

## REFERENCE SITES

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### History of Dogs in War

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### Sample State Information — K9 Veterans

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**Illinois** — <http://chicagoheights.patch.com/groups/kenneth-e-reynoldss-blog/p/bp-welcome-to-the-national-effort-to-make-march-13-k1191adba61>

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[www.KCFAdogs.org](http://www.KCFAdogs.org)

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# March 13 as K9 Veterans' Day



March 13, 1942, is the official birthday of the United States K9 Corps.

There is a national effort to establish March 13 as K9 Veterans' Day. Several states have already taken that step. Our goal is to have March 13 proclaimed as K9 Veterans' Day in our nation.

We ask for your help to be a voice for those deserving canine veterans who have no voice.

## Support this Non-Partisan National Effort

## DOGS IN WAR

Dogs in warfare have a long history starting in ancient times. From 'war dogs' trained in combat to their use as scouts, sentries and trackers, their uses have been varied and some continue to exist in modern military usage.<sup>1</sup>

War dogs were used by the Egyptians, Greeks, Persians, Slavs, Britons, and Romans. Dogs often served as sentries or patrols, and have also served as scouts, trackers, messengers, ambulance dogs, and mine locators.<sup>1</sup>



The first reported war dog in America was Stubby, a pit bull. He served for 18 months and took part in seventeen battles on the western front. Promoted

to Sergeant, Stubby became the most decorated dog in World War I.<sup>2</sup>

After Pearl Harbor, the US military asked pet owners to donate their pet dogs to the war effort. The name of this program was Dogs for Defense. The dogs were trained and used for guard and patrol duties.<sup>3</sup>

On March 13, 1942, the K9 Corps was officially established. Well over a million dogs were used on both sides during WW II.<sup>4</sup>

Modern working dog roles include law enforcement; drug, bomb and explosive detection; sentries; scouts; trackers; intimidation; search and rescue; and mascots. Retired working dogs are often adopted as pets or serve as therapy dogs.<sup>1</sup>



## HONORING K9 VETERANS: A NATIONAL EFFORT

The founder of the national movement to establish March 13 as K9 Veterans' Day is the late Joseph J. White, a retired Military Dog Handler. His efforts resulted in Jacksonville Beach and the State of Florida becoming the first to proclaim this recognition of K9 veterans.<sup>4</sup>

To date, thirteen states—California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia—have already made this proclamation. Several other states, cities, and dog-related organizations are currently taking similar steps to recognize working dogs across the nation.<sup>8</sup>

K9 Veterans Day is intended to honor military dogs as well as those working with police, customs, border patrol, service, therapy and other working dogs whose mission it is to protect and serve the homeland and people within it.

Working dogs are commended for their loyalty and devotion and are known for placing themselves in harm's way even to the point of making the ultimate sacrifice for their partners, handlers, and trainers.<sup>4</sup>

## DOGS IN SERVICE

**Law Enforcement** • Dogs have proven to be versatile and loyal officers. They are used to chase suspects, track them if they are hidden, and guard them when they are caught. They are taught not to respond unless commanded to do so by their handler.<sup>9</sup>



**Drug and Explosives Detection** • Dogs are used to detect drugs and explosives. With training they can detect traces of nearly any substance. They are often used in airports, checkpoints, and other places where there is high security.<sup>10</sup>

**Search and Rescue** • Search and rescue dogs are a valuable component in wilderness, disaster, avalanche, drowning, and recovery efforts. Teams are made up of highly trained dogs and handlers.<sup>11</sup>

**Customs and Border Patrol** • Customs



and border patrol teams are trained in disciplines such as concealed human detection, pedestrian processing and detecting the odors of narcotics, currency, and firearms.<sup>12</sup>

**Service Dogs** • Service dogs are specially trained to provide assistance to people who have disabilities such as vision, physical, hearing, autism, mental illness, or seizures. They are also used by wounded veterans who have returned from combat.<sup>13</sup>