held a ceremony to officially rename the County's detention center after [Sheriff J. Al Cannon, Jr.](#) in front of an audience including Council members, elected officials, coworkers, friends and family members.

After the ceremony, a sign over the center's public entrance was unveiled showing the new name: "Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center."

"This is a small way to show appreciation and support for a man who does an outstanding job watching over the safety and well-being of our citizens on a daily basis," said [Charleston County Council Chairman Teddie E. Pryor, Sr.](#), who spoke at the Nov. 29 ceremony. "He has molded the Charleston County Sheriff's Office into a premier law enforcement agency highly regarded by its peers, and continues to make our community a better place for us all."

After his remarks, Pryor asked Sheriff Cannon to say a few words and then also asked to hear from [Charleston County Council member Paul Thurmond](#) and [state Rep. David J. Mack, III](#), who attended the ceremony.

County Council voted to name the detention center after Cannon during a regular meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 7. Cannon was first elected Sheriff in 1988 and is serving in his sixth term.

"I am honored and humbled that County Council has named this detention center after me," Sheriff Cannon said. "I know that the Charleston County Sheriff's Office has been successful in processing about 25,000 inmates through the detention center annually because of the hard work and dedication of the staff that work in the difficult environment of a large and overcrowded facility. I also recognize the difficult decision County Council made to build a facility that would be of sufficient capacity to carry Charleston County through several years of growth and commend them for that vision."

Background on Sheriff Al Cannon:

- James Alton Cannon, Jr., was first elected Sheriff in 1988 and is serving in his sixth term.
- The Charleston County Sheriff's Office is one of the largest law enforcement agencies in the state, employing over 900 people.
- Sheriff Cannon is responsible for the oversight of an annual budget of over 58 million dollars.
- He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Charleston and a Masters of Criminal Justice degree from the University of South Carolina.
- He also has a Juris Doctor degree from the University of South Carolina.
- Sheriff Cannon is a member of the South Carolina Bar and the United States Supreme Court Bar.
- Sheriff Cannon's career in law enforcement spans over 35 years, starting as a patrol officer with the Charleston County Police Department in 1971.
- He then joined the North Charleston Police Department in 1973. While working at North Charleston, Cannon obtained his Master of Criminal Justice Degree and was promoted through the ranks to Lieutenant.

- Also while at North Charleston, he graduated from the 143rd Session of the FBI National Academy.
- In October 2006 Sheriff Cannon retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserves at the rank of Colonel. Cannon also served four years of active duty in the Air Force as a Russian translator.
- Cannon had many deployments around the world and came to be recognized as an authority on terrorism and anti-terrorism measures.
- In February 2010, the Sheriff completed the 6th Session of the Homeland Security and Defense Executive Leaders Program held at the Naval Post Graduate School.
- Sheriff Cannon is credited with successfully merging the Charleston County Police Department and the Charleston County Sheriff's Office in January 1991.

Visit <http://www.ccsso.charlestoncounty.org/> for more information on the Charleston County Sheriff's Office or www.charlestoncounty.org for more information, news and services relating to Charleston County Government.