



The Paw Print

The Voice of the Military Working Dog Heritage Museum
& Handler Center



Volume 2 Issue 5

May 2022

Special points of interest:

- In 2000, two War Dog Memorials were dedicated, giving Dogmen from WWII through Vietnam, a place to Come Home.
- We honor our Fallen K9 handlers with a reading of their names, scheduled for Memorial Day.

The Memorials at March AFB and Fort Benning



This magnificent and evocative memorial sculpted by Tom Schomberg illustrates, with crystal clarity, the bond between dog and handler. Ever vigilant and ever faithful, the team stands a keen watch to keep us safe from harm. Financed by the War Dog Memorial Fund and spearheaded by Jeff Bennett, one sculpture stands at March AFB, CA, and the other on Sacrifice Field, Fort Benning. Photo source: Dixie Whitman

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As you look at the War Dog Memorial from a distance, you notice a strong, singular column supporting the elegant and fluid form of a dog team. Closer in, the form and structure give way to the overwhelming emotions they elicit. Handler and dog. Life and death. Danger made safe.

Here, bronze breathes.

A single K9 stands alert, tethered in eternity to his handler. Two separate installations provide a home to these identical masterpieces: March AFB, Calif., and Fort Benning, Ga. Jeffery Bennett of Nature's Recipe Pet Foods spearheaded and coordinated the project, gifting both memorials in 2000 to sanctify our dog teams.

We invite you to join us as we reunite on Sacrifice Field at Fort Benning to honor and remember the brave K9s, handlers, veterinarians, and vet techs. As we plan the grand gathering of the K9 family at Fort Benning, let's take a moment inside the issue to share more images and thoughts about these stirring monuments.



Vice President, Lane Hagerdorn

From the Vice President's Desk

It was 1971 when Memorial Day became an official holiday nationally. Before 1971, the holiday was unofficial and known as Decoration Day, was only celebrated in certain states, and initially only recognized fallen military who served from the Civil War through World War I. Its first commemorations were held on May 1, 1865, when more than a thousand Union POWs were released by the Confederates as the Civil War ended. Today, Memorial Day is the day we set aside to remember and recognize those of all generations who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy. The day remains one of the few times that US flags hang at half-staff from sunrise until noon and then return to full-staff until reveille.

Were you aware that the Museum has its own Memorial Day tradition? Annually, former and active handlers read the names of fallen brothers and sisters in a video series posted on our Facebook page. A bit of a preface, volunteers create these videos, recording their unique locations and personal reading style. The readings provide a powerful and reverent tribute. Please take a moment and log in on Memorial Day to see this humbling salute to our heroes.

I don't know about you, but around here, finding the perfect gift for those who "have it all" is increasingly difficult, especially for those who wear the title "Mom" so proudly!

With Mother's Day right around the corner, I invite you to join me at the Museum's store, <https://mwdheritagemuseum.org/store/>, where we are sure you will find a tumbler, coin, sticker, or shirt that will put a smile on that special woman's face on her day. While you're there, you might as well be ahead of the curve and get Father's Day knocked out too!

We are all excited about the Fort Benning, Georgia War Dog Memorial Rededication. As you are likely aware, over the weekend of May 13-15th, we will be featuring the rededication while enjoying a unique K9 demo with handlers from different units working together. Those attending can easily fit in a tour of the National Infantry Museum and bid ferociously at the silent auction - hoping to score some sweet items, including a blue light-up MWDHM logo carving or a one-of-a-kind MWDHM engraved bottle of Jack Daniels! In addition, the Museum Heritage Store will be on-site for swag, including some unique items ex-

PLICITLY created for the rededication. Also on display will be some of the Museum's most precious rare artifacts from all generations of military service. And finally, the rededication will feature keynote speaker Chris Willingham. Please keep a close eye on the Event Website, <https://mwdheritagemuseum.org/events/>. We look forward to meeting everyone there!

Finally, I would like to take a moment to recognize someone essential to the Museum who rarely gets recognition and is always, and I mean, ALWAYS, working to see this organization thrive and grow, our President, Albert Johnson. From birthing the idea to living every day and seeing it evolve and grow, Albert is ever-present and dedicated to the mission of discovering, preserving, and exhibiting the heritage of the military working dogs, handlers, and support teams. Hats off to you, Albert, and thank you for all you do, both in the spotlight and behind the scenes. We succeed because of you and your leadership!

