

BLUE

THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT



K-9 UNSUNG HEROES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

K-9 LANZER





Caesar & Deanna DePaço are selfless civilians who care about law enforcement and the safety of officers nationwide. For over a decade they have donated police equipment, including K-9's to law enforcement agencies. The DePaços love canines and have donated 202 canines thus far. We as a law enforcement community are forever grateful for the DePaço family—their generosity, support, and commitment to law enforcement is unmatched.

The Blue Magazine proudly declares the DePaço family as America's #1 Law Enforcement supporters!

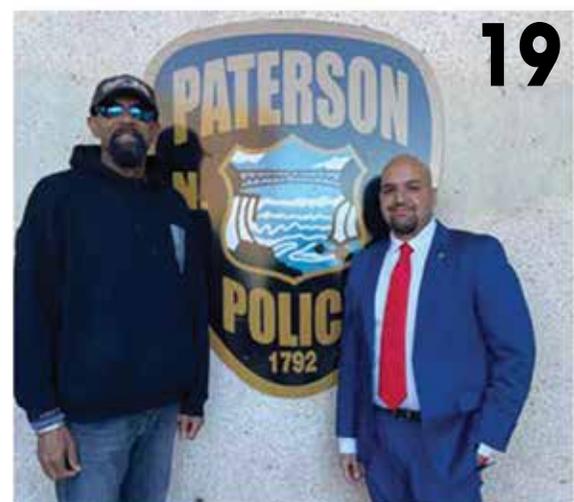
Pictured is K-9 Lanzer, an Honorary K-9 officer with the Somerset County Sheriff's Office.



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BLUE

THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

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MANAGING EDITOR'S MESSAGE



“The bond between a dog and its police handler is a strong one. It is based on trust, respect, understanding and love.” – Cesar Millan, The Mexican American dog trainer widely known for his Emmy-nominated television series “Dog Whisperer.”

Police K-9s are an integral part of law enforcement. They are fearless, often risking their lives and many have made the ultimate sacrifice. Having an incredible ability to detect drugs and explosives, as well as track suspects and missing persons, police K-9s are also adept at searching buildings, open areas, and vehicles for evidence or suspects.

Once extensive training is completed, they are a real asset to any law enforcement agency. Each police K-9 is paired with a dedicated handler, forming a close-knit partnership built on trust and cooperation. The handler and K-9 work together seamlessly, relying on clear communication and mutual understanding to accomplish their objectives.

Police K-9s also play a crucial role in fostering positive relationships between law enforcement agencies and the community. Their presence at public events and demonstrations helps to engage and educate the public about the valuable contributions of these remarkable animals.

This special issue of BLUE Magazine is dedicated in honor of our K-9 partners in law enforcement. Some of the many best of our canine partners are featured here.

On our cover is Lanzer, the deputized Executive Protection K-9 of Deanna and Caesar DePaço, mega supporters of police K-9 operations globally and owners of Summit Nutritionals International, the makers of Droi-Kon® a specialized, 100% water soluble chondroitin powder supplement that has been shown through scientific studies to play an integral role in the formation and maintenance of joint cartilage specifically in promotion of canine health and vitality. Don't miss their amazing story of generosity and support.

Please review the other stories of heroic K-9s in our Cover Story and throughout this issue. And don't miss *The History of the Police K-9* by: Robert Bowling to see how it all began.

As always, Blue Magazine and Moment of Silence are here for you. Reach out to us whenever you need us. Wishing all a safe and productive 2024!

Joel E. Gordon, Managing Editor

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10-13

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10**

WE MAKE

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**YEAR
18**

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LET OUR PROGRESSIVE INDEX CHART GUIDE YOUR PATH TO MENTAL
HEALTH AWARENESS AND PREPAREDNESS.**

IT'S COMING.

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Deanna and Caesar DePaço Remain Impactful in the World of Police K-9's

By The BLUE Magazine Staff



Publisher Daniel Del Valle recently had a chance to speak with Deanna and Caesar DePaço who are the proprietors of Summit Nutritionals International, manufacturers of raw materials such as U.S.-made Chondroitin Sulfate (Bovine, Chicken, Porcine & Marine) & Cartilage Powder. Since its inception in 2001, Summit Nutritionals International has been the leader in manufacturing and delivering 100% USA-made and 100% BSE-free Chondroitin Sulfate to the world.

Summit Nutritional International

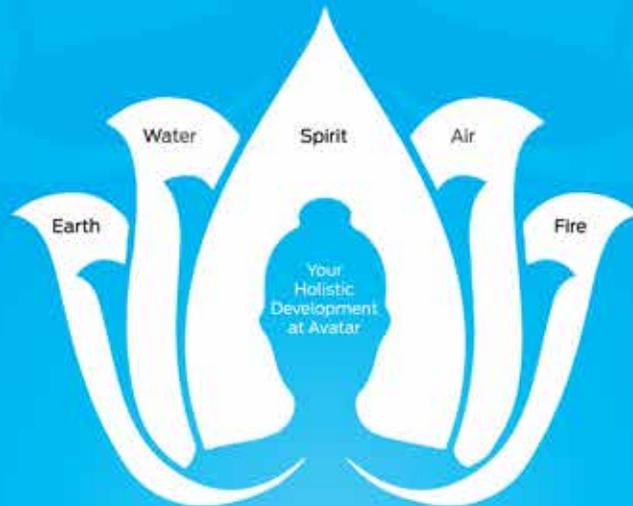
proudly offers Droi-Kon®, a specialized, 100% water-soluble chondroitin powder supplement that has been shown through scientific studies to play an integral role in the formation and maintenance of joint cartilage, specifically in dogs.

Prior to the creation of Summit Nutritionals International, raw nutritional supplements were primarily manufactured in Europe and other parts of the world. Over time, a growing concern of worldwide animal illness and quality control became apparent.

Through their love of dogs and

admiration of law enforcement and their K-9 partners, Caesar and Deanna began to generously donate to police agencies beginning with their first K-9 donation to the Hillsborough Police Department in 2013. Officer Chris Engelhardt was the K-9 handler. To date, Caesar and Deanna have since donated a total of 202 K-9s to police departments and sheriff offices nationwide and abroad. The cost donated exceeds a total of \$3.5 million in K-9s. This amount does not include other law enforcement equipment donations.

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"Caesar and Deanna have since donated a total of 202 K-9s to police departments and sheriff offices nationwide and abroad."

Caesar goes on to say, "Deanna and I both have a passion for dogs. Dogs have always been a source of fascination for us, and our admiration for them only grows stronger with time. Their unwavering loyalty and dedication to their owners or handlers is truly remarkable, and it is particularly evident in the K-9 officers who serve as police / sheriff dogs. These remarkable creatures not only possess incredible physical abilities, but they also possess the remarkable talent of communicating with humans and intuitively understanding their needs. It is truly awe-inspiring to witness the emotional support they provide to humans in need. In light of these qualities, it is no wonder that dogs have rightfully earned the title of 'man's best friend.' Their unique bond with humans is a testament to their exceptional qualities and their significant role in our lives."

Our own K-9 Lanzer,

who is featured on the front cover of this special edition of Blue magazine, is our utterly loyal and faithful Executive Protection K-9 who has been deputized and honored by numerous agencies.

In Lanzer, we are able to observe all of the aforementioned characteristics. His training has been exceptional, and it is evident that he has acquired mastery in all the essential aspects required to become the finest K-9 we have ever encountered. His perceptiveness and capacity to process information, along with flawlessly executing his duties, leave me truly astounded. Despite his seemingly robotic approach to performing tasks, he also possesses the ability to display remarkable gentleness and affection, appropriately adapting to different circumstances. It is truly remarkable to fathom that all these remarkable traits coexist within a single creature.



"The capabilities of a K-9 officer are virtually boundless, as they offer unwavering support and unwavering dedication to their human police/sheriff officer or handler."

Law enforcement should be informed about the invaluable contributions that K-9 officers bring to their departments. Through my personal observations, we have witnessed the profound astonishment experienced by police officers & sheriff's deputies when they comprehend the remarkable effectiveness and extensive range of assistance that these K-9 officers can provide in diverse applications. The capabilities of a K-9 officer are virtually boundless, as they offer unwavering support and unwavering dedication to their human police/sheriff officer or handler. Their presence undoubtedly enhances the operational capabilities of law enforcement

agencies, making them an indispensable asset in maintaining public safety and combating crime.

The importance of trained police K-9 officers cannot be overstated. These remarkable animals demonstrate not only the unwavering loyalty and dedication that we associate with dogs, but also a remarkable level of skill and intelligence that is truly awe-inspiring. As animal lovers, the K-9 community is well-positioned to understand and appreciate the incredible contributions that these officers make to law enforcement. Witnessing a police K-9 officer in action only serves to reinforce the fact that they are truly exceptional and indispensable members of our law enforcement agencies. Over the years, we have made it a priority to allocate significant resources to provide police departments and sheriff offices across the United States with police K-9 units. However, despite these efforts, there remains an urgent need for additional K-9 officers.

It is our fervent hope that the K-9 community will step forward and offer their support to bridge this gap, ensuring that our law enforcement agencies have the necessary resources to continue their vital work. Together, we can make a difference and further enhance the capabilities of our police departments and sheriff offices with the invaluable assistance of these highly trained and remarkable K-9 officers.

Blue magazine is honored to have partnered with the DePaços in being able to tell their remarkable story and dedication on their impactful vision and contributions to the police K-9 community. Caesar and Deanna have earned our admiration and respect and the respect of the entire law enforcement community. We are happy to feature their Executive Protection K-9 on our cover of this special K-9 edition of Blue magazine. 🐾



SOMERSET COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, NEW JERSEY

K-9 LANZER

K-9 Lanzer is a full German Shepherd who was born in Germany on April 4th, 2019. K-9 Lanzer was acquired by Caesar DePaço on December 6th, 2021. K-9 Lanzer is a fully trained and appointed Honorary K-9 officer with the Somerset County Sheriff's Office.



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Sheriff Clarke Comes to NJ

By Joel E. Gordon

Recently Sheriff David Clarke (Ret.) was in New Jersey as a guest of the Blue Magazine and sponsors Deanna and Caesar DePaço while enjoying camaraderie along with a special dinner at Donald Trump's Bedminster National Golf Club.

The visit was multi-faceted with a busy three-day itinerary. To meet the DePaços and express appreciation to their generous support of Police K-9 operations throughout the world, become more familiar with some of the officers and some of the sights in New Jersey, and specifically to also learn of the good work of the Avatar Alcohol and Drug Recovery Center which avails itself to a wide variety of individuals including first responders.

Sheriff Clarke got to visit the Paterson NJ Police Department, where he had the opportunity to speak to the administration and some of the staff in the chief's office, as well as the front-line men and women who are assigned to patrol.

The police officers in Paterson were enthusiastic to meet him. The sheriff thanked all in attendance for their courage and commitment and encouraged them to keep fighting because without the men and women in law enforcement, the community would fall into chaos. Sheriff Clarke also met the new Paterson PBA president, Angel Jimenez, and took a tour of the police station.

Jimenez took Sheriff Clarke to the Paterson Museum for a private tour, having the opportunity to look at a submarine and some airplane engines that were made. The Paterson Museum is well known for the educational aspects of its interpretive exhibits. A major strength of the museum lies in its varied collections, including local archaeology, history and mineralogy. Paterson has been the birthplace or springboard of many innovators and inventors such as John Holland - "Father of the modern submarine," Sam Colt - who perfected the repeating cylinder revolver, and John Ryle - "Father of the silk in

"A peaceful, comfortable, and holistic environment is a perfect place to recover from anxiety, depression or any other mental issues."

dustry." Upon leaving the museum, the participants viewed Paterson Falls, which is a historic landmark.

