



## No Bones About It: Many of Our Four-Legged Heroes Will Need Urgent Medical Care this Christmas!

The holiday season is a time to spend with family and loved ones.

And the retired law enforcement K9s and military working dogs Paws of Honor supports *ARE* family to the people who have adopted them in their retirement years.

In fact, these K9 officers are often adopted in retirement by their human partners, who they worked side-by-side with during their years of service.

And while I'm sure **you as a dog lover understand the powerful feeling of love between a human and "man's best friend,"** K9 officers and their human partners share the even deeper bond that comes from facing dangerous situations and having full faith and trust in one another.

The bond between a handler and their dog is unbreakable. Which is why **it's so hard to**



K9 Lynch, who is named after 9/11 Pentagon victim Terence Lynch, was trained in Explosive Detection at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. After graduating from training in 2013, Lynch and his handler headed to their assignment in Honolulu, Hawaii, where Lynch worked as a sheriff's K9 at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport, searching luggage, mail, vehicles, aircrafts, and terminals. Lynch retired in January 2021 and enjoys playing ball at the beach, swimming and chewing on his favorite white bone. With your support Paws of Honor is providing K9 Lynch with medical care now that he is retired from service.

see these hero pups classified as "surplus equipment" by the government once they're retired from service.

Like you, their adopted families see them as loved ones and heroic companions -- so much more than some rusty old tank or broken down barge.

But the sad fact is, **once decommissioned, all their benefits stop immediately**, and the government doesn't even provide them with the most basic veterinary care. Covering the often expensive vet bills that come after a physically demanding K9 career becomes the sole responsibility of the family who adopted them after retirement.

**And at this time of year the struggle to feed and care for these dogs can be more challenging than ever.** After all, many of these dogs' handlers are active-duty or retired military or

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## Meet These K9 Heroes NEW to Paws of Honor!

*Paws of Honor now has OVER 200 retired K9s in our Paws of Honor family! These hero pups span across 27 states, represent 75 different departments/agencies, and had 899 veterinary visits totaling over \$618,000 in 2021. Your support -- which makes it all possible! -- is greatly appreciated by their handlers and families, as well as all of us at Paws of Honor.*



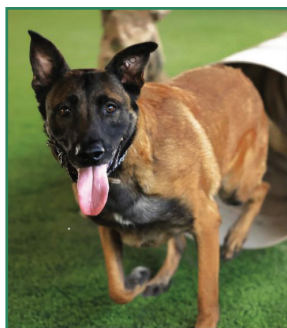
**K9 Riko** served the **Santa Rosa Police** as a **Dual-Purpose Narcotics and Patrol K9** for almost eight years. Riko was also SWAT certified and participated in several SWAT call outs. He was a fan favorite at all of the K9 demos because he was the fastest dog in the department. K9 Riko's greatest accomplishment was when he chased a suspect down a busy roadway and into a creek where he caught the suspect on the other side of the bank. Without Riko, the suspect would have escaped!



**K9 Barney** began his career in 2013 with the **Loudoun County Sheriff's Office** as a **Dual-Purpose Narcotics and Patrol K9**. Barney was responsible for removing a large number of narcotics and guns from his community, and apprehended several wanted subjects. While working, K9 Barney subdued a suspect that unexpectedly attacked his handler! He recently retired and now spends his days laying on his bed and playing with his new puppy brother.



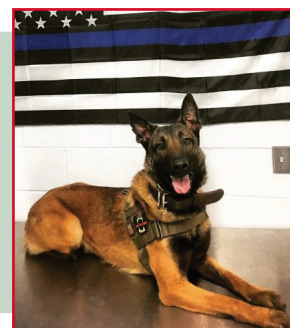
**K9 Tank** worked for the **U.S. Department of State** for almost five years as an **Explosive Detection dog**. His most memorable moments working include searching a piece of the Berlin Wall for the National Museum of American Diplomacy and participating in National Night Out events. Tank received a Certificate of Appreciation for impressing two Deputy Secretaries of State during National Night Out! K9 Tank has not lost his drive since retirement and continues to inspect all packages and vehicles at his handler's home.



**Retired Military Working Dog (MWD) Bbrazas** served his entire career in the **U.S. Navy**. Bbrazas traveled throughout the country and even deployed to Kuwait and Qatar. He is one of the Navy's legacy dogs and is named after Sean Brazas who was shot and killed in Afghanistan. In retirement, Bbrazas now enjoys "supervising" his mom and dad around the house.



**MWD Vvirgil** worked as a **Dual-Purpose Explosive and Patrol dog** for the **U.S. Navy** for seven years. He was primarily attached to Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific (SWFPAC) in Silverdale, Washington. Since retiring, Vvirgil enjoys playing ball nonstop and lounging around the yard.