Lane Hagerdorn

You will never
Be Forgotten



M.O.M
MANAGER OF MAYHEM

Honor the Fallen—Say Their Names: Join us on our Facebook Page on Memorial Day



Aaron Blasjo Aaron Grider Abraham Tarwoe Abron Davis Adam L. Cann Alan Davis Alan MacDonald Sturdy Alden John BullwinkeI Alexander King Alfred Evarts Whitehead Andrew John Kiefhaber Anthony Edmond Kunz Anthony Lorin Camp Archie Burnette Jr. Arnold Edward Johnson Benjamin H Mason Jr. Bernard Ford Billy Harrison Ratliff Billy Howard Best Billy Joe Parrish Billy Monroe Green Bobby Dean Crawford Bobby James Shelton Brandon Steffey Carl Jacob Claus Carl Irving Johnson Carter Parker Jr. Charles David Orsua Charles Douglas Blair Charles Douglas Drysdale Charles H Sandberg Charles John Robinson Charles Paul Brown Christopher Czarnota Christopher Diaz Christopher M. Wrinkle Clarence Creaghead Claude Joseph Gaspard Jr. Clayton Dean Jenkins Clifford Wayne Marshall Colton Rusk Dale Robert Alcorn Jr. Dallas Grundy Dan Victor Lindholm Daniel Eugene Spencer Jr. Daniel Holland Danny Edward Ward Darrell Lee Colford Darrell Swanson Dave Russell Scott David Alan Nudenberg David Alfred Land David Brennan Schachner David Byron Magruder David Hatcher David James Ohm David James Ward David M. Sonka David Michael Freeman Dennis Arthur Beuke Dennis Karl Hoppough Dennis Robert Schossow Dennis W London Dick A. Lee, Jr. Donald Lee Baker Donald Sherril Sullivan Donald T. Tabb Donald William Mc Intosh Douglas Michael Cain Dustin J. Lee Earl Barkley Edward Charles McGrath Edward Cowart Hughes III Edward Erlin Cox Jr. Edward Gilbert Lee Edward Lester Lawton Edward Monroe Simpson Eligah Davis Elmer Glenn Ireland Elmer Wain Mahurin Erik Bernard Wickenberg Erling Anderson Ernest Melvin Plattner Eugene Thomas Fraley Faleagafula Ilaoa Floyd Wayne Hartwick Jr. Freddie Lee Johnson Frederick Richard Levins Garson Franklin White Gary Allan Rathbun Gary Baker Gary Evans Beesley Gary Gene Detrick Gary Leroy Fuller Gary Richard McFall Gary Smith Gary Vaughn Lovellette Gary Wayne Fox George Douglas Deitrick George F Eubanks George Kenneth Koon George Michael Bevich Jr. George Tallman Gerald W Fritz Gilbert Gonzales Palacio Glenn Weldon McCarty Glynn Byron Holley Gordon Crawford Gregory A. Rodriguez Harlan Nathan Lockhart Harry Thomas Petersen Harry Walter Murray Herbert Burton Johnson Herbert Hoover Sweat Jr. Herschel Cyle Holt Hilburn Burdette Jr Howard Albert Butler Howard David III Payne Howard Lee Webb Irving Geon Park Jack Lee Connors Jack William Conner James Albert Michael James Allen Johnson James Blaauw James Boyd James Bruce McLaughlin James C Tosh III James Cabarubio James Harold Beaver James Maynard Berge James Michael Selix James Michael Sunday James Michael Triplett James Morrison James Paul Markey Jr. James R. Ide V James Ray Howard James Rivera James Roger Boyer Jason L. Norton Jeffrey Freeman Jeffrey R. Standfest Jeremiah Joseph Sullivan Jerry Guy Giberson Jimmy Rea Burk Joel Conrad Loftis John Alan Kuefner John Bennett John Douangdara John Francis Doyle John H Harding John Howard Roth John Kobelin II John Leroy Truesdell John Montague Mansfield John Oliver White John Paul Olmstead John Paul Southwick John Piasecki Jon Michael Young Jose Antonio Rosas Jose Munoz Jose Soto Concepcion Joseph A Carinci Joseph Allen Marasco Joseph Alvin Teresinski Joseph Anthony Nurzynski Joseph Mazzone Joseph Price Lipton Joshua Ashley Joshua Atkins III Juan Patricio Martinez Keaton G. Coffey Keith Charles Buckingham Kenneth Burlock Jr. Kenneth John Dell Kenneth Martin Kory D. Weins Larry David Hicks Larry Johnson Larry Jonathan Waddell Lawrence Alan Esterly Lawrence James Merschel Lawrence Wayne Yochum Leo Roland Meyer Leon Lovell Poland Jr. Leroy Floyd Schyska Lindsay David Baldoni Livingston Glenn Lloyd Martin Kuehn Lonnie Joseph Ducote Jr. Luis Hilerio-Padilla Mark Duane Marshall Mark Randall Taylor Mark Thomas Howard Mark Wayne Bell Marshall Colin Farley Martin Earl Brophy Martin M Mugavin Marvin Robert Pearce Max Ray Spangler Max W. Donahue Melvin Carrillo Merle Keith Carter Michael Brodsky Michael A Grieve Michael Anthony Vancosky Michael Conklin Michael Francis Smith Michael I Thibodeaux Michael James Bost Michael James Drobeno Michael James Randolph Michael Joseph Yeager Michael R Munch Michael Thomas Rowe Mycal Lee Prince Oscar Wayne Pierce Patrick Lee Henshaw Paul Edward Mattson Paul Marchant Paul Plambeck Jr Paul Roy Severson Pete Sprule Segundo Peter Claus Behrens Peter J. Clore Peter Joseph Nicolini Peter Pulaski Jr. Phillip Duff Ralph Wilson Conners Jr. Raphael Anton Futrell Randy Eugene Dillinder Raymon Draper Hales Raymond Andrew Shepard Raymond Steptoe Rex Alan Vogelwohl Richard Albert Doria Richard Arthur Lane Richard Banaszynski Richard Beauregard Richard Charles Porter Richard Ford Richard Kenneth Joecken Richard Michael Amick Richard Michael Hilt Richard Michael Schwab Richard Myers Richard Winningham Robert Anthony Schmid Robert Clokes Robert Dale Armstrong Robert David Rhodes Robert Eugene Whitten Robert Gene Smoot Robert Helm Wood Robert James Jenks Robert Joseph Taranto Robert Larry Oaks Robert Norman Norris Robert Normand Lebrun Robert Paul Ahern Robert Paul Payne Robert Preston Robert Walter May Robert Willard Hartsok (Medal of Honor) Robert William Brede Robert William Elliott Robert Winslow Belcher Rodney Elmer Marrufo Jr. Rodney Kenneth Mills Roger Thomas Lagodzinski Ronald Dean Karau Ronald Eugene Sheppard Ronald James Matel Ronald Lee Chisholm Ronald Lee Evans Russell Leonard Castle Russell Martin Erickson Sean E. Brazas Stanley Carl Fuller Stephen Edward Jesko Stephen Jay W Smith Stephen Lee Lindsay Stephen Wesley Bowman Steven Collier Steven Lee Jenkins Terrence Daniel Beck Terry John Payne Theodore A Sweatt Theodore Louis Gyulveszi Thomas Drum Thomas Pretter Thomas Wayne Quinn Thomas William Fisher Tim Edwin Newell Timmy Larry Miller Vernon E Whetham Victor A. Brice Victor Reyes Hernandez Virgil Jessie Roberts Walter Clark Walter D Browne Walter Lawrence Maurer Wayne Bizzle Holland Wilhelm S Hurksman Jr. William Allison Anderson William Andrew Montano William Charles Sheldon William Clayton Ray William Donald Griffin II William E Groves William George Fraser William H. Crouse, IV William Jess Sims William Joseph Van Gorder William Ladd Campbell William M Huberty William Martin Dunning William Roger Goudelock William Thomas Cumbie William Wayne Lumsden Willie Bozier Jr Winfred Lee Smith Zainah C. Creamer