Sheriff Clarke was also taken to meet Pinal Patel, who is the owner of Avatar Rehabilitation and Detox Center in Ringwood, New Jersey, for a tour of the facility. The sheriff met the staff there, including retired police officer from Upper Saddle River, Vinny Syracuse.

Avatar Alcohol and Drugs Recovery Center is dedicated to offering trustworthy drug detox, behavioral, mental, and other special therapies for people suffering from any substance abuse specializing in alcohol, benzodiazepine, hydrocodone, opiates, suboxone, tramadol, valium, vicodin, xanax, and all prescription drug detox. Treatments are supported by multiple mental health and spiritual therapies such as 12-steps, yoga, earthing, oxygen, animal-assisted, wilderness, volcanic, family, group, music, art, and more. A case manager prepares and follows a customized long-term and short-term care approach for each patient.

With 10 acres of beautifully landscaped facility in North Jersey, the center is ideal for rehab treatments.

A peaceful, comfortable, and holistic environment is a perfect place to recover from anxiety, depression or any other mental issues. For additional details visit <http://www.avatarresidentialdetox.com/>

Sheriff Clarke has been a longtime staunch supporter of the BLUE Magazine and law enforcement and we are always honored to be in his presence. Thank you to Deanna and Caesar DePaço for sponsoring these activities. 🌍

Joel E. Gordon, Managing Editor of BLUE Magazine, is a former Field Training Officer with the Baltimore City Police Department and is a past Chief of Police for the city of Kingwood, West Virginia. He has also served as vice-chair of a multi-jurisdictional regional narcotics task force. An award winning journalist, he is author of the book Still Seeking Justice: One Officer's Story and founded the Facebook group Police Authors Seeking Justice. Look him up at stillseekingjustice.com





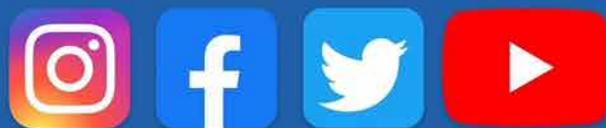
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WITH **DAVID CLARKE**
AMERICA'S SHERIFF



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THE BLUE MAGAZINE
K-9 HEROES
SPECIAL EDITION
2024



POLICE K-9 PARTNERS: Law Enforcement's Unsung Heroes

By Marcelo Hagopian and the BLUE Magazine Staff

A police officer and their K-9 partner share a special bond of trust and friendship. It is a bond that is based on loyalty, respect, and commitment to one other. The officer must trust the K-9 to perform their duties in the best way possible, while the K-9 must trust their handler to provide them with strong direction and support. This bond is essential for both parties ensuring that they are able to work together in a safe manner.

The relationship between a police officer and their K-9 partner begins with basic training. During this time, officers learn how to properly handle their canine companion, as well as how to read the dog's body language. This helps establish a mutual understanding between the two so that they can work together seamlessly in any situation.

Dogs have an uncanny olfactory sense, possessing up to 300 million olfactory receptors in their noses as compared to about six million in humans. Being attracted to new and interesting odors, once detected, a part of a dog's brain is devoted to analyzing smells 40 times greater than humans. Every drug, per-

son, arson accelerant, explosive or other target for locating has a unique scent.

Bergen County NJ Sheriff Office K9 trainer Officer Marcelo Hagopian has been with the Bergen County Sheriff Office for 22 years and is assigned to its training division. He told Blue Magazine, so a towel that smells like cocaine, for instance, becomes the dog's new toy in training. So you throw the towel, the dog brings it back. You play with the dog, you throw the towel, and the dog brings it back. You play with the dog. You do that about a thousand times. Then eventually you hide the towel. Now the dog can't see the towel. Well, he can smell it and he knows it's under the bed and he's got to go under the bed to get it. So when he starts to scratch towards the bed because he can't get it and they don't scratch, you teach them. You reward them with another towel. So he goes, oh, look. The dog thinks to himself, if I scratch where my toy is, the toy appears. So you play with that towel that appears, and then you throw that towel and you hide it again.

(continued on page 30)

*K-9 Police
Prayer
and
Bible Verse*

*I will lay down my life for
you and expect nothing
but love in return.
I will protect my officer
with my life, and would
gladly take a bullet
in his place.
I am sent in to find lost
children and fugitives
on the run.
I find drugs and weapons
and even bombs.
I am the first sent in
and sometimes the
last to leave.
I am the nose and ears
of my officer.
I protect and serve him.
I would die for him
and for you.
I only ask for compassion
and a kind word.*

*"Be strong and
courageous, for the
Lord will be with you
wherever you go"*

~ JOSHUA 1:9

PATERSON POLICE DEPARTMENT, NEW JERSEY



K-9
MIRKO

Handler: Officer R. Klein
Date of birth: 12/06/2014
Breed: Dutch Shepherd

Mirko has been working within the City of Paterson since 2018. Mirko is certified in Narcotic Detection and was certified through the Paterson Police K-9 Academy. K-9 Mirko was also certified through Pro K-9. Pro K-9 owner is Retired Sergeant Mike Goosby from LAPD. Sgt. M. Goosby was LAPD's head K-9 trainer.

K-9 Mirko has contributed to the countless number of recovered illegal narcotics within the City of Paterson as well as US currency used during illegal narcotic activity.

K-9 Mirko has assisted Homeland Security, DEA, Prosecutor's Office, NJ State Police and other outside agencies.

Handler: Lt. A. Pistone
Date of birth: 05/18/2014
Breed: Belgian Malinois

Milan has served with the Paterson Police Department since January 2016. K-9 Milan is a dual-purpose K-9 and is certified in Narcotic detection and Patrol functions. K-9 Milan was certified through the Paterson Police K-9 Academy and Pro K-9. K-9 Milan has numerous deployments in Narcotics detection and Patrol functions. He has had countless searches resulting in seizure of illegal narcotics, US currency and apprehensions. K-9 Milan trains with the SWAT team allowing him to operate during SWAT deployments. K-9 Milan has assisted outside agencies. DEA, Haledon PD, Clifton PD and several others.

K-9 Milan has been involved in numerous K-9 demonstrations where he interacts with the public in the City of Paterson and has been requested to conduct K-9 demonstrations by other organizations.



K-9
MILAN

PATERSON POLICE DEPARTMENT, NEW JERSEY



K-9 Fako is a 10-year-old Belgian Malinois born on October 12, 2013. He has been with the Paterson Police Department since 2014 after completing extensive training from the Paterson Police K-9 Academy and Pro K-9, earning his certification.

Fako is a dual-purpose K-9, certified in Narcotic detection and patrol function. He is currently partnered with his handler Officer Felipe Diaz, an 18-year veteran of the Paterson Police Department and has been assigned to the Emergency Response Team since 2013.

He has had numerous deployments in Narcotics detection and Patrol functions throughout his career. He has assisted our police department with countless searches resulting in the seizure of illegal narcotics, US currency, and suspect apprehensions.

Fako and Officer Diaz have also assisted several outside agencies which include the DEA, Passaic County Prosecutor's Office, NJ State Police, and several surrounding agencies.

Fako also trains with our Emergency Response Team which allows him the opportunity to operate during deployments if ever a need for a K-9 function.

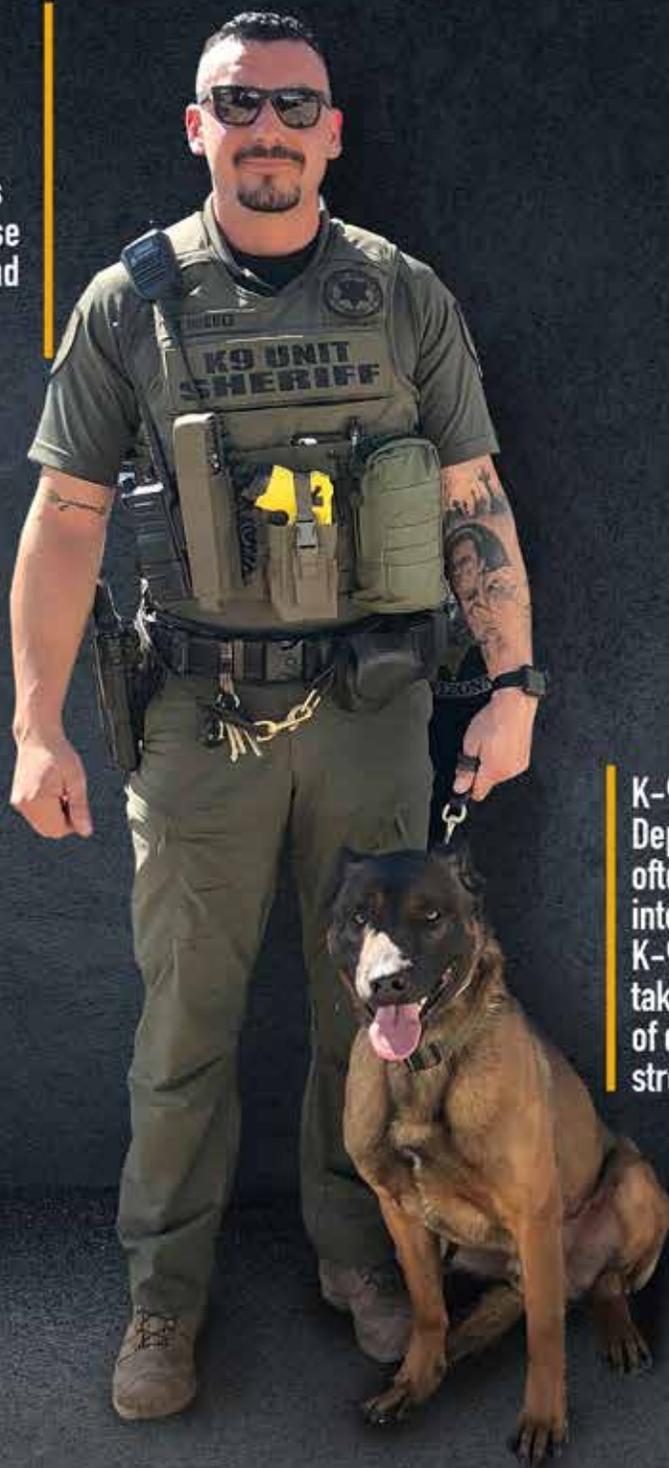
K-9 Adonis is a four-year-old German shepherd, born in Hungary on January 1, 2019. In late 2019 Adonis was transported to New Jersey from Houston K-9 Academy and was certified through the Paterson Police K-9 Academy and Pro K-9, as a dual-purpose patrol and narcotics detection K-9.

He went through the Academy with his handler Officer Rafael Campos, a 17-year veteran of the Paterson Police Department and the Emergency Response Team (ERT). K-9 Adonis has contributed to countless numbers of recovered illegal narcotics within the city of Paterson, as well as several suspect apprehensions. During his time in service Officer Campos and K-9 Adonis have assisted Homeland Security, DEA, Passaic County Prosecutors Office, NJ State Police, and several other surrounding agencies. In Adonis' off time, he enjoys playing fetch, and tug-of-war, going on long hikes, and playing in the snow.



PINAL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, ARIZONA

Handler: Deputy Ivan Iniguez
K-9 Name: Indy
Breed: Belgian Malinois
K-9 Age: 5 years
K-9 time with agency: 3 years
K-9 specialty: Dual-purpose
Narcotic odor detection and
Patrol service



K-9 Indy and his handler, Dep. Ivan Iniguez can most often be found working drug interdiction in Pinal County. K-9 Indy has successfully taken hundreds of thousands of deadly Fentanyl pills off the streets.

