

LIFE notes

LIFE prides itself on helping those in need and for being the champion for those who cannot speak but who enrich our lives and everyday make us a little more... human.

May 21, 2021

REMEMBERING OUR HEROES EDITION



Dear Friends:

When you hear the name Conan, you most likely think of either the movie “barbarian” played by Arnold Schwarzenegger or the late-night TV host with the mop of red hair.

You probably would not have thought of the Belgian Malinois who helped the U.S. Special Forces track down and kill the leader of ISIS two years ago.

And when you hear the name Cairo, you most likely think of the capital of Egypt - and not the courageous military working dog who was a member of the elite Navy Seal Team 6 that took down Bin Laden.

Don't worry - you are not alone. Most of us remember our human military heroes with names like Patton, Eisenhower, Washington. And on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, we remember family members, friends, neighbors, and colleagues who sacrificed so much in the name of freedom.

But the 2,700 dogs currently in active military service and the countless thousands who have bravely worn the uniforms of America's Armed Service branches since the Civil War do not get the recognition they deserve.

That's why it was a truly special day on Saturday, May 15, when we proudly dedicated the American Military Hero Dog Monument, located at Tri-County Animal Rescue in Boca Raton, Florida.

This national monument represents the unbreakable bond between the courageous canines and the valiant warriors who have served alongside each other in our nation's military. It also commemorates the unwavering connection between our heroes at both ends of the leash and a permanent way to illuminate the stories of these four-legged heroes of the past, present, and future.



(Dear Friends continued)

These courageous canines include Sally, a Staffordshire Terrier who followed the men of the 11th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry into combat in the Civil War. She stayed on the frontlines with her men for three years, eventually losing her life in battle. Today, there is a statue dedicated to her at Gettysburg.

There is also Sergeant Stubby. He served in World War I in 17 battles on the Western front and saved his regiment from a mustard gas attack. He even chased down a German soldier and helped capture him by chomping down on the seat of his pants. Talk about a rear-guard action.

And there is Chips, the most decorated military dog of World War II. He served with General Patton's army and earned a Silver Star for valor.

There are so many similar stories of heroic military dogs from Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

They do so much: they carry out lifesaving missions; detect explosive devices; search areas that their human handlers cannot reach; and provide companionship not just in the cauldron of war but long after the battle is over.

We can never fully repay them for all they have done to protect our freedom and our nation. But the American Military Hero Dog Monument, and the love and respect we show them for their service and devotion, is a good start to acknowledging them.

I'd also like to acknowledge the HUMAN heroes and dear friends who played their part in the creation of this monument: The brilliant sculptor, Austin Weishel, my ally and partner in building this monument, Dr. Robin Ganzert, president and CEO of American Humane; and Suzi Goldsmith, co-founder of Tri-County Animal Rescue. I would also like to thank U.S. Reps. Lois Frankel (D-FL) and Brian Mast (R-FL); former U.S. Rep. and HUD Secretary Donna Shalala; and Florida State Attorney Dave Aronberg for taking the time to participate in our ceremony.

Thank you, one and all.

With Love,

Lois

Upcoming Events

January 9, 2022

Lois Pope and LIFE's Board invite you to
LIFE's 28th Annual Lady in Red Gala

6:00 PM

The Breakers, Palm Beach

To learn more or to donate, visit
www.life-edu.org or call 561.582.8083.