In Memory Of

by Michael Hurder

October 8, 2000, I was working at Rockwell Automation in Tustin, CA, installing another million-dollar piece of equipment. There I was in Southern California, a hop, skip, and a jump from Santa Anna, but I still hadn't worked up the courage to visit his grave. The "dime" was in my pocket where it had been for 38 years; I just hadn't made myself face that ghost and leave the dime where it belonged. Would this year be any different? Would I break through the miasma that kept me from him? Santi deserved it. I just hadn't found the courage.

Across the continent, on the same balmy late fall day in Georgia, another event leaped past my unknowing fog of awareness. A monument to our treasured partner War Dogs was being dedicated. A persistent group of Vietnam Dog Handlers defied the odds and created something more beautiful than most memorials I'd ever visited. With the help of the War Dog Memorial Fund, The Vietnam Dog Handler Association met its dream to build a memorial fit for the furry companions that kept us alive in Southeast Asia so many years before. They constructed it on the same

facility where most of them sweated through training. Sacrifice Field in Fort Benning, Georgia, became the perfect home for this monument to heroism seldom seen in a person's lifetime. This renewed passion may have been the last act causing the passing of Robby's Law, signed by President Bill Clinton in November 2000. This law laid to rest the practice of abandoning our War Dogs for good. Handlers the world over rejoiced.

I can only imagine the euphoria experienced by my brother-handlers, who were aware of and did make it to that dedication. They must have reveled in the glorious recognition their companions finally and oh so deservedly were bathed in that day. The joy they must have felt knowing they would no longer be singing to the choir about the exploits of the K9 Corps, but instead, the whole world would hear of it. To feel the gratitude of the thousands of families whose sons and brothers and fathers returned from that war only because of the Scouts, Sentries, Mine and Tunnel, Trackers, Booby, and Patrol Dog Teams, and to know that those families were aware of it. To know that America



Dedicated on October 8, 2000, the Fort Benning War Dog Memorial is now surrounded and protected by a circle of pedestals acting as standing sentinels. Large plaques list the KIA dogs and handlers and are flanked by unit and branch memorials.



