



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**ANDY JORGENSEN**

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43rd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT • ASSEMBLY DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR

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## **Jorgensen Honors K9 Veterans at Capitol**

MADISON – Assembly Democratic Caucus Chair and State Representative Andy Jorgensen (D-Milton) today welcomed working dogs and their handlers to the Capitol, to be recognized as the Assembly took up AJR 4, legislation officially making March 13<sup>th</sup> K9 Veterans Day in Wisconsin.

“They say dogs are man’s best friend, but military and police working dogs are so much more,” said Jorgensen. “From World War 1 to present day, these dogs have laid down their own lives, for our freedom and safety. They deserve recognition for that faithful service and sacrifice.”

Jorgensen invited K9 police teams to stand with him on the Assembly floor, representing their military compatriots, as the body voted on AJR 4. Guests included Oconto County Deputy Sheriff and Wisconsin Law Enforcement Canine Handlers Association President Todd Skarban and Dexter, Deputy Scott Gukich and Mink, Deputy Greg Jansen and Falkos, and Deputy Jason Behm and Harlow of the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office, Wabeno Police Chief Mick Ashbeck, Sergeant Cherise Caradine and Casey and Detective Sergeant Brent Plisch and Odin of the UW-Madison Police Department, and Officer Rose Mansavage and Falco of the Madison Police Department. All of the visitors received a standing ovation, and the dogs barked their applause in response.

“To the four-legged force that has saved so many human lives, that has served with courage and loyalty, and that has supported our military’s efforts to protect and preserve democracy here and abroad: thank you,” said Jorgensen.

Last Friday, Jorgensen participated in the first-ever K9 Veterans Day celebration in Fort Atkinson, which was organized by Mabel Schumacher of the Kennel Club. Mabel and a local hero, Sergeant Jerry Witt, who served as a canine handler in Vietnam and lost his dog, Skip, in the line of duty, were also recognized on the Assembly floor.

AJR 4 passed with unanimous, bipartisan support.

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