

FROM THE DESK OF
A Cure for Kyler

January 19, 2022

National Service Animals Monument
2101 Pear Street #567
Pinole, CA
94564-9998

To Whom It May Concern:

On April 10, 2020 my 15 year old son, Kyler Lewis, was riding in the car with me on when he turned to me very confused. He told me he didn't know where he was or how he got in the car and all of a sudden his head hurt very, very badly and his vision was blurry. Suddenly, he couldn't remember anything for more than a few seconds.

A brain CT scan revealed my son was bleeding in his brain and required brain surgery. He was diagnosed with an Acute Spontaneous Intracranial Hemorrhage. Our son was born with an Arteriovenous Malformation (Brain AVM) that we did not know it existed until it ruptured. An MRI revealed Kyler's AVM is inoperable. It is a Spetzler-Martin grade 4/5 in the Parietal/Occipital lobe of his brain (about the size of a hen's egg). Brain AVM's are the #1 cause of Pediatric stroke in children excluding trauma, yet doctors do not ever scan for this medical condition. Kyler is now working on recovering from this stroke and the effects of the radiation treatments he started. Epilepsy is just one of his many hurdles.

A year after his stroke, we were able to obtain a service dog named Sam for my son. Sammy has been a true life saver for my kid, now 17. Not only does Sam alert Kyler before he has a seizure, he also helps him with the PTSD and anxiety he developed from having this medical condition. Kyler and Sam are the very best of friends and Sam helps keep Kyler safe. Sam is always with Kyler—by his side 24/7 day and night. He accompanies Kyler to school, to his hospital stays and to his chemotherapy treatments. I can not imagine what my son's mental state or life would be like if he did not have his Sammy with him. Sammy's service is priceless and should be recognized as should his unique and strong bond with my son, Kyler.

Kyler, Sammy and I are in strong support of the creation of a National Service Animal Monument. The human-animal bond needs to be recognized and applauded. The general population needs to recognize and understand service animals are heroes that continue to go above and beyond to help their person in need every single day. Please provide the land in Washington DC so that this statue can be built.

Sincerely yours,

Rebecca Raylene Lewis

(Kyler's Mother)

2615 CARTINGTON COURT COLLEGE STATION (979-218-2235)
TEXAS, 77845 CUREFORKYLER@GMAIL.COM



To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of America's VetDogs; a national guide and service dog provider whose mission is to provide enhanced mobility and renewed independence to United States veterans, active-duty service members, and first responders with disabilities, allowing them to once again live with pride and self-reliance. Not only does a service dog provide support with daily activities, it provides the motivation to tackle every day challenges.

We are writing this letter in support of the creation of the National Service Animals Monument and in support of all service animals.

We continually hear from our clients about how their assistance dogs have had a positive impact on their lives and the lives of their families. This letter was sent to us by one of our grateful clients Dennis, a veteran of the U.S. Airforce, who was matched with Guinness. Guinness was trained as a guide dog and also to perform service dog tasks such as mobility and balance, as Dennis is deaf, blind, and partially paralyzed on his left side.

"I have had Guinness a little more than a year and a half now. I think maybe those that were involved in his growth and training might like to hear how he is doing. The skill and effort these people applied to Guinness restored a quality of life I lost in my service to my country. I cannot thank you enough. Guinness has restored a quality of life I lost, and opened my life to wonderful new experiences. We have been in a "stay at home" mode since February. Without Guinness I would be immobile, and totally isolated. With Guinness I can hook him up and we can go out and walk in the street, smell the fresh air, hear the newly born birds chirping and feel the warm sun on us. It is good to have some measure of life, and Guinness allows me to take it."

We understand firsthand about the life-changing transformation specially-trained guide and service dogs provide to their handlers and their families. With that, we support the creation of this monument and believe it will provide a lasting tribute to the importance of service, our country's history and to the animal-human bond for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact me should you like any further information.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Miller".

John Miller
President & CEO America's VetDogs



371 E. Jericho Turnpike • Smithtown, NY 11787
631-930-9090 • 866-838-3647 • Fax 631-930-9009 • VetDogs.org





Dear National Service Animals Monument,

We are pleased to offer you this letter of support from Canine Companions for Independence for the creation of the National Service Animals Monument, as well as the symbol of the Purple Poppy representing all service animals and their handlers in the US.