Vietnam veteran dog handler, Michael Hurder, places his hand on the bronze German shepherd and is immediately reminded of his dedicated partner, Prince.

finally understood that we counted.

My fugue consumed me in 2000; I barely made it from one day to the next. Three more long years slipped by before I finally found my place in that community of brothers-in-arms, and more years until I came to feel entirely welcome. 2018 was the year I first rejoined that community in earnest at the San Diego VDHA Reunion and put the past in its place. The trauma receded, and the memories, even some good ones, prevailed. Santi got his dime.

In February 2020, I attended the rededication of the War Dog Memorial on March Air Base in Riverside, CA., an identical version of the one on Fort Benning. Aside from the heartwarming experience of being with my now close friend and then fellow 34th IPSD handler, Joe Robinson, I felt the warmth of being close to Rainbow Bridge for the first time. In my heart, as I touched the breast of that great bronze beast, I sensed Prince's love once more. I felt him beckon me forward to place a rose at his feet. I savored the undying bond of man and dog, friends for life

and death again. It didn't depress me at all.

In May 2022, I will travel to Columbus, Georgia, after a 51-year hiatus since I last set foot on the hallowed grounds of Fort Benning and the Scout Dog Training School. In moments of remembrance, I find I can't breathe. I envision a little female German Shepherd named Lady, watching the Kennel Master spray me down after I fell asleep in her kennel on a Saturday morn. I remember a beast of a K9 named Rebel who scared me and every other trainee half to death, except for one, my brother Santi. I remember struggling through evolutions of training that I'd never understood until Santi yelled for me to "Suck it up, troop!" Finally, after he showed me how and Lady continued to perform flawlessly, I would "get it."

I remember it wasn't until the last few days of training that I finally felt I was able. I was ready. I remember standing across from the kennels on that final day, waiting for the bus that would take us to Columbus Airport, heading home for our last leave before deploying to Southeast Asia. Standing there,



Veteran dog handlers line up at the March AFB War Dog Memorial at a rededication ceremony to honor and remember. The original dedication took place in February 21, 2000.

I felt a tear in my eye as I wondered what would happen to my little Lady. Would she get a good man as her next trainee handler? I pondered what wonders awaited me in Vietnam and what kind of partner I'd be paired with. I worried about what kind of soldier I would make since the real deal awaited me.

Then the bus arrived, and a month-long blur of life later, I was there in the blistering heat and humidity and struggling once again with a new furry wonder named Prince 16x5, trying to bribe him with chunks of Prime Dog Food, thinking, "**Please, let me in, you immense beast.**"

I will go to Georgia, and I will lift my head high so those who follow in my footsteps may see that they, too, will be all they can be. I will shed a tear for our losses but will remember the lives saved by those very losses. I will hug a brother or two or ten. I will remind Prince that I'm coming, but not quite yet, and that I'll be bringing a Frisbee and some Prime chunks - just in case. I will capture those moments on digital media to carry me forward when I need a boost.

K9 will always lead the way. There, I will follow.

Vietnam Navy Dog Wounded Saving Handlers Life

by Dixie Whitman with photos courtesy of Al Dodds

The aqua blue water met the smooth white sand on the beaches south of Da Nang. The gentle slope of the seashore, water clear and warm year-round, and stunning vistas surrounded by coconut trees might trick an onlooker into thinking of vacation. This was anything but idle time. Nearby, the Marble Mountain Transmitter site, managed by the U.S. Navy, served as the central communication hub for I Corps during the Vietnam War.

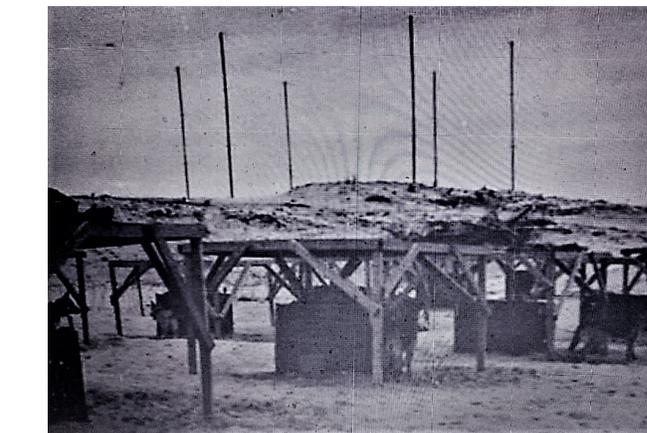
Six large poles drilled into the earth with wires attached between them and with even more strands woven earthward seeking a cone in the middle created one antenna pad. One of the Sentry Dog Handlers serving there, Al Dodds, remembers about a dozen of these pads installed at Marble Mountain, making it an irresistible target for the enemy. Every communication coming in and out of I Corps, whether with fighter jets flying sorties, supporting battle-ships, or the command back home, connected via the transmitter site at Marble Mountain. If the Viet Cong could damage this connection, they could cripple air support,

sea support, etc. Keeping the comms secured and running became a task for 36 Navy dog handlers.

