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Attn: Letter to the Editor

It appears that Madison County voters will have two choices for sheriff this fall. Choices are always a good thing where elections are concerned and I, like most voters, appreciate choices. In this case however, the choice is easy.

As many people know, I have been a part of state law enforcement for all or parts of four decades. Beginning my career in 1971 as a trooper, and ending it last years as director of the Illinois State Police, I have borne witness to thousands of police officers throughout Illinois and our nation. I have been an active member of the Illinois Sheriffs Association, the Illinois Chiefs Association and the International Chiefs Association. I have served on national committees in Washington DC and small "town hall" meetings throughout Illinois. During that time period, I have seen few law enforcement professionals with the multiple qualities of Sheriff Bob Hertz. His relentless work ethic and analytic mind when he was investigative commander created the esteemed reputation they enjoy today with the Major Case Squad. His no-nonsense, yet fair and ethical treatment of prisoners has produced high marks from corrections while the patrol function has become a model of efficiency. Madison County Sheriffs Deputies consistently present themselves in a highly professional manner whether they are in uniform or plain clothes.

As a life long resident of Madison County and a 38 year member of the sheriffs department, Bob Hertz has clearly demonstrated his profound dedication to justice, accountability and loyalty to the citizens of our county.

Although we may have a choice this fall, 38 years of proven excellence should make the choice easy. Please join me in voting to keep Bob Hertz as our sheriff.

Larry G. Trent