We feel these initiatives are important to recognize and support the vital work our service animals do for our citizens and our country. Canine Companions for Independence is a non-profit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs at no cost to the recipient. We are a leader in our field and have a program to help US war veterans across the country. We have seen firsthand the critical impact our service dogs have on our clients – creating opportunity and independence in their lives every day.

We look forward to partnering with you in the future with any special events and in any other ways we can help to foster the importance of service animals both nationally and internationally.

Sincerely,

Paige Mazzoni
Chief Executive Officer

cci.org
800 572-2275

Follow us



National Headquarters & Northwest Training Center
2965 Dutton Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95407-5711
707 577-1700



Central Indiana K9 Association

P.O. Box 203

Plainfield, IN 46168

www.CIK9.org

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Vacant
*Public Relations
Director*

June 18, 2021

To whom it may concern:

Speaking on behalf of the Central Indiana K9 Association, Inc., we offer our full and unwavering support to the National Service Animals Monument and artist Susan Bahary for the movement to build a monument in support of all our service animals to include working dogs. Using the Purple Poppy as a well-known symbol honoring the service of animals during wartime conflicts throughout history, we back the efforts of NSAM and Ms. Bahary as they work to build this national monument.

Our organization well understands the value that these service animals provide working alongside our military servicemembers and law enforcement personnel. Whether being used for tracking, bomb detection, search and rescue, these dogs are force multipliers ensuring a much greater level of mission success. While people now more than ever are realizing the value of these highly trained dogs and their vast potential, we can greatly use the support of this monument to raise further support and awareness.

Service dogs who work alongside persons with disabilities are critical in providing assistance for loss of sight, mobility, or hearing, as well as PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) and TBI (traumatic brain injury). Their sense of smell has even been used in identifying oncoming seizures or cancer that otherwise would remain undetected placing the individual at high risk. Whether on the field of combat or at the side of an individual with a disability, these service dogs bring a level of compassion and companionship during dire circumstances that literally could mean the difference of life or death.

We as a nation owe a debt of gratitude to all service animals both past and present. The monument that is proposed by NSAM and Susan Bahary is well-timed in that it will provide a positive symbol that almost every person can rally around: something that is much needed in our country now. We believe this monument will be a great boost to our first responders, law enforcement and the military in appreciation of their vital work for our country every day.

Susan Bahary who is internationally acclaimed for her inspiring sculptures honoring the human-animal bond, will create pieces that will cumulatively touch every person who sees and experiences this National Service Animals Monument. Her extensive knowledge of and experience with the animal form continues to earn her commissioned works for some of our country's most celebrated animal monuments located in prominent museums, universities,

military bases and abroad. Her most recent work ***The Pledge***, was unveiled at the Women's Memorial-Arlington National Cemetery in October 2020 and is a stunning example of the quality of her work.

The Purple Poppy movement is also a way to raise awareness, compassion and support for service animals and their handlers. This internationally-known symbol of service by animals in conjunction with recognition of National Service Animals Day on February 24th will acknowledge the human-animal bond that is so strong.

We hope we can count on your support. Thank you for your consideration.

In service,

Theresa M. Brandon, MBA
Chair and co-founder
Central Indiana K9 Association, Inc.
317-279-6317

William Finucane

1330 West Street
Guilford, CT 06437
914-557-6917
fin315@comcast.net

December 3, 2021

Theresa M. Brandon, MBA
President, Board of Directors
National Service Animals Monument

Dear Theresa,

Let this letter serve as an endorsement for the National Service Animal Monument in our nations capital. As a retired Law Enforcement Officer that spent 25 of my 35 year career in the Canine Unit of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Department, I can personally attest to the importance that this monument will represent in the Animal Services, especially in Law Enforcement. The contributions that all the Service Animals have made throughout our history hasn't been recognized nearly enough.

As a Past President and now Board Member of the United States Police Canine Association region #7, which represents New York and Connecticut and a member of the Connecticut Police Work Dog Association, North American Police Canine Association and International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators. I can say that we are great full that Law Enforcement canines would be included and recognized at this National Monument. It will do our Canine Partners proud.

I have witness Law Enforcement canine's long careers go without any recognition at all. They give most of their lives to the Service and even in their deaths most are not give their rightful recognition.

I have also had the pleasure, during my career to work with Fidelco and Seeing Eye, which both train dogs for the Blind. I have so much respect for what these dogs contribute to our society that they too need to be recognized.