The perimeter of the site stretched close to 1 1/2 miles in circumference. A small Marine base edged the periphery for about 300 yards of that 1 1/2 miles, leaving the remainder of the outline to the Navy dog teams to protect. Al states, "The entire Navy K9 corps was created especially to do this."

The site overlooked the beach of the South China Sea. If the winds blew just right at night, you could hear the gentle waves lapping onshore. Besides the sounds of the sea, few noises made their way into the night. The dunes didn't support a lot of insects, so the only noises one could hear were the conversations held when two handlers happened to meet briefly if their pacing intersected or the crunching of combat boots pushing into the soft sand. The quiet nights could be disconcerting, alone and young, with the enemy watching. Thank God for the dogs!

In general, fifteen dog teams split between two shifts patrolled the pe-



The Navy dogs lived just down the hillside from one of the antenna pads created at Marble Mountain, near Da Nang, in I Corps.



Some of the 36 Navy handlers securing the Marble Mountain Transmitter site during and after the Tet Offensive. Left to Right: Hanwell, Jackson, Hennesey, Duran, and Doc.

rimeter immediately around the Marble Mountain site. Patrolling started half an hour before sunset to 12:30 AM, and the other dogs would do the midwatch from 12:30 AM to half an hour after sunrise. Their workweek hummed six days a week, except during the month-long Tet Offensive when days off vanished

as quickly as the Viet Cong.

The handlers never knew where or how the incidents would start. It often might have only been harassment, with an enemy sniper taking one shot at one handler and then going back to bed while the handlers all remained on alert for the remainder of the night.

But this time, it proved to be an attack. One summer night in 1968, infiltrators arrived from the beachside of the base, gliding in against a dark sea.

Major, a dog handled by Seaman Kenneth Jackson, cocked his head with the first hint of trouble. Jackson continued his patrol, meeting with a dog handler from a neighboring post. Kneeling and in hushed tones, the adjacent post's handler confirmed that his dog's reactions that night indicated something might be afoot.

Suddenly, a sniper's bullets kicked up the sand a few yards from them as they spoke, irritating Major. He tried to pull his handler towards the concertina wire barricade. Jackson saw the intruder near the fence line and tried to quiet Major.

The sniper sent another round towards Jackson and missed, while Jackson returned fire. He moved away from the wire when snipers coordinated their attack from a different direction. Major lunged at one of the enemies and took a bullet.

Jackson spoke at the time, saying that the bul-

let that hit Major "would have definitely hit me in the chest or neck area. After Major was hit, he repeatedly tried to get up and go after the intruder.

Pulling back, Jackson met another handler and a Navy corpsman. He muzzled Major, who was heading into shock, handed him off, and begged the medic to get his partner to a bunker. Jackson witnessed multiple muzzle flashes along the perimeter in a coordinated enemy effort. He returned fire, hitting at least three men during the barrage. Then it stopped as quickly as it started.

Jackson's Navy Pride in his K9 partner made DoD news, with Jackson stating he thought his dog should be awarded a medal for his actions during that fight.

Major recovered and returned to patrolling the Marble Mountain Transmitter Site.

Kenneth Jackson passed away in 2012, and his remains were inurned in Arlington National Cemetery with other American heroes. We remember and honor him.



Above: A view of Marble Mountain from the Comm Site. The Navy's makeshift kennels to the south of one of the transmitter cones.



Above: This image of Kenneth Jackson and his partner, Major, illustrated an article in the military newspaper at Da Nang just after the incident. Notice that someone pasted a K9 Hero award on top of the photo. Photo source: DoD via Al Dodds.

Meet Our Museum Team and Learn About Our Mission at Our May 13-15 & 16 Events



**Fort Benning
May 13-15 &
Woodstock, GA
Semper Fi
May 16
3-7 PM**

Join our team at Fort Benning in May for a chance to meet members of our Board of Directors and some of our vital, vibrant volunteers. Come and enjoy all of the magnificent events of the weekend: the Rededication, a Kennel Walk Through (limited to former K9), a dog demo, the Infantry Museum, and a great banquet. Show your support for a new museum to tell the stories and share the heritage and history of military working dogs and the amazing men and women who grasped the end of a leash, unaware of its true grip.

K9 Veterans Day - Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin

Photos and story by Sherri Swanson

On Sunday, March 13, 2022, Wisconsin held its 8th annual K9 Veterans Day celebration, honoring working and fallen K9s who protect and serve alongside their veteran and active handlers.

The program began with a wreath-laying ceremony at the K9 Veterans Memorial in McCoy Park, Fort Atkinson, WI. Military historian, Ron Werneth, laid the wreath on the bronze statue honoring K9 Seato and his handler, Marine Lance Corporal Terry Beck, who lost their lives in Vietnam in December 1967. Following the wreath-laying, participants proceeded to the American Legion banquet hall to continue the program.