K-9 INDY

PINAL COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, ARIZONA

Handler: Daniel Mclean
Handler time with agency: 16.5 years
service
K-9 Name: Taibo
K-9 Breed: Belgian Malinois
K-9 Age: 7.5 years
K-9 time with agency: 6 years
K-9 specialty: Dual purpose Narcotics
odor detection and Patrol Service

K-9 Taibo and his handler, Officer Daniel McLean, can most often be found working within the Pinal County Adult Detention Center, detecting drug contraband and helping to maintain security of the facility.

K-9 TAIBO

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"The bond between a handler and their K-9 partner goes beyond professional collaboration – it is a deep emotional connection. The handler relies on the K-9's acute senses and specialized skills, while the K-9 looks to their handler for guidance and protection."

Then eventually you take that towel out and you hide the source. You would hide cocaine, let's say, in a dresser, in a bedroom. You can't get to it, but he can scratch through it. So now you give him the word to search. Because, every time you throw that towel you tell them search or find it, whatever the case may be. It comes to the dresser. He smells what he thinks is his towel because this seems like cocaine, but its actual cocaine. He'll start to scratch at the cabinet. So here comes a towel and appears right at the cabinet. So he goes, oh, I scratched out the cabinet where the toy was and it automatically appeared. So now every time these searches and he knows cocaine, he's going to scratch at it. So now you take another towel that you throw as a reward. The only thing he gets is the odor. He doesn't get the drug itself. They'll never come in contact with it. And that's how it's done. And then you do the same thing for explosives. You do the same thing for arson. Everything's a play for the dog. Everything's a play. And the dog works to please you. He just wants to please you. So, when he does a good job, he gets rewarded.

Once the initial training is complete, the bond between an officer and their K-9 only grows stronger over time. As they continue to work together on more difficult tasks, they learn to appreciate each other's strengths to a greater level. Officers also come to rely on their canine partner's unique skill set when it comes to search-and-rescue operations or crime scene investigations.

Officer Marcelo Hagopian further spoke to Blue Magazine on breeds of dogs often utilized for police work and the logic behind it. If an aggressive dog is needed that's going to track criminals, usually used are German Shepherds or the

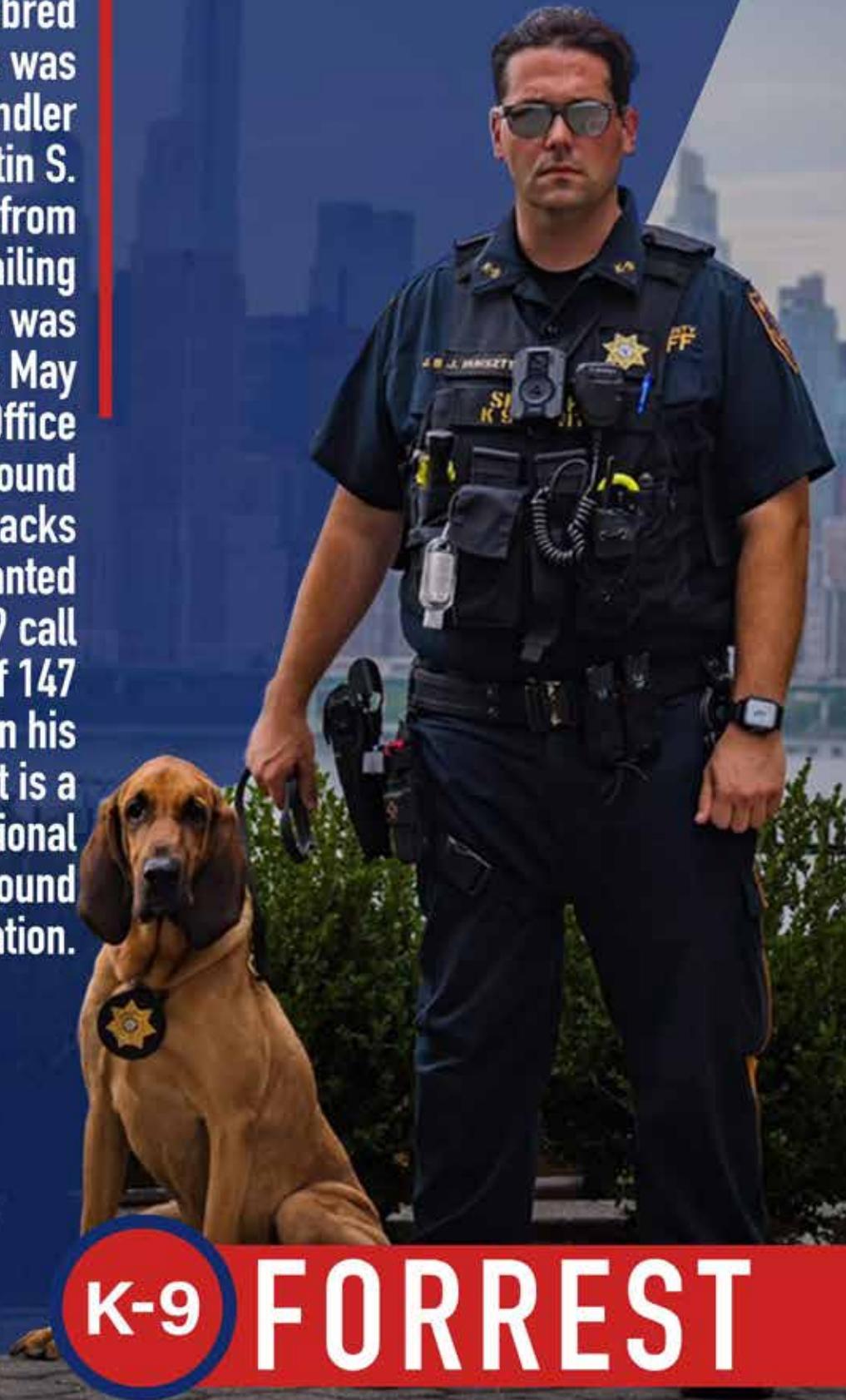
Belgian Malinois. They're very aggressive dogs. They're very powerful dogs. So that's mostly for people that have experience with dogs. German Shepherds are more of a companion, but when they need to perform, they will perform. For criminal apprehension, let's say. But then you can get into Labs for more passive work. So if you go to the airport, you see Port Authority has a lot of Labs. They'll use it for explosives or for air sniffs of individuals where it doesn't engage. It's not aggressive and it doesn't bite. So if you see somebody at the airport walking with the Lab, that dog's indication if he sniffs some kind of explosives on an individual is going to be a sin. So if that dog sits by individual, he's kind of indicating that there's a presence of odor of explosives nearby where a German Shepherd or a Belgian, when they indicate for either they could also be used for explosives and narcotics. They're more aggressive. Sometimes they're taught to scratch at the source for narcotics. You don't want scratching because obviously it's a bomb. You don't want it to be touched.

We also use a German Shorthaired Pointer. Those are almost like a hunting dog. They're like bird dogs. The military started using them a lot for explosives. We've tried it. We have one that detects arson. And then you can get into your Bloodhounds. That's more for tracking suspects. Or let's say, more of lost parties. Because if a Bloodhound gets to you and you're a bank robber, he's not going to bite you. He's probably going to lick you to death. So they'll use that for missing persons. The thing about Bloodhounds is that they can pick up scent that's ten hours old, a day old, and they can still pick it up. So they're totally different work ethics with the Bloodhound.

(continued on page 34)

HUDSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, NEW JERSEY

K-9 Forrest is a 7-year-old purebred bloodhound. He was rescued by his handler Sheriff Officer Justin S. Bursztyn in 2018 from Tennessee. He's a trailing and tracking dog. He was certified by Cape May County Sheriff's Office canine unit Bloodhound Academy. He tracks missing and wanted people. Forrest's K-9 call volume consists of 147 call-outs requests in his 5-year career. Forrest is a member of the National Police Bloodhound Association.



K-9

FORREST

TROOPER DAVE WILKINSON

K-9 Tino is a 6-year-old imported German Shepherd from Germany. He was one of two New Jersey State Police two non-marijuana imprinted canines to graduate from the State Police Canine Academy prior to the legalization of marijuana in New Jersey. He was immediately utilized by Federal, State, County, and Local Law enforcement agencies upon the legalization of marijuana. The State Police Canine Unit's canines live with their handlers and spend their entire life with their handler. The bond that is created between canine and handler is an unbreakable one that takes years to develop.

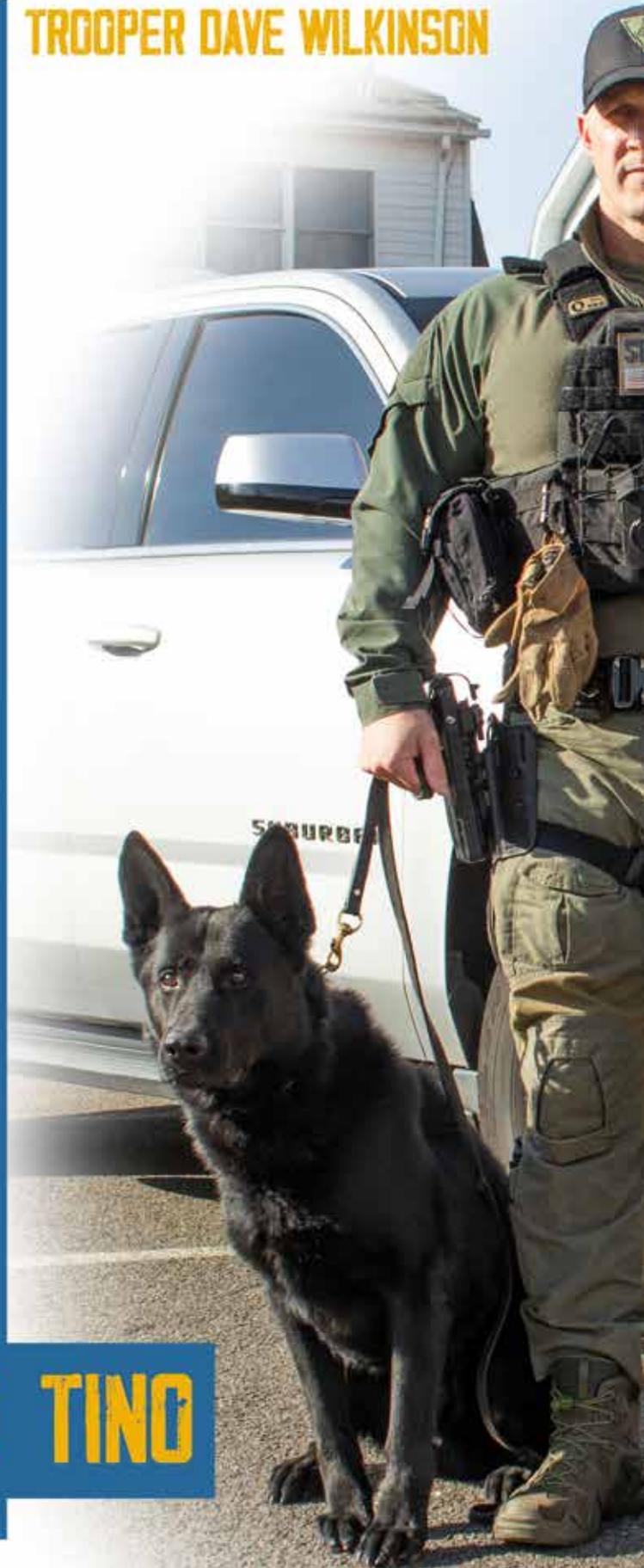
K-9 Tino was named in honor of Detective Matthew Lawrence Tarentino of the Summit Police Department, shortened to "Tino", who was killed in the line of duty on Tuesday.

