July 23, 1968

Dr. C. C. Humphreys
President
Memphis State University
Memphis, Tennessee

Dear Dr. Humphreys:

This is the first opportunity I have had to tell you of the vital role your University photographer, Mr. Gil Michael, played in the recent incarceration of James Earl Ray and how grateful we are for his service.

Mr. Michael had served as a consultant without pay in helping us prepare identification cards to be used by our personnel and members of the press during the upcoming trial when it became necessary to obtain on short notice the services of a photographer to work under severe stress. Mr. Michael was contacted and unhesitatingly volunteered. The result of his effort, the photographing of James Earl Ray in custody, has been used internationally. We felt this photograph, although it could be taken in only a matter of seconds and many copies made in one hour, was a vital part in letting the world know that this prisoner and no other was in fact in our custody.

Mr. Michael performed admirably and without recompense, either in money or honor, usually due such a feat. We are very fortunate to have such unselfish and skilled men at Memphis State University and in our community.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM N. MORRIS, JR.
SHERIFF

WNMjr/ts