Veterans, K9 handlers, law enforcement, community representatives, and other interested individuals gathered for the ceremony.

The unforgettable highlight was the opportunity to honor Kenosha County Sheriff's Department K9 Riggs and his Handler Deputy Terry Tiff. Both K9 Riggs and Deputy Tiff received heart-shaped cookies. K9 Riggs, in true K9 fashion and unrestrained by social decorum, devoured his as Deputy Tiff accepted a plaque commemorating the K9 team's bravery.

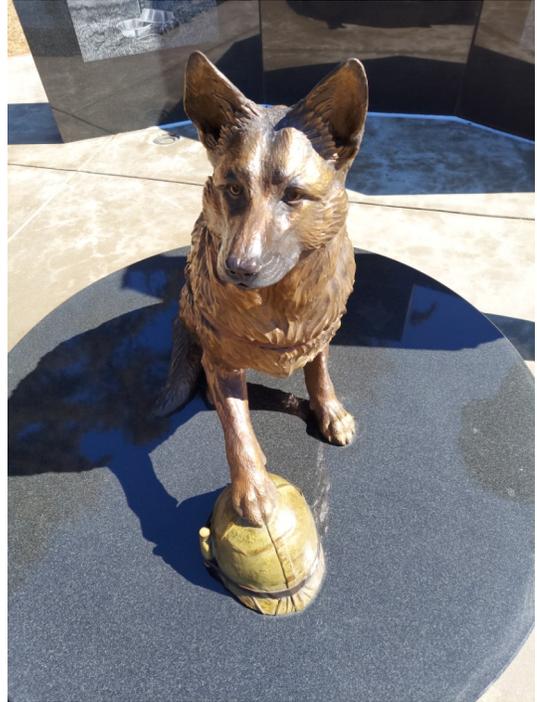
On October 21, 2021, Kenosha County Sheriff's Department deputies were in Bristol, WI looking for a stolen car. The driver from Chicago was a suspect in a homicide in Chicago that same day. According to the sheriff's department, Deputies from Kenosha County found the driver who sought to flee. But Riggs pursued him and tackled him. The suspect then shot Riggs in the head. The bullet entered the top of his head and exited through the back of the neck, bruising the skull but not fracturing it or hitting any vital parts.

Attendees expressed their deep appreciation for K9 Riggs' recovery and his return to active service.

They recognized 30 fallen working K9s, with Vietnam Veteran K9 Handler Rick Hong tolling an honor bell as the dogs' pictures showed on a screen.

Later, Jefferson County Sheriff Paul Milbrath distributed large dog biscuits to 21 K9s in attendance. Human attendees enjoyed specially decorated K9 Vet cookies.

The featured speaker was John Meeks, veteran K9 handler, Bronze Star recipient, and executive director of Chapter 3 of the U.S. War Dogs Association in Kokomo, IN. Mr. Meeks



Above: The bronze statue depicts Seato. During the K9 Veterans Day Ceremony, held March 13, 2022, Ron Werneth, military historian, laid a wreath to honor all working and fallen K9s who serve in sacrifice.



Above: The Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin War Dog Memorial honors Marine Lance Corporal Terry Beck and his partner, Seato, who lost their lives in Vietnam in December 1967.

presented a visual history of war dogs and spoke eloquently about the difference they made by saving the lives of military personnel.

Ron Werneth, acclaimed author and military historian, presented a display of military and law enforcement K9 artifacts.

Mabel Schumacher, K9 Veteran's Day project coordinator, reported on the success of a 2021 fundraising campaign toward the Terry Beck Protective Services Scholarship.

The Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson raised \$20,000 and donated it to the Fort Atkinson Community Foundation. With an application deadline of April 1, the scholarship is now open to Fort Atkinson High School seniors and alumni, and Fort Atkinson residents who want to enter the field of protective services as defined by the Madison Area Technical College program. Ms. Schumacher encouraged anyone interested in the scholarship to visit the community foundation.

At the end of the ceremony, Ms. Schumacher presented Sheriff Milbrath with a unique cookie, thanking him for his continual support of Wisconsin's K9 Veteran's Day effort. Sheriff Milbrath then presented Ms. Schumacher with a

Jefferson County K9 Unit Merit Award for her efforts on behalf of working K9s.

The Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson sponsored the annual K9 Veterans Day ceremony, following a successful 2015 campaign to have March 13 proclaimed K9 Veteran's Day by the Wisconsin Legislature.

That proclamation designated March 13 as a day to remember and honor military working dogs, police dogs, customs dogs, search and rescue dogs, border patrol dogs, arson dogs, and Secret Service dogs that help protect and serve our nation.

The Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson, Inc. is a nonprofit organization of volunteers offering training classes, education, and community service.