May 30, 2017. Prior to becoming a Trooper, I graduated from Somerset County Police Academy's alternate route with Matt. It was there that I learned he had a strong respect for the State Police which was instilled in him through his grandfather, retired Trooper Sidney Spicpal #1047, who was also a WWII veteran who served with General Dwight D. Eisenhower ("The Trooper who saved D-Day"). Throughout our young careers, Matt and I would share stories and follow each other's progress. Matt Tarentino was an officer who encompassed faithfulness and loyalty to, not only the men and women who he wore the uniform with, but also with the citizens he assisted. Once I was selected into the State Police Canine Unit, I felt as though there was no other name I could give my K-9 partner. This is my way of honoring Matt Tarentino, his family, and the Summit Police Department.



Det. Matthew L. Torentino
EOW: 5/30/17

K-9 TINO



STATE POLICE



K-9 Jersey is a 3-year-old female imported Belgian Malinois from the Netherlands. She is a dual-purpose K-9 with a scent discipline in explosives. Jersey is certified through the New Jersey State Police Academy, NORT certified through the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF).

K-9 Jersey is part of the New Jersey Detect and Render Safe Task Force, and utilized by Federal, State, County, and local levels for explosive sweeps of high-profile events, large-scale gatherings, and entertainment venues.

K-9 Jersey is also utilized as a patrol K-9 to assist Federal, State, County, and local agencies. She is used for officer protection, suspect apprehension, area or building clearance, article/evidence recovery. She is also highly trained in obedience and agility work.

K-9 Jersey is compliant with the Attorney General guidelines and is responsible for locating missing persons, fleeing suspects, the surrender of fugitives from justice, and securing bomb threats.



K-9 JERSEY

"A police officer and their K-9 partner share a special bond of trust and friendship. It is a bond that is based on loyalty, respect and commitment to one other."

Officer Hagopian estimates the cost of a police K-9 and equipment at \$15,000-\$20,000 with an additional investment in police salaries during training and specialized vehicle costs, so agencies that can justify the expense typically make a room in their budgets for the expenditure.

Perhaps you have heard of some famous police K-9's? According to the Guinness Book of World Records, a golden retriever named Inty (short for Intrepid) has been credited with over 100 arrests and the recovery of more than \$63 million worth of narcotics, making him a world record holder.

Then there is the true story of a shelter dog turned K-9 hero depicted in a Netflix movie titled *Rescued by Ruby*. Ruby, an Australian shepherd and Border Collie mix, ended up in a Rhode Island animal shelter as a puppy because of behavioral problems. Several families adopted her in turn, only for each to return her because she was too difficult and full of pep. Shelter volunteer and dog trainer Patricia Inman repeatedly intervened to keep Ruby from being euthanized. When State Police Cpl. Daniel O'Neil needed a search-and-rescue dog in 2011, and was informed that his department lacked sufficient resources to purchase a police K-9, he was taken by then eight-month-old Ruby's energy and intelligence, and after Inman vouched for her, she was actually trained as a police K-9. In October 2017 a teenage boy got lost for 36-hours while hiking and Ruby succeeded where a human search party failed. She found the boy, who was unconscious and in grave medical condition. He turned out to be Inman's son. Divine intervention? It does not go unnoticed the word Dog is God spelled backward. "Ruby was given a chance at life and ended up saving a life," the Ameri-

can Humane Hero Dog organization said in a 2018 citation naming her the nation's "Search and Rescue Dog of the Year."

Police K-9 success stories are plentiful all across the globe. It is not lost on us, however, that because of the dangerous nature of police work, and the willingness of police K-9's to lay down their own lives for others in a fearless capacity, that not all K-9 careers have a happy albeit a courageous ending.

The bond between a handler and their K-9 partner goes beyond professional collaboration – it is a deep emotional connection. The handler relies on the K-9's acute senses and specialized skills, while the K-9 looks to their handler for guidance and protection. This mutual dependence forms the foundation of their partnership, leading to the successful execution of their duties. It requires dedication from both parties in order for it to be successful, but it also provides immense rewards for both parties. The police canine becomes a part of an officer's family and officer and K-9 spend more time together than any other members of their family. With a bond of complete trust and respect, officers and their K-9 partners are able to protect each other while working towards a common goal of keeping others safe from harm.

The Blue Magazine is most honored to support the men and woman of police K-9 units everywhere and their brave K-9 partners, Special thanks go out to K-9 handler and trainer Marcelo Hagopian of the Bergen County New Jersey Sheriff's Office for sharing his own insights and expertise. 🐾

Officer Marcelo Hagopian has been with the Bergen County Sheriff Office for 22 years and is assigned to training division.



CAN YOU LEND A HELPING PAW?

The Vermont Police Canine Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) that helps to financially support police canine teams of Vermont and beyond. We are able to assist with purchasing equipment, covering medical expenses, and additional training opportunities. We have teams throughout Vermont, New Hampshire, and even Massachusetts.



www.vtk9.com

LACEY'S FUND

Lacey's Fund is a separate fund used to provide financial assistance to handlers with retired canines. Without this fund, these expenses fall to the handler to be responsible for when the canine retires.



 [Facebook.com/VermontPoliceCanineAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/VermontPoliceCanineAssociation)

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STATESBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT, GEORGIA

K-9 HARLEY

K-9 Harley is an active law enforcement K-9 with the Statesboro Police Department, Georgia. K-9 Harley has been serving with her agency for just over a year now and is accredited to multiple misdemeanor and felony arrests along with locating 4 felons. She is a 2.5-year-old German Shepherd partnered with Corporal Kyle Briley.

K-9 MATTIS

K-9 Mattis is a retired law enforcement K-9 from Alpharetta Department of Public Safety. He is currently ten years old and lives with his former handler, Sergeant Mark Tappan. They have over 5 million followers on TikTok. Mattis is a Purple Heart recipient for his actions to capture two fleeing felons where he suffered injuries and needed immediate life-saving surgery.



SNP FOUNDATION GIVES BACK VIA NJ STATE POLICE



Stephanie Nicole Parze was a beautiful, caring, 25-year old woman from Freehold, NJ.

She was a student athlete, a talented artist and a compassionate, loyal friend to everyone she met. Her natural-born talent as an artist brought her much joy as a make-up artist. She also loved children and enjoyed spending time on the beach, on the river or on the ocean. During the summer of 2019, Stephanie met and became involved with someone new. During this time, she had been extremely sick, and he was very attentive to her. What started out as an apparently caring relationship soon turned violent. After enduring physical, sexual and emotional abuse during their on-and-off-again relationship, Stephanie disappeared the night of October 30, 2019. After 87 days of searching by a countless number of family, friends, community members and law enforcement, her body was found on January 26, 2020.

Stephanie's fate, while tragic, created an overwhelming desire to develop a unique organization that would bridge the gap in services for people in domestic violence, sexual abuse and missing person's situations. That is why the Stephanie Nicole Parze Foundation was created - to prevent future domestic violence relationships from ending this way. The Foundation aims to provide quality, compassionate and nonjudgmental services to all who need it.

By way of giving back and assisting

law enforcement in bringing closure to other families of missing persons, the Stephanie Nicole Parze Foundation is donating funds of \$12,649.00 for a Police K-9 to the NJ State Police as well as additional funding for a portable dental X-ray machine to the Forensic and Technical Services Section to assist with identification.

The Blue Magazine was recently invited and was in attendance at the NJ State Police HQ in Trenton for a special donation ceremony. Introduced at the ceremony were Trooper Tyler Straube and K-9 Sparze. Prior to becoming a trooper, Trooper Straube was in the U.S. Marine Corps with multiple combat deployments to Afghanistan.



Straube and Sparze are being trained to track live people and to detect human remains (cadaver). Sparze will not be trained to apprehend (bite) criminal suspects. Trooper Straube and Sparze have a long training pipeline ahead of them.

The current training teaches them obedience and how track odor. They

are reported to both be performing well in training to date. They are going to graduate the week after the donation ceremony. In March 2024, Straube and Sparze will then begin a 14-week human remains detection training course that will conclude in June 2024.

Straube and Sparze will be fully operational for the NJSP in June 2024. The cadaver detection K-9 teams will also be sent to advance training hosted by the FBI. There are four levels of advanced training, each lasting one week, that take several years to complete. The length of time is due to infrequent class scheduling. Once they complete that training, Straube and Sparze will be used by the FBI to search for human remains across the Mid-Atlantic region of the country.

The Stephanie Nicole Parze Foundation's mission is to provide education, intervention and support to families and individuals dealing with domestic violence, sexual abuse and missing loved ones as well as training to learn how to deal with these situations and setting up response teams for missing persons throughout the community. More information can be found at <https://www.snpfoundation.org>

The Blue Magazine on behalf of law enforcement, the NJ State Police and countless families salutes the Stephanie Nicole Parze Foundation for their generosity and willingness to provide enhanced tools to help locate and identify those needing to be found. 🌐

NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE



K-9 Sparze and Trooper Tyler Straube have completed their initial training for the NJ State Police. K-9 Sparze is a 16-month-old German Shepard and will continue his training with Trooper Straube to track live people and to detect human remains (cadaver). They will be fully operational in June 2024.

K-9 Sparze was donated to the NJSP by The Stephanie Nicole Parze Foundation. This foundation was created in the memory of Stephanie Nicole Parze who was killed by her abusive ex-boyfriend in 2019. Their mission is to provide education, intervention and support to families and individuals dealing with domestic violence, sexual abuse, and missing loved ones.

K-9 SPARZE



Stephanie Nicole Parze

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

K-9 ARTIE

K-9 Artie is a male Dutch Shepherd that joined the New York State Police in 2017. He is trained in various skills that include narcotics detection, tracking fugitives or missing persons, conducting building searches, locating cadavers and handler protection. He was named in honor of Trooper Arthur A. Reddy who lost his life in the line of duty on November 15, 1937. K-9 Artie and his handler, Trooper Christopher Nolan, are assigned to Troop L, Long Island, New York.

Trooper Nolan is a nearly 20 year veteran of the New York State Police, 14 of those years serving as a K-9 handler. He is the K-9 unit coordinator for NYSP Troop L. He has been involved in many high profile incidents and arrests.

K-9 Artie and Trooper Nolan have assisted in locating several murder victims from gang related incidents which have led to arrests and convictions of several suspects from 2017 through 2023. They have participated in a number of high profile manhunts. They have also been involved in arrests resulting in the seizure of thousands of pounds of marijuana and hundreds of felony level narcotics arrests from interdiction and search warrants.



K-9 LOKI



"K-9 Loki has watched my back from day one and over the years. I can say without a shadow of doubt that 'It's has been one heck of a ride'. K-9 Loki has given me a front-row seat to the greatest assignment any law enforcement officer could ask for."

K-9 Loki is a German Shepherd who was donated to the Roanoke Police Department, Virginia on December 15th, 2015, from Summit Nutritionals International Inc.

