



News from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office

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Sheriff's Deputy Receives International "Black Belt" Honor

A Shelby County Sheriff's Deputy who teaches defensive tactics at the Sheriff's Office Training Academy was inducted into the *International Black Belt Hall of Fame* this past weekend. The ceremony to commemorate Deputy Joseph Wilson's accomplishment was held in Hartford, Connecticut.

The International Black Belt Hall of Fame is located at the Shaolin Temple in Deng Feng, China. Grandmaster Steve DeMasco, the only American Ambassador to the Shaolin Temple, made the presentation to Deputy Wilson. DeMasco, who is internationally known in the martial arts community, has also invited Wilson to be his private student and affiliate to the Shaolin Temple.

Deputy Wilson visited the Shaolin Temple in China last year. While there, he trained with monks and performed for Head Abbot Buddhist Master Shi Yong Xin.

Wilson will be returning to China later this year to enhance his skills as a martial arts expert. Wilson has been involved in martial arts since he was four years-old and has been teaching defense techniques since he was 14. His honors include:

- 2005 International Chinese Kickboxing (San Shou) Champion
- 2006 International Bronze Medalist in Tai Chi Chuan
- 2007 International French Kickboxing (Savate) Champion

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Besides his duties at the Sheriff's Office, Wilson teaches self-protection at many area companies and universities. He has been with the Sheriff's Office since 1997.



Deputy Joseph Wilson and Grand Master Shi Yan Zhaung of the Shaolin Temple

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