If you're wondering, the suspect who shot K9 Riggs was shot by local deputies and taken to the hospital. Upon his release from the hospital, the deputies booked him in the local jail.

In Wisconsin, injuring a police dog is a felony, punishable by up to 3.5 years in prison and a \$10,000.00 fine. Killing a police dog is punishable by up to 6 years in prison and the same fine.



Above: The backside of the memorial shares a quote by Barbara Snow and a logo designed by a Vietnam Veteran.



Above: John Meeks III, President of the USA War Dogs, Chapter 3, provides a lesson in MWD history.

History in the Strangest Places

by Curtis Hendel

An old acquaintance always said that "every day is a good day; some are just better than others." I tend to try to live by that thought; if I can get up in the morning and live in this great nation, work to support myself and my family, and enjoy freedom, well, that is a great day every day.

On one of those better days, the photo in the center of this piece showed up in my mailbox. A package arrived from a former area resident who had helped me with a project on local veterans. When I opened that package, the contents flooded me.

The picture is just plain cool. It is an original that had been a museum piece in the Cannon Falls Minnesota Military Museum. My friend, Marty, paid \$38 for it at a rummage sale. At some point, the museum no longer wanted to display it. He thought of me and my military working dog handler history when he saw it.

After holding onto the photo for several years, I chose to donate it to the MWDHM. When I learned about a new museum to house and exhibit MWD history, I knew where it had to go. What better place for this unique photograph of soldiers that

built the foundation of today's K9 program than with this organization? Now that I participate in the monthly newsletter, I knew I had to research the image and find its story.

The photo captured San Francisco on Army Day in 1946. The caption says that this is the Scout Dog Platoon of the 2nd Infantry Division. After World War II, this parade would have taken place after the 2nd ID's assignment to Fort Lewis, Washington. When you look carefully at the image, you will find that my research on the picture itself and the unit will turn up some confusing num-

bers, but, at this point, this is the best information I can compile.

The 2nd ID trained for war and headed to England to prepare for the D-Day landings before the War Dog Platoon was attached. Just after the invasion of the European continent, the War Department authorized the creation of the platoons. The Division landed on Omaha Beach on June 7th, D+1.

While the soldiers in the 2nd ID were fighting their way through France, fifteen War Dog Platoons trained through the Quartermaster Corps as they prepared for war. The pla-

toons would consist of 18 Scout Dogs and 16 Messenger Dogs. Each platoon would have 20 enlisted soldiers and one commissioned officer.

The platoons had shipped out by the end of the year; 7 to Europe and 8 to the Pacific Theater. The first experiences with the dogs showed that picking handlers from the Quartermaster Corps instead of infantry soldiers left dogs with handlers not adequately trained in combat tactics. Before the year had ended, adjustments were made to handler selection, which eliminated the messenger dogs.



The photo in the envelope had been a museum piece in the Cannon Falls, Minnesota Military Museum. It features the Scout Dog Platoons of the 2nd Infantry Division on parade in San Francisco in 1946. With thanks to Volunteer Sherri Swanson for the photo restoration.

In the Pacific, the dogs had an immediate, positive effect. Used in the island-hopping campaign, the detection capabilities of the dogs were vital in locating hidden Japanese soldiers intent on ambushing Americans. They would directly save thousands of lives before the end of the war.

The teams sent to Europe did not fare as well due to the faster pace of warfare in Europe. The rapid advance did not allow the dogs the opportunity to take point like they had in the Pacific. Much of the fighting also included artillery barrages. The horrific noise associated with this aspect of war caused dogs to suffer from noise trauma. The risk to the animals relegated the dogs to sentry duty, guarding supplies and prison-

ers. In this role, they certainly helped in the development of the program.

On May 8th, 1945, Germany surrendered, and the War in Europe ended. Some units would stay to stabilize the war-torn continent, but the 2nd Infantry Division was quickly shipped back to the United States, arriving at the New York Port of Embarkation on July 20th. From there, they were sent to Camp Swift in Bastrop, Texas, two days later. It was here that they would begin the training and re-fitting necessary to invade mainland Japan.

The war ended in less than a month when the United States resorted to a new form of warfare to avoid invading Japan. The 2nd ID then began to return to a peacetime foot-

ing. On April 15th, 1946, the Division arrived at their final assignment, stationed at Fort Lewis.

The War Dog Platoon traveled to San Francisco to participate in that Army Day Parade in 1946. At some point, the platoon must have either absorbed dogs from other divisions or gained new teams because it appears as though this formation is composed of at least 60 dog teams.

The Military Working Dogs of World War II would, for the most part, not remain in the military. For the second time in the 20th Century, our leaders made the mistake of thinking that peace was inevitable and the world's threats were over. The handlers of the original platoons, no matter how dangerous their

missions, were not eligible to earn the Combat Infantry Badge. This military miscue was a technicality that came with being assigned to the Quartermasters Corps. The dogs that had served heroically in World War II did not stay in the military. Most returned to the families that donated them or retired with handlers. The United States Army worked hard to remove the aggressive behavior from the dogs before handing them back to their families, and very few returned for bad behavior.

