

MSI Specialty Item A Hit With TV Personality

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Michigan State Industries License Plate Operation produces more than just license plates. A host of specialty and custom products are manufactured from metal scrap and wood materials to produce bird houses, cutting boards, lazy Susan's, collection boxes, fundraising license plates, coasters, clocks, and other custom products that can be purchased through the MDOC Employee Clubs.

Will Rondeau, MSI Plant Manager, and his staff train and challenge offenders in the art of engraving and creative design. Gloria Smith, an MDOC employee, made a recent trip to Ft. Lauderdale, FL for an opportunity to see her favorite comedienne, and TV variety show host Carol Burnett. Gloria was absolutely stunned and surprised when she was called upon during the question and answer segment of the show. After asking a few questions, she mentioned that she also had a special cutting board made by Michigan offenders that she wanted to present to her as a gift. She also included a note with information on the MSI prison industries program. Carol invited Gloria backstage where she presented the cutting board to Carol and snapped some great images together of Carol who was thrilled that the cutting board included an engraved image of her famous alter ego "The Bucket Lady". She absolutely loved it and the fact that it was produced by the prison industries program.

Gloria also purchased four fundraising license plates through the MDOC Employee Club for an auction on eBay to raise funds for the William Holden Wildlife Foundation. The lowest winning bid was \$39 and the highest winning bid came in at \$47. During a tour of the License Plate Operation, Gloria had the opportunity to make a personalized plate for the foundation President, Ms. Stefanie Powers at an event in Chicago, IL. The William Holden Wildlife Foundation is involved in many conservation efforts near the African region of Nanyuki, Kenya, focusing on the education center which is dedicated to wildlife conservation and environmental studies.



Gloria Smith presents Carol Burnett with an MSI "Bucket Lady" cutting board



A William Holden Wildlife Foundation license plate