Though out my career in the New York Metropolitan area I have come into contact with many Law Enforcement Mounted units. I can say when demonstrations and other incidents started to get tense and you heard that the mounted units were on their way you just got a sense of relief. Another Law Enforcement Animal that deserves it's rightful recognition.

Sincerely Yours

William Finucane

William Finucane



www.animalcenter.org

August 30, 2021

Theresa M. Brandon, MBA
President, Board of Directors
National Service Animals Monument

Dear Theresa,

I am writing at this time to give my total support in regards to a bill led by Senator Blumenthal to have a monument placed in honor of hero animals.

I have spent my entire adult life working to enhance the quality of life for pets globally. I am accredited for helping to facilitate saving more than 18 million orphan pets. Currently, and for the past twenty-two years, I have been the President and CEO of Helen Woodward Animal Center in Rancho Santa Fe, California.

Through my lifetime I have heard and read about so many hero pets and what they've done for mankind. I am a strong believer that these pets were placed on this magnificent planet for us to share life with them, so this monument should be erected on their behalf.

Yours for a more humane world,

Michael M. Arms
President & CEO
Helen Woodward Animal Center



March 11, 2022

To Whom it May Concern,

The Military Women's Memorial is pleased to offer this letter of support for the creation of the National Service Animals Monument in the nation's capital, and to designate February 24th, as celebrated internationally, for "National Service Animals Day."

We feel these initiatives are an important part of recognizing and supporting the vital work our service animals do both on and off the battlefield every day. As a 37-year veteran of the U.S. Army and a combat veteran, I have personally witnessed the enormous contribution military working dogs bring to the day-to-day operation of our military and their critical role on the battlefield. And, it's not difficult to see daily the positive impact service animals have on our wounded warriors. Its time these national heroes, and the thousands of other service animals that every day provide life-saving, invaluable support and assistance to individuals, get the long overdue recognition they so richly deserve. Their stories of service are an important part of our history and national narrative. A National Service Animals Monument and day of awareness are fitting tributes and valuable assets for educating every generation.

The Military Women's Memorial is America's only major national memorial and education center to honor and tell the stories of women, past and present, who serve in the defense of our nation. Our newest acquisition, *The Pledge* by internationally acclaimed artist Susan Bahary, plays an important role in telling that story. Strategically displayed in the Memorial gallery, it features both a female working dog handler in combat gear and her military working dog – one of the most dangerous jobs in the military. We are not only proud to feature this remarkable piece but grateful for the dialogue it generates and incentive it presents to learn more.

We look forward to the potential of partnering with the National Service Animals Monument to promote the story of military working dogs and other service animals to our servicemembers and veterans and the important role service animals play at large, both nationally and internationally.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact me should you care for further information."

Sincerely,

Phyllis Wilson, R.N.
CW5, U.S. Army (Ret.)
President
Military Women's Memorial Foundation
pwilson@womensmemorial.org



March 14, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

On April 19, 1995, many lives were changed forever when a terrorist bomb ripped open the side of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, killing 168 and injuring many more. First responders from across the country answered the call to aid in rescue and recovery efforts, including my disaster search dog, Murphy, and me.

Because of that life-altering deployment, I made a vow to myself and the nation to create the Search Dog Foundation as the first nonprofit to produce highly trained disaster search dogs for our country. I also set a personal goal to train and certify 168 canine disaster search teams—one for each of the lives lost on that fateful day. Accomplishing this honors those who died and the many rescuers who worked tirelessly to find survivors in the aftermath.

With team effort, passion, and persistence, this goal was realized in 2020. And much like the day that sparked the inspiration to form the Search Dog Foundation so many years ago, it is a moment I will remember. The number 168 remains engraved in my heart forever.

In 2021 we celebrated our 25th year of service. For the last quarter-century, the Search Dog Foundation has been dedicated to strengthening America's disaster response network by recruiting and training canine disaster search teams (two and four-legged heroes) to find survivors in the aftermath of disasters. Since 1996, SDF has provided the nation with 190 certified search teams that have deployed to 217 disasters and missing person searches - and touched the lives of canines, handlers and those in need across the nation.

