

The Military Working Dog Heritage Museum and Vietnam Veteran Dog Handler Johnny Mayo to host events at the Columbia, SC Ward Dog Memorial 10th Anniversary /Rededication and, Veterans Day Parade

Handlers and Friends,

The Military Working Dog Heritage Museum will be sponsoring two Events during the 10th Anniversary / Rededication on November 10th– 11th, 2025. The Memorial with its Dog and Handler, designed by Renee Bemis, was the inspiration of Johnny Mayo of Columbia, SC and Vietnam Dog Handler.

The Museum Events will take place at the Hampton Inn & Suites Columbia/SE Fort Jackson, about seven miles from Memorial Park of Columbia, SC.

The Rededication of the Memorial will take place in Columbia, SC on Tuesday afternoon, November 11th, Veterans Day.

- The Museum will have at the hotel, a pizza / fundraiser on **Monday Evening**. On **Tuesday evening**, we will have a dinner / fundraiser from Mission BBQ catering. We are planning a raffle with some nice quality items, a 50/50 raffle and a silent auction on both nights. We will have a large supply of our museum store items on site for sale. The event registration fee covers both evening meals for each attendee and is \$65.

- We are currently planning to host a dog demonstration on the hotel property, (parking lot area), on Monday afternoon. **No promises, still in discussion with the US Army, Ft. Jackson K9 Section.**

- **Tuesday Morning prior to the Rededication, Handlers and Family members will have the opportunity to ride in the Columbia, SC Veterans Day Parade.**

- Interested handlers and family members will have the opportunity to ride in military vehicles in the Columbia Veterans Day Parade. Vehicle seating would be limited to the number of vehicles available, with first preference being given to the dog handlers. K9 will lead the way and will be at the head of the parade which will end at the War Dog Memorial 30-40 min later. (Times and further details will be available at the event registration table at the hotel banquet room).

- **The Rededication** of the memorial would take place an hour or so later. There is a plan in the works to have a food truck on site at the memorial.

Accommodations:

Hampton Inn & Suites Columbia/SE Fort Jackson.

201 East Exchange Boulevard Columbia, South Carolina 29209.

Group rates are good

Room Rate – Group Rate is \$118 + taxes/fees. *Please register as soon as possible.*

Arriving in town early? The Group Rate is available November 8 through the 13 if you plan to stay a few days before or after the Rededication events and is based on the hotel's availability.

Be sure to edit your particular stay dates correctly on the hotel registration page and remember to update your edits before choosing your room.

- Complimentary Hot Buffet Breakfast.
- Complimentary Wi-Fi and Self-Parking.
- Accessible rooms are available first come first served.
- **Pet friendly – \$75 non-refundable pet fee** and will be waived **for certified working and service dogs.**
- 21-day reservation cut-off prior to November dates.
- Standard individual cancellation applies (24-hours).

- The Events and Hotel Registration links are on the Museum Website at <https://bit.ly/MWDHM-SC-WDMR>