



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1418/1
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2015 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 4

January 29, 2015 - Introduced by Representatives JORGENSEN, HORLACHER, BERCEAU, BILLINGS, BOWEN, E. BROOKS, BROSTOFF, DANOU, GOYKE, HEBL, HINTZ, JOHNSON, KAHL, KAPENGA, KERKMAN, KITCHENS, KNUDSON, KREMER, MACCO, MEYERS, MILROY, MURPHY, OHNSTAD, PETRYK, RIPP, ROHRKASTE, SHANKLAND, SINICKI, SKOWRONSKI, SPIROS, SPREITZER, STUCK, SUBECK, C. TAYLOR, THIESFELDT, TITTL, WACHS and ZAMARRIPA, cosponsored by Senators L. TAYLOR, MARKLEIN, NASS, OLSEN, RISSER, VINEHOUT, WANGGAARD and WIRCH. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** honoring the service of all military working dogs.

2 Whereas, dogs have served in our nation's military with honor and valor
3 throughout its history; and

4 Whereas, records from World War I reference military working dogs and make
5 note of Stubby, the most highly decorated American military working dog, who was
6 promoted to the rank of Sergeant for his service; and

7 Whereas, United States Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson authorized the
8 use of dogs in war efforts on March 13, 1942; and

9 Whereas, dogs accepted into the military training program underwent a
10 rigorous training program that exposed the dogs to muzzles, gas masks, gunfire, and
11 riding in vehicles and focused on obedience and responding to basic commands, so
12 that they could learn to serve as a sentry dog, a scout or patrol dog, a messenger dog,
13 or a mine-detection dog; and

1 Whereas, the United States Department of War had created 15 Quartermaster
2 War Dog Platoons by 1944, consisting of 20 enlisted men, 18 scout dogs, and six
3 messenger dogs; and

4 Whereas, Chips, the most highly decorated American military working dog in
5 World War II, famously stormed an Italian machine gun nest in 1943 during the
6 Allied invasion of Sicily; and

7 Whereas, during the Vietnam War, approximately 4,900 military working dogs
8 served in the United States military and are credited with saving more than 10,000
9 human lives; and

10 Whereas, 232 United States military working dogs and 295 United States
11 servicemen serving as dog handlers were killed in action during the Vietnam War,
12 including Specialist Four Richard Michael Banaszynski of Pulaski, Lance Corporal
13 Terrence Daniel Beck of Fort Atkinson, and Sergeant Terry John Payne of La Crosse;
14 and

15 Whereas, the United States government euthanized thousands of military
16 working dogs at the end of the Vietnam War rather than bringing them home; and

17 Whereas, after intense lobbying by veterans who served as dog handlers, the
18 federal government changed the law in 2000 so that United States military working
19 dogs can now be adopted by American families after their military service; and

20 Whereas, retired military working dogs are now often adopted by disabled
21 veterans to whom they bring love, hope, and healing; and

22 Whereas, since the attack against the United States of America on September
23 11, 2001, customs dogs, search and rescue dogs, border patrol dogs, police dogs, and
24 secret service dogs have also helped to protect and serve our nation and are
25 accordingly recognized with the military working dogs on K-9 Veterans Day; and

1 Whereas, a military working dog named Cairo was part of the operation that
2 killed Osama bin Laden; and

3 Whereas, it is well-known that military working dogs are loyal, loving, and
4 devoted, and that they knowingly place themselves in harm's way, making the
5 ultimate sacrifice by laying down their lives for their partners; now, therefore, be it

6 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the legislature
7 honors the service of all military working dogs and proclaims March 13, in 2015 and
8 in each succeeding year, as K-9 Veterans Day in Wisconsin; and, be it further

9 ***Resolved, That*** a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Wisconsin
10 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the United States War Dogs Association, the Vietnam
11 Dog Handler Association, and the Military Working Dog Team Support Association.

12

(END)