Yeah, that old photo shows much more than a bunch of dog teams. It offers a view of the very foundation of our program, the great grandfathers of those on the line today.

Yep, some days are better than others!

Volunteer Spotlight: Rita Richardson



This month, we spotlight Rita Richardson and her Volunteer Committee work. Keeping track of our active community of volunteers is a skill that multi-tasker Rita takes in stride. Each month she maintains the reporting of Volunteer Hours, which the Board of Directors reviews at monthly meetings. Not surprising, her positive energy is contagious.

Rita has steadfastly supported military working dog teams since 2002, when she first rounded up donations for a Fort Benning event. That magical weekend, coordinated by the 47th Infantry Platoon Scout Dog of the Vietnam Era, raised additional funds for the pedestals at Fort Benning.

Since that time, she's manned Johnny Mayo's War Dog booth at Celebrate Freedom near Columbia, South Carolina, helped coordinate Military Working Dog Day in Georgia, and more. We thank her for her hard work and for her generous sponsorship of our Fort Benning event as an owner of R & R Cattle in Martelle, Iowa.



MILITARY WORKING DOG HERITAGE MUSEUM FORT BENNING WAR DOG MEMORIAL REDEDICATION



WHEN
May 13-15, 2022

WHERE
Fort Benning &
The National Infantry Museum

FEATURING War Dog Memorial Rededication • Army MWD Program K9 Demonstration • Fort Benning K9 Walk Through (Requires registration -Exclusive for former Military Working Dog Handlers) • Hospitality Room • Tours of National Infantry Museum • Meet and Greet with Handlers from Various Eras and Branches of Service • Banquet and Fundraising Auction • Military Working Dog Heritage Store.

If you are attending, please be sure we know.

SIGN UP AT
[HTTPS://MWDHERITAGEMUSEUM.ORG/
EVENT/2022-FORT-BENNING-REDEDICATION/](https://mwdheritagemuseum.org/event/2022-fort-benning-re-dedication/)



Military Working Dog
Heritage Museum.

MILITARY WORKING DOG
MEMORIAL REDEDICATION



SCAN THIS CODE FOR
BASE ACCESS



JOIN US

TO HONOR OUR PAST, PRESENT,
AND FUTURE WAR DOG TEAMS
WHO SAVE COUNTLESS LIVES
PROTECTING OUR GREAT NATION.

MWDHM'S MISSION

THIS EVENT IS TO SUPPORT OUR
WAR DOGS (PAST, PRESENT AND
FUTURE). THE MWDHM IS
DEDICATED TO PRESERVING OUR
K9 HISTORY. TOGETHER WE ARE
COMMITTED TO LEADING WITH
INTEGRITY AND OPERATIONAL
EXCELLENCE. WITH A SPIRIT OF
COLLABORATION AND A PLEDGE OF
INCLUSIVENESS AND COMPAS-
SION, WE HAVE ACCEPTED THE
TASK OF CREATING A WORLD
CLASS MUSEUM. OUR PROMISE IS
TO HONOR OUR AMERICAN MILI-
TARY K9 FAMILY AND TELL ITS
STORY IN A RESPECTFUL MANNER.

SPONSORS

A Tail Away ♦ M K Hurder Photography
Direct Action K9 ♦ K9 Hero Haven
USA War Dogs, Chapter 3 ♦ R & R Cattle
AT K9 ♦ Tarnock Family Foundation
American Legion Continental Post
1424 ♦ Welcome Home Military Heroes



Military Working Dog
Heritage Museum &
Handler Center
P.O. Box 54
Newport, TN 37822
Phone: 865-507-8903

From the Team at MWDHM...
We invite you to join the museum's journey
by signing up for a free *Paw Print* subscription.
Email: info@mwdhm.org

**Military Working Dog Heritage:
Always on Point**

We're on the Web: mwdhm.org
We're on Facebook:
Military Working Dog Heritage Museum



Recycle, please.
Share your story.
Share your vision.
Share your voice.
Share your copy of
our newsletter.

Important dates with Trooper and Scout

May 13-15 2022 Events at Fort Benning. Hospitality room, War Dog Memorial Rededication, K9 Demonstration, Tours of the National Infantry Museum, Banquet, Auction, and more.

May 16, 2022— MWDHM Fundraiser at Semper Fi Bar and Grille, 9770 Main St, Woodstock, GA 30188 with former War Dog Handlers. \$15 ticket. 3 PM - 7 PM

July 17, 2023 - 25th Rededication of the War Dog Memorial at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville .



Historic Pooch Pic of the Month



Left:

**Security policemen
A1C Steven Thomp-
son and Korean Air
Force A1C AN Jae
Hun patrol a South
Korean base
with a sentry dog.**

Source NARA