

*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.*

September 7, 2021

## **In the Name of Honor Edition**



In "Romeo and Juliet," one of my favorite plays, William Shakespeare wrote, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

I've been thinking recently about this question -- what's in a name? -- because we are launching a contest for school children in conjunction with the Palm Beach County School District to name the courageous canine on the American Military Hero Dog Monument.

You will recall that we dedicated the monument a few months ago in a ceremony at Tri-County Animal Rescue. The monument celebrates the unbreakable bond between the heroic dogs and the valiant human warriors who have served alongside each other in our Armed Forces, from the Civil War through today. Some 2,700 dogs are currently engaged in active military service.

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



American Military Hero Dog Monument



Yet, like America's four million-plus living disabled veterans, these military working dogs do not get the recognition they so well deserve. I discussed this problem with our dear friend, Dr. Robin Ganzert, president and CEO of American Humane, and came up with the K9 Medal of Courage. The highest honor for dogs performing exceptional service in the five branches of the military, the medal is awarded in a ceremony on Capitol Hill every year.

Still, I felt more needed to be done. We also needed a permanent monument to recognize the four-legged heroes of the past, present and future. Robin quickly agreed and thus was born the American Military Hero Dog Monument.







*"My hope is by naming the courageous canine on the American Military Hero Dog Monument, we will remember there are heroes at both ends of the leash."*



U.S. Rep. Brian Mast (R-FL), Lois Pope and U.S. Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL) at the dedication of the American Military Hero Dog Monument

Which brings us to the dog naming contest. We are asking children in the various elementary and middle schools throughout the district to create either a piece of art or a very brief video offering the name they feel is most appropriate for the monument dog, and why they chose that name. Then the judging team – comprising a representative from the school district, the monument sculptor Austin Weishel, LIFE Board member Bob Miller, Robin and me – will select two winners, one from elementary school and one from middle school. The two winning students will each receive \$2500 and the schools where they attend will each receive the same amount.



Dr. Robin Ganzert & monument sculptor Austin Weishel

Appropriately, we will celebrate the winners in a ceremony at Tri-County on November 11, Veterans Day -- the day America pays tribute to the men and women who have donned the uniforms of the nation's military branches and who served and sacrificed to defend and preserve the freedoms we all enjoy and cherish.

It is my hope that with this contest – by naming the courageous canine on the American Military Hero Dog Monument – that we remember there are heroes at both ends of the leash.

With love,

*Lois*



**PS: If you would like to attend the Nov. 11 ceremony with the children, please let the office know – 561-582-8083.**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 11, 2021**

**Hero Dog Naming Contest Winners Award Celebration**

**Time TBD**

**Tri-County Animal Rescue, Boca Raton**

**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 [life-edu.org](http://life-edu.org) or call 561.582.8083.