K-9 Loki was partnered with Sgt. Michael E. Thompson. K-9 was a dual-purpose Narcotics Detect and Patrol canine. K-9 Loki is now 10 years old and healthy. He has had a very successful 8-year canine career. Packed with hundreds of pounds of illegal narcotics seized, several successful track and apprehensions, a Roanoke Police Department Medal of Valor, and a Virginia Chief of Police Association Medal of Valor. Both medals are from their July 24, 2021 apprehension of a wanted subject who was on a crime spree, who K-9 Loki chased down, apprehended, and was tased, stabbed, and bitten by the subject and survived thanks to his K-9 Storm ballistic vest donated by Professional Athlete Ashley Horner (VA Beach, VA) and Spike K9 Fund.org (VA Beach, VA). K9 Loki is officially retired and enjoys his life at home with Sgt. Thompson's family.

THE HISTORY OF the POLICE K-9

By Robert Bowling



Nogi, an all-black Groenendael, was a member of the first canine unit established by the NYPD.

The use of dogs for military purposes dates back to Biblical times, when the armies of Egypt used dogs to carry messages on the battlefield and to guard army encampments. Then, during the fourteenth century, the French used dogs to guard the naval installations at St. Malo—the first known instance of dogs being used for police work. They were used for this purpose until 1770, when their use was discontinued.¹ As for the U.S., the history of police dogs can be traced back to sometime after the Civil War.

Compared to police dogs of today, in which the dog and handler undergo a rigorous training program that didn't exist with the early police dogs. Police dogs mainly were strays that wandered into the police station, looking for food or a warm place to sleep. The police officers would grow emotionally attached

to the dog, quickly becoming the station mascot. The dog would go on patrols with the officers, and before too long, the dog was considered a member of the department.

Because of a lack of formal record-keeping, most of these dogs have vanished from history. Many of these early dogs performed their jobs heroically. One of the earliest instances of a police dog in the U.S. was in St. Louis in 1866. “Jack,” a terrier, wandered into the Third District station, where he remained for fifteen years. He was a friend of every department member, but he took a particular interest in a few officers. Jack would immediately respond to the sound of the officer's baton. On more than one occasion, he assisted the officers in apprehending unruly citizens. When an officer was in a fight with a suspect, Jack responded. The suspect stabbed Jack in the side, but he was not deterred. Jack recovered from his wound, and like clockwork, he was back “on duty.”² It is unclear when Jack died, but in 1890, another terrier wandered into the same police station. Affectionately, the officers called him “Jack.” He lived up to his name, and quickly his exploits became legendary. Rain or snow, he would go out on patrol at 11 p.m. with the other officers serving the people of the third district unselfishly like his predecessor did before him.³

There are many traditions and customs that accompany an officer when they die. Dogs are no different, and they are afforded the same honors. In 1903, “Major,” a Newfoundland, of the Parkland station in Brooklyn, was given a full burial with honors. He had an exception-

al service record. He brought a baby in his mouth to the station after he found it abandoned under the pier at Coney Island. He was credited with stopping run-aways and burglars. He was killed when he tried to stop a trolley car loaded with unruly passengers. He was found dead in a vacant lot the following day. His body was placed in a box, and with him, his collar decorated with police buttons, his service record, and his Brooklyn police badge. As the box was lowered into the ground, an officer drew his revolver and fired a version of “Taps.”⁴

GHENT, BELGIUM

During this time, no particular dog breed was used in police work. It was whatever breeds wandered through the door. Although the dogs were credited with saving lives and apprehending suspects, they were not trained for that purpose. They were still using their animalistic instincts to guide them. However, one police department believed it possible to train dogs specifically for police purposes. Ghent, Belgium, established the first K-9 training facility in the world in 1899. They were the first to introduce the dog and handler as a team, and that eventually spread to the United States.⁵

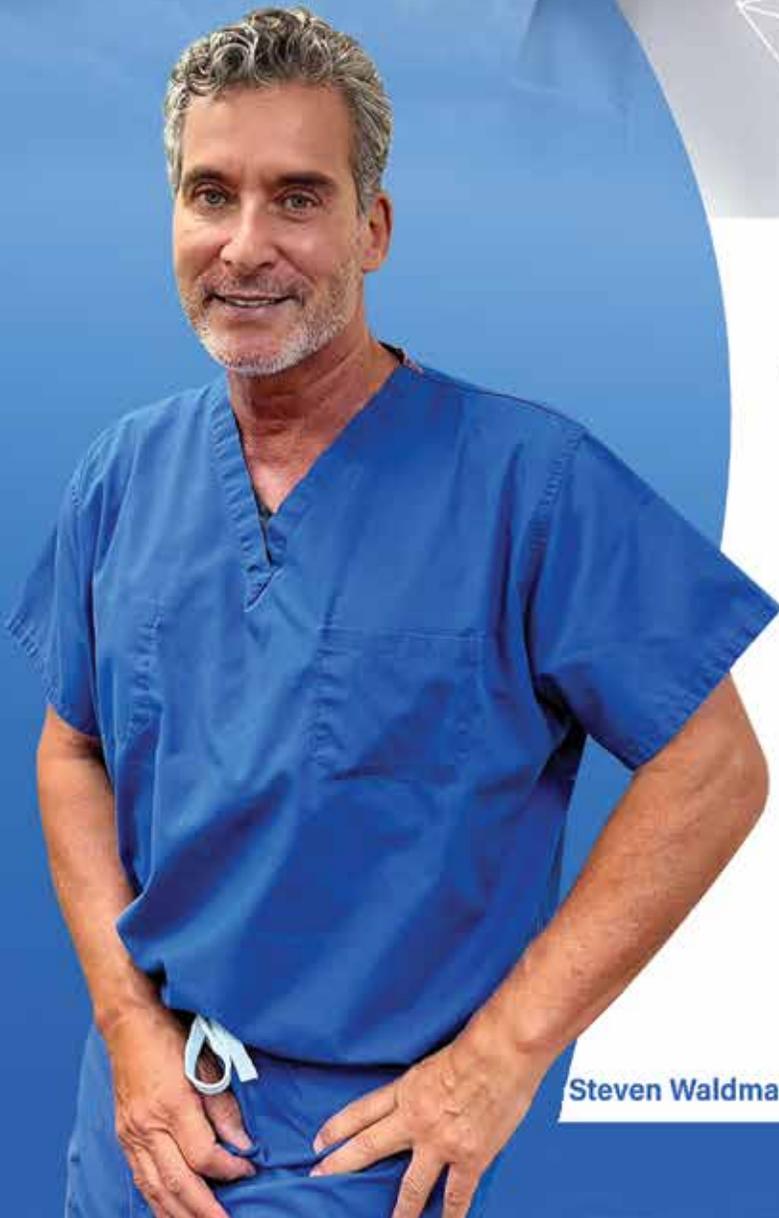
In response to rising crime and a police force inadequate to deal with the problem, Ghent Police Commissioner E. Van Wesemael introduced a plan to use canines to supplement the police force. He bought 10 six-month-old Swiss-Belgian sheepdogs that underwent a rigorous three-month training program. The dogs were housed in kennels, cleaned daily, and subjected to routine

(continued on page 52)

K-9 LAKOTA

K-9 Lakota is a three-and-a-half-year-old German Shepherd and holds dual certifications in the State of Vermont. This includes narcotics detection, man tracking, evidence detection, building searches, apprehension, and handler protection. K-9 Lakota was acquired from a local breeder in Franklin, VT at eight weeks old and started her first day at work the following day. Her handler is Corporal Leonardo de Prato and both can be found at the Barre Town Police Department.





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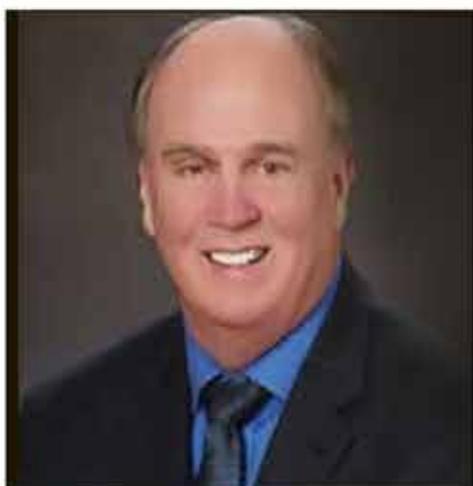
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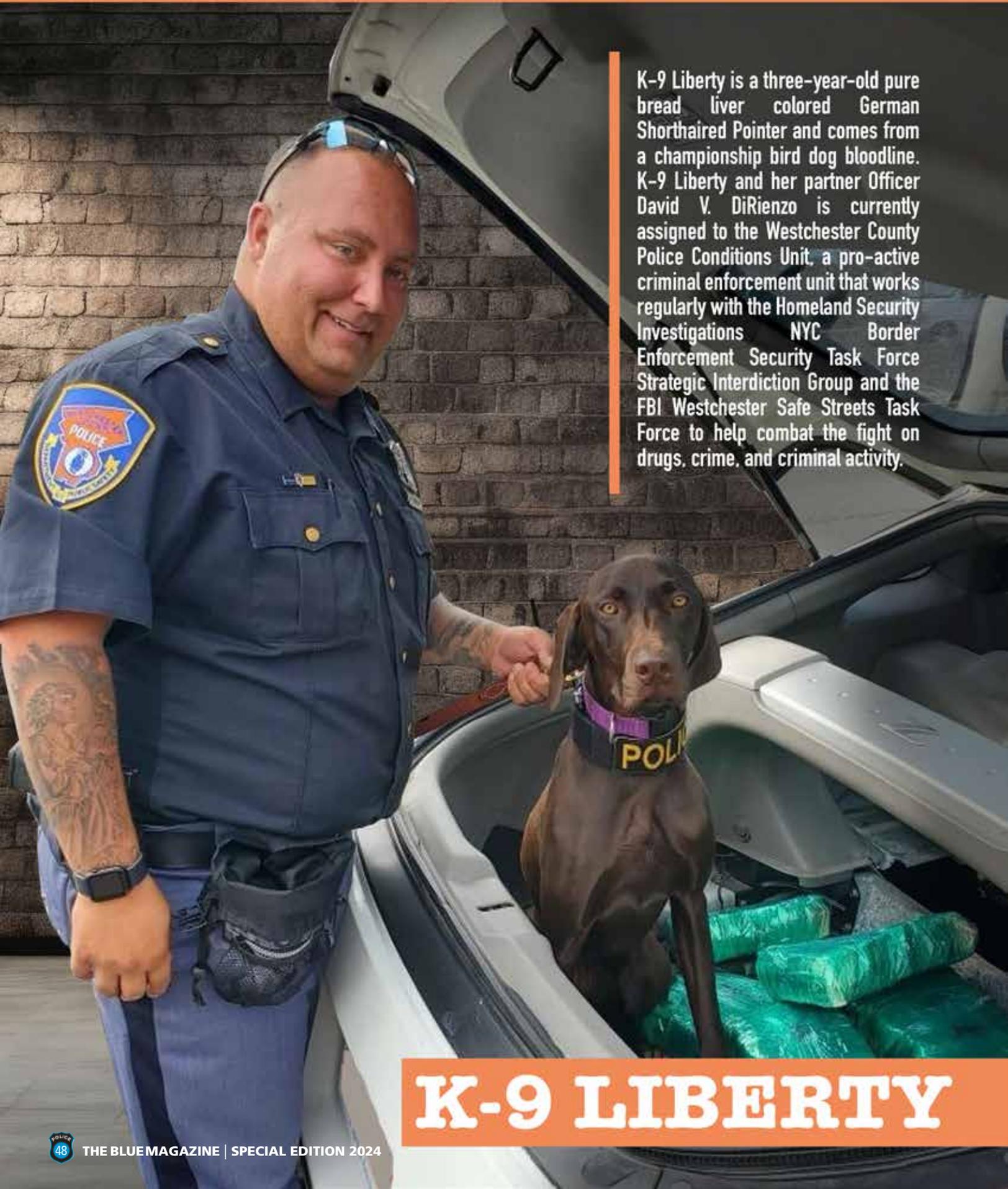
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WESTCHESTER COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT, NEW YORK

K-9 Liberty is a three-year-old pure breed liver colored German Shorthaired Pointer and comes from a championship bird dog bloodline. K-9 Liberty and her partner Officer David V. DiRienzo is currently assigned to the Westchester County Police Conditions Unit, a pro-active criminal enforcement unit that works regularly with the Homeland Security Investigations NYC Border Enforcement Security Task Force Strategic Interdiction Group and the FBI Westchester Safe Streets Task Force to help combat the fight on drugs, crime, and criminal activity.