Search dogs and service animals are essential to the lives of many Americans on a daily basis. In the work we do at SDF, the canines need to be prepared every day to assist and search when need dictates - as they did at Oklahoma City, on September 11th and in many other disasters when called upon to serve. With this in mind, I am writing in support of the creation of the National Service Animals Monument. It is well deserved and timely - and with the involvement of Susan Bahary it will be creatively and impressively designed and implemented in ways that will truly honor the service of the animals depicted while attracting a wide audience of admirers. For our 25th Anniversary we commissioned Susan to create a life-size sculpture for our campus of a handler with canine in action. Not only were we pleased with the opportunity to work with Susan - the sculpture has become a much admired and focal point on campus for our visitors.

To further honor and celebrate service animals, while also raising awareness and support for the invaluable work and service they provide, I strongly support designating February 24th as National Service Animals Day to coincide with the international celebration via the Purple Poppy.

I am grateful for your consideration and am available to answer questions or provide additional information.

With appreciation,

Wilma Melville

Wilma Melville, SDF Founder



**Australian
War Animal
Memorial
Organisation**



Lest we forget, four-legged diggers served too.

July 19, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing enthusiastically in support of the National Service Animals Monument to be established in Washington D.C. and its environs.

As the President of the Australian War Animals Memorial Organization (AWAMO) and a leading historian, author and subject expert on war animals worldwide, I feel this monument will be a great asset to your community and to your country.

The United States has a rich history involving the use of various types of service animals. Their service and sacrifice is well known by generals from Pershing to MacArthur to Petraeus, who all recognized that we would never have been able to either engage or be as successful in warfare without them.

The service and sacrifice of service animals and their human counterparts in the United States has a rich and compelling story while demonstrating the powerful human/animal bond. Other countries, such as Australia, France, New Zealand and Great Britain have recognized the service of their war animals with monuments and the public has been fascinated with many of their stories of their heroism. My charity in Australia - AWAMO has supported all of them and I am proud and honored to have recently been asked to be on the Board of Directors for this United States project.

The National Service Animals Monument will be a first of its kind in the world because in addition to honoring war animals and their handlers, it also honors those in law enforcement, search and rescue and assistance animals of all kinds who help your veterans and civilians. People today appreciate and indeed demand recognition of animals and their roles in modern society. This monument will be much more than a symbol, it will be a place of spiritual healing for many U.S. Veterans that have lost their animal companions in war or had to leave them behind after the conflicts ended. This monument would be a great addition to Washington D.C., already world famous for its monuments and memorials and be an ideal

location for the world's first monument to honor the service of man and beast in conflict, peace and the larger society in general.

As a veteran military and law enforcement K9 handler for over 30 years, I can attest to the good such a monument will do to the morale of all those who serve while educating, and inspiring people from around the world.

My organization, AWAMO, has been proud to commission renowned sculptor Susan Bahary for many of our major monuments worldwide and I can attest to the great quality of her work, dedication and professionalism. So impressed have we been with her leadership in this field, that my charity asked her to bring the Purple Poppy, the international symbol of service animals, to the United States. Still in its early stages, she has already brought it to the attention of millions in the media and elsewhere.

Sincerely

Nigel Barry Allsopp

Nigel Allsopp

President AWAMO

ANZAC of the year 2018

Australian Citizen of the year 2019.

March 11, 2022

President
National Service Animals Monument
2101 Pear Street #567
Pinole, CA 94564
Attn: Ms. Theresa M. Brandon, MBA

Dear Theresa,

The purpose of this letter is to offer my utmost support and testimonial for the National Service Animals Monument. During 30 years of active-duty service in the United States Navy, it was my distinct honor and privilege to serve with many brave animals who ensured success in our complex and often dangerous missions.

From 1996 through 1997, I was the Officer in Charge of Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Mobile Unit Three, Detachments 81 and 83 in Coronado, California. These teams employed Atlantic and Pacific bottlenose dolphins who located tethered and bottom mines, including those buried in the ocean floor, which posed lethal hazards to shipping and human life. I was humbled to witness the dolphins' unprecedented capabilities, as well as their remarkable stamina and loyalty. Their incredible service saved the lives of scores of Navy EOD technicians during high-risk diving operations. Further, I observed the service of beluga whales and sea lions with distinction, who located and recovered hundreds of training devices safely at a great cost savings to the Navy.