## Meet Retired Military Working Dog (MWD) Uu2!

Hi! I'm MWD Uu2 N717 and I am a 13-year-old Belgian Malinois. I served as an explosive detection and patrol military working dog for the United States Navy from June 2010 through October 2019 and was assigned to Headquarters Naval District Washington.

My overseas deployments included Honduras and The Horn of Africa. From September 2010 to October 2011, my handler and I deployed to Honduras where we participated in anti-drug trafficking missions. Our job was to precede the American and Honduran Security Forces to detect improvised explosive devices planted by the cartel, and to provide physical security.

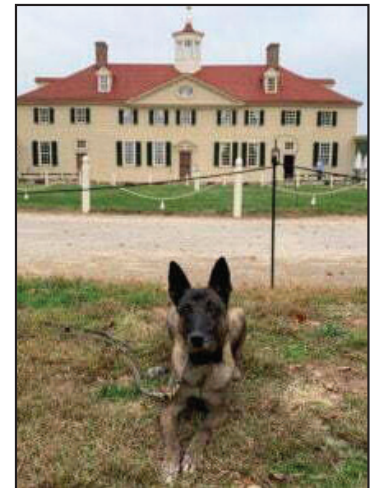
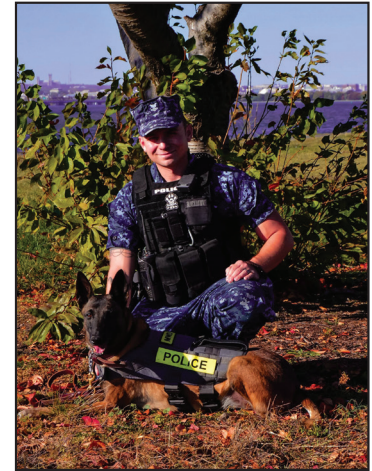
From July 2017 to June 2018, I deployed to the Combined Joint Task Force in the Horn of Africa, where I performed explosive detection and physical security missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Stateside, I performed numerous missions throughout my military career, providing explosive detection, physical security, and visual deterrence for two U.S. Presidents, Secretary of Defense, Secretary of State, Diplomats and Heads of State, as well as Military Officials. While in garrison, I supported base security and anti-terrorism force protection postures for eight installations in the National Capital Region, including the U.S. Naval Academy Annapolis and the U.S. Naval Observatory.

My handler/dad loved working with me because I was highly driven and excelled at my job. I was always up for a new challenge and eager to learn new skills.

Some of my favorite things to do, aside from explosive detection, were running the obedience course, trying to take over my handler's hotel bed, and stealing food while on taskers.

In October 2019 I retired and was adopted by my handler. I am loving the retired life and all the dog beds, toys, treats, adventures, and snuggles on the couch that it brings! I love playing and hanging out with my pack, hogging all the toys, going for walks and hikes, and getting scratches from anyone willing. My favorite treats are marrow bones, fresh fruits and veggies, and dog biscuits of any kind. I am a sweet, loving soul and my family is so happy I'm part of their forever pack now!



**The only way Paws of Honor can continue to offer urgently needed care to our four-legged heroes FREE of charge is through the continued generosity of friends like you.**

Together we are working for the common goal of providing medical care and benefits to retired working dogs at no cost to the officers. The greatest reward of being a part of the Paws of Honor family is hearing the stories of handlers and the bond they share with their dogs. I hope you enjoy the stories of your kindness in action -- and that **they inspire you to give generously** once again!



# Thank a K9 Hero's Handler for Their Service this Christmas!



*This is K9 Joan, who worked for the United States Federal Government as an Explosive Detection dog for five years. Today she is retired and is a proud Paws of Honor pup, cared for by the generosity of kind friends like you!*

The families who adopt retired police K9s and military working dogs often make great financial and other sacrifices to care for their faithful companions. They deserve to hear our appreciation -- so won't you join us in expressing your gratitude and appreciation for their care for America's retired K9 heroes?

Paws of Honor sends Thank You cards to people like you across America (free of charge) to sign and return as a show of gratitude for those who serve this great nation. These cards are then delivered to the handlers/owners/families of retired police and military K9s, as well as to the veterinary caregivers who provide them with medical care in their sunset years. Your kindness and generosity and personal words of encouragement go a long way in showing your support to these men and women for their compassionate care for these deserving dogs.

Please, return YOUR Thank You card (enclosed with your supporter exclusive newsletter) today! And for additional cards you can hand out to friends and family to sign and return to Paws of Honor, please contact us. We would be thrilled to send them your way!

## Merry Christmas From These Festive Pups Helped By Your Generosity!

With your help, Paws of Honor is caring for K9 heroes like these -- during the holiday season, and all year long!