K-9 LIBERTY

TEQUESTA POLICE DEPARTMENT, FLORIDA

In 2018 The Village of Tequesta Police Department welcomed its newest Officer, K-9 Erik, who was transported from Belgium. K-9 Erik was partnered with Detective Michael Loney.

In August 2020, K-9 Erik and Detective Loney, were detailed to the Drug Enforcement Agency's Palm Beach District Office Task Force. Since their union with the DEA, they have been an integral part in numerous high-profile cases in the area.

To date, K-9 Erik and Detective Loney have seized approximately 50 kilos of Fentanyl, 130 pounds of Methamphetamine, 600 kilos of cocaine, and 64 vehicles used in the transportation or sale of illegal narcotics. Additionally, they have seized \$4.2 Million in proceeds from the illegal drug trade.



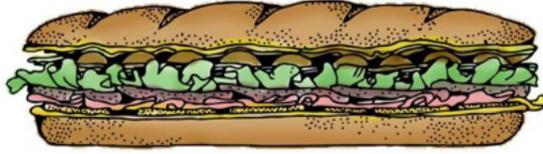


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veterinary care. The dogs were fed twice daily: bread, rice, meat, and a biscuit for a midnight snack. The dogs went on patrol from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. in some of the worst areas of Ghent. They were identified as police dogs by a spiked collar bearing a medal with their number engraved. The program proved to be such a success that the canine corps expanded to twenty-five regular dogs and fifteen reserves.⁶⁷

They experimented with different breeds of dogs, but it was found that the Belgian sheepdog was the best. The dog was considered level-headed, tenacious, quick of mind, faithful to a friend, and unforgiving to an enemy. They are strong, can endure long marches, and do not show fatigue. The dogs are selected with the utmost care and must possess a strong pedigree. Their training consists of being able to identify a victim from a suspect and how to follow suspicious-looking people. They are taught to swim in case they need to save someone from drowning.⁸

NEW YORK CITY - FIRST CANINE SQUAD

The success of the police dogs in Ghent spread throughout Europe, and eventually, the United States took notice. In 1907, Arthur Woods, deputy police commissioner for the New York City Police Department (NYPD), persuaded Police Commissioner Theodore Bingham to establish the first canine corps in the U.S. To promote his idea, he referenced the brutal rape and murder of fifteen-year-old Amelia Staffeldt. On May 22, 1907, Staffeldt was found raped and stabbed to death near her home in Queens. A suspect was found the next day, but people questioned if he was the killer. He had confessed to the murder but later recanted. He accused the police of forcing him to confess. Two separate grand juries refused to indict. Staffeldt's killer was never brought to justice. Commissioner

Woods argued that if the NYPD had a bloodhound or similar dog, the killer would have been found within hours.⁹

The first dogs suggested for the new unit were bloodhounds. However, Deputy Commissioner Woods had traveled to Europe to study police dogs in Paris, Brussels, and Ghent. The opinion was that the dogs from Ghent were far superior. Paris used a cross between a mastiff and a St. Bernard, and along with the dogs from Belgium, there was too much of a dependence on the police officer. The dogs from Ghent could operate independently. NYPD Lt. George Wakefield, an expert on dogs, was sent to Ghent to observe and study their operations.¹⁰

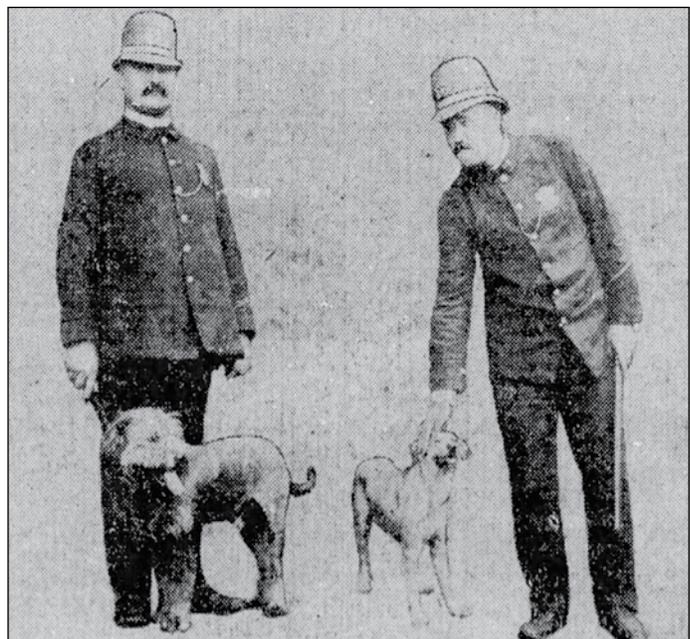
Wakefield liked what he saw and decided to make a purchase. The police chief of Ghent was not willing to sell any of their trained dogs but instead sold Wakefield five six-month-old sheepdogs to be trained by them. One dog was a Groenendael, resembling a sheepdog with a long, silky coat. The other four dogs were Belgian sheepdogs that stand about knee-high when fully grown. They weigh about fifty pounds and have short shaggy coats. (This is not to be confused with the Belgian Malinois. They came to the U.S. in 1911.) The dogs were sold to Wakefield for \$10 each.¹¹

The first K-9 unit in the U.S. consisted of the all-black Groenendael named Nogi and three Belgian sheepdogs named Max, Donna and Lady. One dog later died in transport and was replaced with an American-born Airedale Terrier named Jim. The dogs were taken to a mansion near Fort Washington Park in Manhattan, considered "America's first and only police dog college." The dogs underwent a four-month training course under the direction of Lt. Wakefield and two other patrolmen.¹²

One of the most essential training tips Wakefield learned
(continued on page 56)



"Tony" is posing with Patrolman William Churchill of Whitman, Massachusetts. Tony was fixated on Patrolman Churchill's lantern and he would go on patrols with him every night.



In Cincinnati, OH, officers pose with two stray dogs that quickly became members of the department, "Handsome" and his sidekick, "Dick."

K-9 MACK

K-9 Mack is a 2 1/2-year-old black lab. He was born on March 16, 2021. Handler Officer Paul Robbins of the Lowell Police Department picked him up at Rise and Shine kennels in Barnstead, New Hampshire in May of 2021. He is certified in Human Tracking and evidence detection. He has been certified since September 2021.





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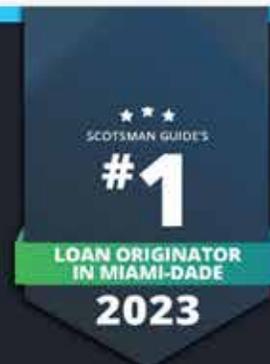
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in Belgium was that the dogs should only recognize the uniform, not the person in it. Only uniformed officers were allowed to interact with or feed the dogs. Officers dressed in civilian clothing would take their food away and engage in other taunting activities to train the dogs to look at the uniform as a friend and disregard others with distrust. Every day, Wakefield would take the dogs out on a leash and have them attack a patrolman dressed in civilian clothes. The dog would continue to attack the "decoy" if they resisted. If they submitted, the dog would stand guard until a uniformed officer arrived.¹³

The dogs could not do any serious damage to a suspect. They can attack the suspect by tripping, jumping or bowling the suspect over, but they were muzzled to prevent them from biting. Muzzling was to avoid injury to innocent bystanders who might be mistaken for a suspect. The muzzle has a snap catch that allows the officer to instantly unfasten it if the need to bite a suspect arises. The dogs respond to two commands, "Attack" and "Down." The dogs were also trained to return to the officer at the sound of a whistle.¹⁴

After months of training, the dogs were first unveiled to the public in February 1908 at the Westminster Kennel Club



Mace, a St. Bernard, received worldwide attention as one of the first trained police dogs in the US as a member of the Philadelphia Police Department.

(WKC) dog show held at Madison Square Garden. An exhibition was held demonstrating how the dogs would be used on the streets of New York City. Donna entered the arena first, followed by Nogi, Lady, Max and Jim. Each dog attacked the decoys by tripping, flipping or jumping at them. The dogs were muzzled just as they would be on the street.¹⁵

The WKC created a special award for the new police dogs. Jim, the only Yankee in the group, walked away with the award. His performance blew the spectators away. He threw his decoy to the ground so often that he couldn't get his footing. Jim hooked his legs whenever the decoy could stand and knocked him back over. Lady and Donna took second and third, respectively.¹⁶

The dogs were assigned to the 172nd precinct station house at Ocean Boulevard and Webster Ave. (now the 70th Precinct). They would be assigned to patrol the Parkville section of Brooklyn. They perform their job admirably and heroically and were a true asset to the NYPD. These five dogs became America's first canine unit and paved the way for other police departments to create their own canine units.¹⁷

Robert Bowling is a retired police officer. He currently serves as an Ambassador to the National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial Fund and is an historical researcher for the Officer Down Memorial Page. He is a public safety writer and contributing writer to Officer Magazine, focusing on the history of law enforcement and fallen officers. His other publications include the Journal of School Safety, the Michigan History Magazine, and National Pastime. He is the author of Wicked Fishers and an upcoming book, Hoosier Vigilantes, due out next year. He currently lives in Fishers, Indiana and teaches criminal justice at a high school in Indianapolis.



¹ Handy, W.F, Harrington, M., & Pittman, D.J. (1961). The K-9 corps: The use of dogs in police work. *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, 52(3), 328-337.

² "A police dog." *Columbus Sunday Enquirer*. March 13, 1881.

³ "Jack, a police dog." *St. Louis Post Dispatch*. March 26, 1893.

⁴ "Major, a police dog, buried with honors." *The Standard Union*. October 17, 1903.

⁵ Handy, W.F, Harrington, M., & Pittman, D.J. (1961). The K-9 corps: The use of dogs in police work. *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, 52(3), 328-337.

⁶ "Police dogs used in Ghent." *The Inter Ocean*. October 19, 1902.

⁷ "Dog custodians of the law." *Buffalo Evening News*. August 27, 1904.

⁸ "How they train dogs now a days to do police duty." *The San Francisco Examiner*. July 3, 1904.

⁹ "Police bloodhounds to track criminals." *New York Times*. August 31, 1907.

¹⁰ "Dog police for New York." *The Washington Post*. October 18, 1907.

¹¹ "Four-footed thief catchers." *Arkansas Democrat*. June 4, 1908.

¹² "The police dogs of New York City." *The Citizen*. February 7, 1908.

¹³ "The police dogs of New York City." *The Citizen*. February 7, 1908.

¹⁴ "Five trained police dogs to aid in catching New York Criminals." *Detroit Free Press*. Jan 21, 1908.

¹⁵ "Fox Terrier crowned." *New York Tribune*. February 14, 1908.

¹⁶ "Fox Terrier crowned." *New York Tribune*. February 14, 1908.