**K9 Pano** is a 10-year-old Belgian Tervuren who served in the **United States Secret Service** from September 2013 until he was honorably retired in March 2019. Pano was an **explosive detection K9** whose main duty was to protect and secure the White House, Vice President's House, and Foreign Embassies located in Washington, D.C. Pano loved to work, was a very dedicated dog, and took his job seriously. He was always ready to secure an area no matter the weather conditions or time of day. After

retirement he was adopted by his handler and now spends his days playing with all the balls and toys he could dream of, taking plenty of naps, and getting love and attention from his family.



**K9 Maggie** is a labrador who served as an **explosive detection K9**. Since this photo was taken, Maggie's handler noticed a spot in Maggie's eye that seemed concerning. Within two months, it was confirmed that K9 Maggie had eye cancer, and had surgery to remove her left eye.

Maggie's handler told us, "I wanted to take a moment to thank Paws of Honor for being such an amazing organization. You have yet again helped me but more importantly my fearless partner Maggie. Since POH was there for us the cost was never part of our worry. Just getting Maggie adjusted and healthy was our focus. Her resilience is something to be admired and further proof how brave and amazing these dogs are. Thanks POH for adding more years to Maggie's life and more happiness to ours."



**K9 Clara** was a much-loved Paws of Honor hero who recently crossed the rainbow bridge. During her years of honorable service, Clara was an **explosive detection K9** who served with the **Department of Defense**. During her much-deserved years of retirement, Clara and her handler were so grateful for the medical care received from Paws of Honor thanks to the generosity of friends like you!



**K9 Mark** is a seven-year-old German Shepherd who served as a dual-purpose **explosive detection and patrol K9** with the **U.S. Air Force**, stationed at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico. Mark has some pretty severe medical issues after suffering a gruesome injury during training, running through a glass wall. Since the injury, Mark started self-harming himself in his kennel, chewing on fencing and through kennels. He has been on several

medications for the stress and anxiety he suffers, and his spine and hips also give him issues.

Despite all this, what makes Mark special is his personality. Now that he's retired, he's extremely calm and relaxed, and his favorite thing to do is lay around with his KONG in his mouth. It's an honor to support K9 Mark in his retirement!







## Make the Gift That Keeps on Giving This Holiday Season: *Join The K9 Companion Club Today!*







Please consider joining Paws of Honor's monthly giving program, **The K9 Companion Club**. Your monthly gift will support heroes like K9 Skeamer, who served a tour in Afghanistan with the U.S. Marine Corps before being honorably discharged. He was then selected to join the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Los Angeles bomb team, where he served until he was diagnosed with bone cancer.

Like virtually all our nation's retired K9s, Skeamer received zero retirement or other benefits from the government. Thanks to our donors and sponsors, Paws of Honor is dedicated to supporting these K9s and their families by providing 100% of their veterinary and medical care as we are able!

Joining **The K9 Companion Club** is a simple and secure way **YOU can make a gift that keeps on giving** to support America's K9 heroes during their retirement. And by joining you will also enjoy great

benefits that make it as easy as possible to continue your faithful patriotic support for America's four-legged heroes.

As a faithful Paws of Honor friend, you already know that these dogs are considered "surplus equipment" by the government when they retire, despite their years of faithful service. And they receive no veterinary or medical care from the government, even though their physically challenging careers often leaves them with even greater needs than most older dogs. By enrolling in **The K9 Companion Club**, you can do your part to provide them with the care they need to live out their retirement in comfort.

-  Your monthly donation is conveniently debited from your checking account or charged to your credit card each month, so you don't have to spend time writing checks or searching for stamps.
-  We track your monthly giving, at the end of the year you receive a convenient statement of donations for tax purposes.
-  You'll receive less mail from us – and the money we save on postage and printing helps your gifts go further each month. (We'll continue sharing important program updates and newsletters like this one.)
-  You're free to cancel your membership in **The K9 Companion Club** at any time.

Your monthly gift can be life-changing in any amount -- especially today, when more K9 heroes and their handlers than ever need our help because of ongoing economic challenges. These hero pups dedicated their lives to serving our country ... so now it's our turn to care for them as they live out their retirements!

So I hope you'll join **The K9 Companion Club** today – to help ensure we have the funds we need to support our K9 heroes in desperate need of urgent medical care and ongoing treatment to improve their quality of life. To enroll, please see your enclosed reply form.



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police officers themselves -- honest working men and women who have lived a life of service to their country and often have very modest means.

So when hefty veterinary bills come up, they may be forced to choose between life-saving surgery for their heroic companion, or buying their family Christmas presents. Or they may choose to forgo a special holiday meal in order to pay for routine veterinary care to keep their four-legged friend comfortable in their sunset days.