¹⁷ "After a week's tryout, police dogs make good." *The Standard Union*. February 2, 1908.

LEBANON POLICE DEPARTMENT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

K-9 ALLERGO

K-9 Allergo is currently a 4-year-old German Shephard who came from Czech Republic in 2020-2021. K-9 Allergo and his handler Logan Scelza have been fully certified as a team since December 2021 for narcotics, tracking, and patrol work.

ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, NEW YORK



1ST SERGEANT JEREMY YELA AND K-9 JUSTUS

1st Sergeant Jeremy Yela is the Orange County Sheriff's Office K-9 Division Supervisor / Trainer. His partner, K-9 Justus, is a 10-year-old German Shepherd certified in Tracking, Evidence/Article Recovery, Handler Protection, Criminal Apprehension, and Narcotics Detection. His largest narcotics seizure was 10 kilos of cocaine which led to the incarceration of two individuals on Federal narcotics trafficking charges.

DEPUTY SHERIFF MIKE MULLER AND K-9 MAVERICK

Deputy Mike Muller is one of the Orange County Sheriff's Office's Lead K-9 Trainers. His partner, K-9 Maverick, is a 6-year-old Belgian Malinois/German Shepherd mix certified in Tracking, Evidence/Article Recovery, Handler Protection, Criminal Apprehension, and Narcotics Detection. His most recent seizure was several kilos of Heroin during a narcotics trafficking investigation and subsequent search warrant.



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, NEW YORK

DEPUTY SHERIFF VINNIE IANNUZZI AND K-9 KATO

Deputy Vinnie Iannuzzi is one of the Orange County Sheriff's Office's Lead K-9 Trainers. His partner, K-9 Kato, is a 9-year-old Belgian Malinois certified in Tracking, Evidence/Article Recovery, Handler Protection, Criminal Apprehension, and Explosives Detection. His most recent seizure was two "Ghost Guns" with ammunition during an illegal weapons investigation and subsequent search warrant.



CORRECTIONS OFFICER MJ MANZO AND K-9 DAVEY

Officer MJ Manzo is the Orange County Sheriff's Office's first female K-9 handler as well as the first Corrections Division K-9 handler in 25 years. Her partner, K-9 Davey, is a 4-year-old Black Lab trained in narcotics detection. This K-9 Team is used in daily proactive patrols of our Corrections Division and assists in the search and recovery of prison contraband.



LAUDERHILL POLICE DEPARTMENT, FLORIDA



K-9 Officer Torres and K-9 Maxxx served with Lauderhill Police Department from April, 2010 until their retirement in June, 2019. Maxxx was a Belgium Malinois dual purpose (patrol/narcotics) canine, certified through FDLE(Florida Department of Law Enforcement and NAPWDA(North American Police Work Dog Association). Along with their patrol duties K-9 Officers Torres and Maxxx were assigned to HIDTA(High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas), ICE(Immigration Customs Enforcement), as well as SWAT. Their responsibilities were to respond to all in progress calls, provide back up to patrol officers, as well as assist all specialized units. K-9 Maxxx was a valuable asset to the agency with countless contact and non contact apprehensions as well as numerous narcotic seizures and forfeitures.

K-9 MAXXX

K-9 OFFICER RONALD "T" TORRES AND K-9 MAXXX
LAUDERHILL POLICE DEPARTMENT, LAUDERHILL,
FLORIDA
SERVICE YEARS: 4-2010 TO 6-2019(RETIRED)
DUAL PURPOSE K-9: PATROL/NARCOTICS

BERGEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, NEW JERSEY

MEMORIAL

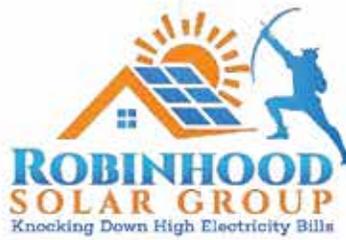
K-9 Flash was a full German Shepard born in Hungary on February 11, 2012. He started his career in 2013 with his handler Officer Marcelo Hagopian. K-9 Flash was assigned to the Bergen County Sheriff's Office Homeland Division conducting K-9 Narcotics Patrol.

K-9 Flash conducted K-9 demonstrations for schools and residents of Bergen County. He assisted federal agencies with narcotic searches (DEA / Prosecutor's Office). K-9 Flash located many missing persons including toddlers, teenagers, and seniors.

K-9 Flash served the Bergen County Sheriff's Office for 9 years. Retiring in 2021 and residing at home with Officer Hagopian's family until his passing in October 2023.

K-9 FLASH





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Operation BLUE KAYAK

Operation Deep Blue is a nonprofit charitable organization that aims to increase awareness of law enforcement officers, first responders and military service members who died on the line of duty. They also raise funds for the surviving family members.

Every year, Operation Deep Blue runs an expedition called "The Expedition To Honor Our Fallen." The team start at Fort Mott State Park in Pennsville, NJ, and paddles 225 miles until reaching its destination, which is Washington D.C. In addition, each team

member gets to choose an individual hero who made the ultimate sacrifice to honor throughout the expedition.

The team's skills, physical endurance, their mental strength, and commitment is put to the test during the expedition as they paddle for 10 hours a day with daily environmental changes.

The team that participates in Operation Deep Blue is comprised of active, retired law enforcement officers and military service members.



OPERATION DEEP BLUE 2023 HONOREES



ALISON RUSSO

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN - CAPTAIN
FIRE DEPARTMENT
NEW YORK CITY
EOW: 9-29-22, AGE: 61 |
TOUR: 24 YEARS

While on duty, CAPT Russo was flagged down by a civilian for an individual having a medical emergency. When she responded to investigate, she was stabbed to death in an unprovoked attack.

ODB: MARSHALL SEDDON, THE RIVER CONNECTION, HYDE PARK, NEW YORK & ODB TEAM TRAINER/ SAFETY OFFICER



JORGE M. OLIVEIRA

STAFF SERGEANT - ARMY
NATIONAL GUARD &
DETECTIVE - ESSEX
COUNTY, NJ
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
EOW: 10-19-2011, AGE: 33
TOUR: 14 YEARS

SSGT Olivera was killed in Afghanistan when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

ODB: NICOLE FERRAILOLO - SHERIFF'S OFFICER, ESSEX COUNTY, NJ SHERIFF'S OFFICE



THOMAS "TOMMY" HANRATTY

TROOPER,
NJ STATE POLICE
COUNTY, NJ
EOW: 4-2-1992, AGE: 24
TOUR: 3 YEARS

Trooper Hanratty was struck and killed by a passing vehicle while returning to his patrol car after conducting a traffic stop.

ODB: TOM HAUCK - FBI (RET.) / DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE & OPERATIONS, NJOHSP



JAMES MUHLBAUER & K-9 OFFICER CHAMP

POLICE OFFICER, KANSAS CITY, MO, POLICE DEPT.
EOW: 2-15-2023, AGE: 42, TOUR: 20 YEARS

Police Officer Muhlbauer and his K-9 partner were killed in a vehicle crash resulting from a driver running a red light at 89 mph.

ODB: JOHN MANDRAFINA - FBI (RET.). PO MUHLBAUER IS JOHN'S DAUGHTER-IN-LAWS BROTHER



AUGUSTO "AUGGIE" ACABOU

FIREFIGHTER, NEWARK NJ FIRE DEPARTMENT
EOW: 7-5-2023, AGE: 45
TOUR: 9 YEARS

OBB: CHARLIE ATIE - CHIEF OF POLICE, PROSPECT PARK, NJ POLICE DEPARTMENT (RET.)

Firefighters Acabou and Brooks lost their lives battling a fire aboard a cargo ship.



WAYNE "BEAR" BROOKS, JR.

FIREFIGHTER, NEWARK NJ FIRE DEPARTMENT
EOW: 7-5-2023, AGE: 49
TOUR: 16 YEARS

OBB: MIKE LYNCH - DELAWARE RIVER & BAY AUTHORITY



DAREN M. HIDALGO

FIRST LIEUTENANT U.S. ARMY
EOW: 2-20-2011, AGE: 24
TOUR: 5 YEARS

1STLT Hidalgo died from wounds suffered when insurgents in Afghanistan attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

OBB: JOHN NAWOICHYK - LIEUTENANT COLONEL, U.S. ARMY (RET.), WEST POINT US MILITARY ACADEMY



FERDINAND "FRED" BARGER

LIEUTENANT COLONEL U.S. ARMY
KIA: 09-04-1968, AGE: 38
TOUR: 23 YEARS

LTCOL Barger was killed in action by a sniper in Vietnam. In addition to Vietnam, LTCOL Barger served in the Korean War. He is being honored by his son, LTCOL Stephen Barger, US Army (Ret).

OBB: STEPHEN BARGER - LTCOL, US ARMY (RET.)



CESAR "ECHY" ECHAVERRY

POLICE OFFICER MIAMI-DADE, FL POLICE DEPARTMENT
EOW: 8-17-2022, AGE: 29
TOUR: 5 YEARS

Police Officer Echeverry was shot and killed during a foot pursuit of an armed robbery suspect.

OBB: RAY KASSAS - DETECTIVE, PASSAIC COUNTY, NJ PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE



NATHAN HARDY

CHIEF SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR, U.S. NAVY
KIA: 2-4-2008, AGE: 29
TOUR: 9 YEARS

Chief Special Warfare Operator Hardy died from small arms fire during combat operations in Iraq.

OBB: BILL BROWN - FORMER US NAVY SEAL



DONALD "BO" BOMAN

LIEUTENANT, MONTVALE NJ POLICE DEPARTMENT
EOW: 11-2-2021, AGE: 59
TOUR: 30 YEARS

LT Boman passed away shortly after retiring due to a brain tumor he developed following recovery work he performed at the World Trade Center following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

OBB: ED KASPER - CHIEF OF POLICE, OAKLAND, NJ POLICE DEPARTMENT (RET.)



ROBERT "BOBBY" SHISLER

POLICE OFFICER DEPTFORD TWP, NJ POLICE DEPT.
EOW: 5-7-2023, AGE: 27
TOUR: 4 YEARS

Officer Shisler succumbed to complications from a gunshot wound sustained while struggling with a suspect following a foot pursuit approx. two months earlier.

OBB: TIM DREW - CHIEF OF DETECTIVES, HUNTERDON COUNTY (NJ) PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE



CHRISTOPHER LOREK

SPECIAL AGENT, FBI
EOW: 5-17-2013, AGE: 41
TOUR: 17 YEARS

SAs Lorek and Shaw died while fast-roping from a helicopter to a ship. The helicopter encountered difficulties and both agents fell a significant distance, suffering fatal injuries. Both were members of the bureau's elite hostage team.

OBB: PAT KEANE - SPECIAL AGENT, FBI



STEPHEN SHAW

SPECIAL AGENT, FBI
EOW: 5-17-2013, AGE: 40
TOUR: 8 YEARS



ANTHONY JOSEPH LUCANTO

DETECTIVE, PATERSON, NJ POLICE DEPARTMENT
EOW: 1-5-2020, AGE: 47
TOUR: 24 YEARS

Detective Lucanto died as the result of cancer he developed following his assignment to search and recovery efforts at the World Trade Center following the 9/11 Terrorist Attacks.

OBB: PETER BERGER, FORMER U.S. AIR FORCE



MICHAEL SCOTT NICKERSON

POLICE OFFICER, CENTREVILLE, MD POLICE DEPARTMENT
EOW: 2-13-2001, AGE: 24
TOUR: 2 YEARS

Police Officer Nickerson was shot and killed by a subject with a shotgun while responding to a noise complaint.

OBB: CHAD SMITH - SERGEANT, BLOOMFIELD, NJ POLICE DEPARTMENT



DAVID SOLINAS, JR.

SERGEANT, U.S. ARMY
EOW: 3-29-2023, AGE: 23
TOUR: 5 YEARS

SGT Solinas was killed when two Black Hawk medical evacuation helicopters collided during a training mission. All nine service members occupying both helicopters were killed.

OBB: DANIELLE NEUBERGER - POLICE OFFICER, WESTWOOD, NJ POLICE DEPARTMENT



MINTER BAILEY RALSTON IV

COLONEL, U.S. MARINE CORPS (RET.)
EOW: 8-2-2022, AGE: 54
TOUR: 30 YEARS

COL Ralston lost a five-year battle with an illness attributed to his military service.

OBB: SHANE GOUKER - LIEUTENANT COLONEL, U.S. MARINE CORPS (RET.) & FEMA



JOHN R. STALVEY

CORPORAL, U.S. MARINE CORPS
EOW: 10-3-2005, AGE: 22
TOUR: 4 YEARS

CPL Stalvey, a Marine sniper, was killed by an improvised explosive device during combat operations in Iraq.

OBB: JUSTIN ANSEL - COLONEL, U.S. MARINE CORPS (RET.)



BILLY "NO FEAR" FEARON

LIEUTENANT
NJ STATE POLICE
EOW: 12-28-2016, AGE: 49
TOUR: 22 YEARS

LT Fearon died as the result of a rare form of cancer he developed following recovery work he performed at the World Trade Center following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

ODB: KURTIS REED - POLICE OFFICER, PROSPECT PARK, NJ POLICE DEPARTMENT



THOMAS PAUL JENSEN

CORPORAL, PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD POLICE DEPARTMENT
EOW: 3-9-2010, AGE: 27
TOUR: 5 YEARS

CPL Jensen succumbed to injuries sustained 10 days earlier when he was involved in an automobile accident.

He was responding to a burglary in progress when his patrol car slid on ice and struck a utility pole.

ELIAS ATIE - DETECTIVE, BERGEN COUNTY, NJ PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE



AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Comprised of mothers whose children died on active duty military service, died as a result of that service, or are missing in action, Gold Star Mothers strive to keep the memory of their sons and daughters alive by helping veterans, those currently serving in the military, their families, and communities. 60 Gold Star Mothers of New Jersey are being honored by Operation Deep Blue this year.

ODB: JOHN SHEARD - COLONEL, NJ ARMY NATIONAL GUARD (RET.), FEMA, AIR OPERATIONS COORDINATOR



BRIAN MOHL

SERGEANT,
CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE
EOW: 9-2-2021, AGE: 50
TOUR: 26 YEARS

SGT Mohl was patrolling in the early morning hours during Hurricane Ida when his patrol vehicle began floating. Communication was lost and his vehicle was later located a mile away from his last known location. SGT Mohl's body was recovered a distance away submerged at a river's edge.

ODB: SCOTT SLEKIS - CAPTAIN, PASSAIC COUNTY, NJ SHERIFF'S OFFICE



GEORGE D. JONES, JR.
OFFICER, WASHINGTON DC METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

EOW: 3-24-1973, AGE: 31
TOUR: 3 YEARS

Officer Jones was shot and killed when he and his partner responded to a call for assistance. Upon arrival, the officers encountered an estranged husband armed with a shotgun. As Officer Jones attempted to push the shotgun aside, the man fired it, striking Officer Jones in the stomach. Officer Jones' partner returned fire and killed the suspect. Officer Jones succumbed to his injuries the following day.

ODB: GUY SHIELDS - COLONEL, U.S. ARMY (RET.)



MEGAN M. MCCLUNG

MAJOR,
U.S. MARINE CORPS
EOW: 12-6-2006, AGE: 34
TOUR: 11 YEARS

MAJ McClung was killed when a roadside bomb blew up the truck she was riding in while in charge of embedded journalists in Iraq. She was the first female Marine officer to be killed in Iraq as well as the first female graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy to be killed in the line of duty. "Be bold, be brief, be gone."

ODB: JOSE MERCADO - FORMER U.S. MARINE & U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY CLASSMATE OF MAJ MCCLUNG



JAKE WALLIN

POLICE OFFICER, FARGO, ND POLICE DEPARTMENT |
EOW: 7-14-23, AGE: 23
TOUR: 3 MONTHS

PO Wallin was shot and killed while he and other officers investigated a traffic crash. While officers were on scene, a male subject opened fire on officers, firefighters, and bystanders without a warning. PO Wallin was killed, two other officers were critically wounded and a bystander was wounded.

ODB: JIMMY LAYNG - SHERIFF'S OFFICER, PASSAIC COUNTY, NJ SHERIFF'S OFFICE



KERRY JOSEPH WINTERS, SR.

SERGEANT, ULSTER COUNTY, NY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
EOW: 9-22-2016, AGE: 51
TOUR: 31 YEARS

SGT Winters drowned while conducting a training dive when he became separated from his two dive partners. He was found unresponsive a short time later and brought to the surface where other deputies performed CPR and utilized an AED. He was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead.

ODB: JOHN SPINATO - SERGEANT, SHAWANGUNK, NY POLICE DEPARTMENT



JOHN D. MCLAUGHLIN

INVESTIGATOR
CAMDEN COUNTY, NJ PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

EOW: 4-20-1995, AGE: 37
TOUR: 2 MONTHS

Investigator McLaughlin was shot and killed while attempting to serve a search warrant during a child abuse investigation.

ODB: KENNY TERRACCIANO - FBI (RET.) FORMER ESSEX COUNTY, NJ PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE



JOHN SCZYREK, JR.

DETECTIVE, NEWARK NJ POLICE DEPARTMENT
EOW: 6-3-1993, AGE: 30
TOUR: 7 YEARS

Detective Sczyrek was shot and killed in court by a suspect who was trying to keep him from testifying against his two cousins charged with narcotics crimes following an undercover assignment.

ODB: NICHOLAS RODRIGUEZ - DETECTIVE, ESSEX COUNTY (NJ) SHERIFF'S OFFICE

FIVE SULLIVAN BROTHERS:

GEORGE, GUNNER'S MATE SECOND CLASS, U.S. NAVY, AGE: 27

FRANCIS, COXSWAIN, U.S. NAVY, AGE: 26

JOSEPH, SEAMAN SECOND CLASS, U.S. NAVY, AGE: 24

MADISON, SEAMAN SECOND CLASS | U.S. NAVY, AGE: 23

ALBERT, SEAMAN SECOND CLASS | U.S. NAVY, AGE: 20

KIA: 11-13-1942

George and Francis re-enlisted with their three younger brothers following the bombing of Pearl Harbor under the condition they would all be able to serve together. All five siblings were assigned to the light cruiser USS Juneau. On 11-13-1942, during the Battle of Guadalcanal, the USS Juneau was struck by a Japanese torpedo and forced to withdraw. Later that same day, it was struck again and the ship exploded and quickly sank. Francis, Joseph and Madison were killed instantly. Albert died the next day and George survived for a few days before passing.

ODB MOBILE KITCHEN CHEFS: MARK CODY | NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE AUTHORITY & JOE RUTIGLIANO - CHIEF OF POLICE, WOOD-RIDGE (NJ) POLICE DEPARTMENT (RET.)







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New Jersey Honor Legion

The Finest Of The Finest



Photographer: Barry Morgenstein



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Santa's Flight to Paterson: *The Spirit of Christmas is Alive*

By Daniel Del Valle

On the morning of Dec. 23, 2023, many children were amazed as Santa Claus himself flew the skies above Paterson, NJ. Santa had sidelined his sleigh and reindeer, opting for the sleek New Jersey State Police helicopter, courtesy of Colonel Patrick Callahan. After a memorable morning flight, Santa arrived knowing the children (and their parents) were excited for his arrival on the city streets — because just as years passed — Santa was coming to Paterson with individually wrapped presents for the children!

Santa arrived at our Blue Magazine and Moment of Silence headquarters to meet his helpers — an eager group of volunteers, who waited with stocked truckloads of toys, trucks outfitted with Christmas lights, and speakers blaring Christmas music for all to hear. What unfolded in the hours ahead was a testament that the wonderment of youth is precious and that the spirit of Christmas is alive and well.

We set out for all the neighborhoods in Paterson irrespective of blight conditions and potential safety concerns; we'd known the children were waiting for Santa. And it was our job to get Santa there.

We witnessed so many beautiful experiences. As we saw the joy on the children's faces and big ear-to-ear smiles,

we noticed the parents were elated, too. Some were crying, expressing how they'd not even had enough money to purchase a Christmas tree this year. We believe every child and family should experience the magic of Christmas — the love and fellowship of neighbors — the selfless spirit of giving, and the incredible power of kindness.

We were blessed to provide over 8,000 toys this year thanks to Moment of Silence, the DePaço family and the Blue Magazine. These entities worked in unison for this event to be a significant success. It takes a lot of passion from well-intentioned people for this event to occur. I am thankful we have such a wonderful team of selfless and devoted patriots. Special thanks to the New Jersey State Police, the Passaic County Sheriff's Department, PBA 197, the Paterson Police and the many officers nationwide who come to volunteer year after year. We had over 50 volunteers in the streets giving out toys all day. All our volunteers worked very hard, and we were happily exhausted when we finished the tour.

We are very grateful and happy to be able to serve the community. Thank you again to everyone who made this possible. It was a beautiful experience.

Stay connected, because Santa is returning next Christmas for our 14th year of assisting Santa Claus! 🌐





SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Moment of Silence Inc
The DePaço Family
NJ State Police
NJ State Police Teams Unit
NJ State Police Aviation Unit
PSEG Gas & Construction North
PBA Toy Drive (SRT) Don Nicoletti
Paterson Police Department
Paterson PBA Local 1
Matt Sentinel Systems
Fette Ford
Tristate
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Paterson Community Policing
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Jay Davis Santa Claus
Christian Bonilla Grinch

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Scott Flammer
The Law Office of Feeley & LaRocca
Newton Nutrition Store
Bear Brook Valley Wedding Venue
Warhogs Motorcycle Club East
The Apparel Group American
Raven Recycling Inc
Moschella Family
St. Paul's Abbey
Zuhr Khalil
Reign
All-Ply Roofing
Bobby Brown
Rapid Pump & Meter Service Co., Inc
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Clifton PBA Local 36
Thin Blue Line Flag Foundation (Ed Dolan)
Passaic County Sheriff PBA 197
Harbee Beekeeping
Franco Di Paolo
Newton Dunkin Donuts

MOMENT
of
SILENCE

The DePaço Family

BLUE
THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

REMEMBRANCE

Article & Artwork
by Jonny Castro

On the afternoon of January 28 2024, police in Rockford, Illinois responded to an apartment for a report of a domestic dispute where the suspect had stolen a woman's cell phone and fled the scene. Just as Rockford Police officer Jon Vargas and his K-9 partner Nyx were able to track the male down, he took off on foot, with the K-9 duo in pursuit. The male jumped over a fence and Nyx quickly caught up to him. Officer Vargas heard three gunshots, and as he got closer, saw his faithful K-9 partner on the ground suffering from gunshot wounds. The suspect exchanged gunfire with the officer. The gunman was wounded in his leg and taken into custody at the scene. Nyx passed away a short time later.

Nyx joined the Rockford Police Department in 2018, and was the first female dog in the city's history. The Belgian Malinois was trained in narcotics detection, evidence recovery, human tracking, and apprehension. She was 7-years old. 🐾

K-9 Nyx

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