So I'm counting on your help to make this "the most wonderful time of the year" for America's K9 heroes and their families. Your generous giving turns fear, despair, and hopelessness into JOY by covering vet bills for dangerously ill K9 heroes, and paying for the routine care keeping them healthy and comfortable during their retirement years.

Thank you for your generosity – and Merry Christmas!

## Please Continue Your Commitment to our Four-Legged Heroes By Remembering Paws of Honor in Your Will

"Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole."  
– Roger Caras (photographer & writer)

As you consider your end-of-year giving this holiday season, consider a simple yet powerful way to thank our canine heroes and their handlers -- and continue your past proven commitment to helping America's brave retired working dogs -- by leaving a bequest from your estate to Paws of Honor in your will, insurance policy, or other planned giving option. *Your charitable bequest is needed and greatly appreciated by Paws of Honor and the handlers and K9 heroes we support!*

### Proper Language to Include When Making Your Bequest to Paws of Honor:

"After Fulfilling All Other Provisions, I Give, Devise and Bequeath \_\_\_ Percent of the Residue of My Estate to Paws of Honor Tax ID # 47-5643489, Which Pays for the Medical Care of Retired Military as well as Federal, State, and Local K9s."

*To schedule a confidential discussion of your options, email us at [info@pawsofhonor.org](mailto:info@pawsofhonor.org) or call (703) 403-8281. Paws of Honor does not provide legal or financial advice to prospective or current donors. Always consult your attorney and financial advisor before making any important decisions regarding your estate.*




*Your bequest helps support hero pups like K9 Clara. Clara, who just recently crossed the rainbow bridge, worked as an Explosive Detection dog with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) for almost seven years.*

### See More of the Wonderful Dogs You're Helping on Facebook!

For more on your generosity in action -- and for regular updates with cute puppy faces! -- be sure to "like" **Paws of Honor** on Facebook! You'll find photos, stories, and other exciting stories of the impact of your generosity ... including heartwarming photos of the loyal K9s your giving supports!


## "Thank YOU" From K9s and Handlers Helped By Donors Like You

*Your gift to Paws of Honor helps provide veterinary care and products free of charge for retired military and law enforcement K9s, that served our country bravely and are now in need of medical attention. The officers, handlers, and owners you're helping are so grateful for your support! Because, without your help, many would struggle to provide their furry companions with the proper medical attention they need to live healthy happy lives, even after they've retired from a life of service. The messages below are for YOU from K9 handlers and owners supported by generous friends of Paws of Honor.*



"I wanted to send a picture of Szimi and Dr. Austin. He really seems to like her, which is a new experience as he doesn't trust vets. Dr. Austin really has made an impact on him. Thank you to Paws of Honor and [the animal hospital] for your commitment to the care and wellness of our partners!"

-- Dad of retired patrol  
and explosive detection  
K9 Szimi



"Our K9, King, retired after 6 years with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority due to spinal stenosis and bulging discs in his neck. **Most people don't realize that when K9s retire, their handlers take on the high costs/expenses of their care. Paws of Honor allows K9s and their handlers to stay together by providing all their veterinary care, prescriptions and food at no cost.** Paws of Honor is an amazing organization! We are thankful for them allowing us to keep King comfortable and enjoying his retirement."

-- Sheri D.





"I brought my retired Military Working Dog home after 9 years of Naval service. As with most Veterans, he has a plethora of health issues. However, unlike his human counterparts, he does not have any VA benefits or equivalent. Handlers that adopt their dogs are expected to handle these costs out of pocket. **Paws of Honor has been a godsend.**"

-- Megan W.

"K9 Cody is a recipient of Paws of Honor since the beginning of 2016. **He would not have celebrated his 10th birthday this month without this non-profit organization ...** The government does not provide any retirement package to a K9 and they are the responsibility of the handlers once they retire. So there is no way we would not do everything we could to help them get the best care after the service they have provided our country! **Paws of Honor is top notch and we will forever be grateful for the generosity they provided to K9 Cody and our family!**"

-- Carrie P.

## Four More Ways You Can Help America's Retired Working Dogs This Christmas:

-  Alert your friends and neighbors to the fact that when K9 heroes retire from active duty, all the dogs' benefits cease, including medical care. Many officers, handlers, and owners simply cannot afford this expense.
-  Write, call, or e-mail your local elected officials to make them aware our retired military and police K9s have earned, and deserve quality medical care for their services.
-  Spread the word on social media outlets about the needs of our retired working dogs.
-  Send us the name and e-mail address of any pet owner or handler you're aware of who needs Paws of Honor's professional veterinary services so we can contact them and see if we can be of assistance.