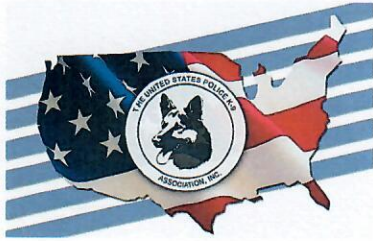
Between 2009 and 2010, I served as the Deputy Commander of Combined Joint Task Force Paladin in Afghanistan, dedicated to defeating Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and dismantling the terrorist networks that employed them. During this dynamic war, military working dogs from several coalition nations contributed to the fight with uncommon grit and valor. With unmatched skills ranging from security to explosives detection, these service animals demonstrated phenomenal poise and grace under pressure by locating hundreds of IEDs and preventing the deaths of thousands, including many innocent civilians. I am alive today due directly to the courage displayed by these tremendous animals.

In sum, these remarkably gifted and loyal service animals demonstrated countless selfless actions despite incredible odds, are worthy of our praise, and merit permanent recognition by construction and dedication of the National Service Animals Monument. Please contact me if there is any additional information I can provide about their timeless service with honor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Polanin", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Captain Joseph Polanin, U.S. Navy (retired)
15514 Avocetview Court, Lithia, FL 33547
(757) 373-6930 | thealakaigroup@gmail.com



United States Police Canine Association
34605 454th Ave
Ottertail, M.N.
56571

To Whom It May Concern,

The United States Police Canine Association has a long history of supporting police canine and projects such as the National Service Animal Monument by Susan Bahary. Our police canine association has been in existence for 50 years, and this is the first time we have seen such comprehensive acknowledgment for service dogs. The development of a service dog memorial has never meant as much as it does at this time.

The Purple Poppy movement is an excellent way to raise awareness, compassion, and support for handlers and their service dogs. The internationally known symbol of service by animals in conjunction with the recognition of National Service Animals Day on February 24th will acknowledge the human-animal bond that is so strong.

The United States Police Canine Association fully supports the National Service Animal Monument. It will be a lasting tribute to the importance of service, our country's history, and the animal-human bond for generations to come.

I appreciate your consideration, and please get in touch with me should you need any further information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Slavik'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D'.

Don Slavik
Executive Director
United States Police Canine Association
uspcaexecutivedirector@gmail.com



THE UNITED STATES WAR DOGS ASSOCIATION, INC.
HONORING OUR NATION'S WAR DOGS AND THEIR HANDLERS: PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE

US WAR DOG ASSOCIATION | NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To whom it may concern,

As the Chairman of the Board of the United States War Dogs Association it is my pleasure to give my full support for the National Service Animals Monument proposed for Washington D.C.

I am a founding member of the National Service Animals Monument project as I know that it will be a great asset to Washington D.C. as well as to the country as a whole. It will be an exciting way for the public to learn about our country's history with service animals and the great bond that has existed between them and their handlers as together they have helped win wars, protected our citizens and in the case of assistance animals, have enhanced and even saved lives.

We have seen that military working dogs and handlers are needed now more than ever since WWII when we had our first official war dog program. Since then thousands of MWD teams have saved countless lives over our wars and many have made the ultimate sacrifice. While people now more than ever are realizing the value of these highly trained dogs and their vast potential, we can greatly use the support of this monument to raise further support and awareness.

As a Marine Corps handler in Vietnam it has been my honor to head our organization for 20 years and provide daily assistance to make sure our MWD Teams receive complete support through care packages, letter-writing correspondence, veterinary assistance and help in the adoption of military and police K9's.

I have known Susan Bahary the sculptor for this monument for many years and the US War Dogs Association recently commissioned her to do a stunning life-size bronze called THE PLEDGE of a female MWD handler and her war dog in honor of all the women of the military located at the Military Women's Memorial at the gateway to Arlington Cemetery. Her talent and reputation is well-known worldwide and she has been on the forefront of such great projects for many years.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact me should you like any further information.

Sincerely,

Ron Aiello
1313 Mt. Holly Road
Burlington, New Jersey 08016
609-234-4539 uswardogs.org

October 4, 2021,

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the undersigned, are writing this letter in full support of the creation of the National Service Animals Monument and the mission of Purple Poppy movement in support of all our service animals.

We are a group of Honors students and a faculty member from Utah State University who are studying the significance of representations of dogs, and we were fortunate to have the well-known sculptor, Susan Bahary, join us and speak to the class about her work and this exciting project. It is clear that in its proposed setting this monument will bring well-deserved visibility and recognition to the animals who have made so many sacrifices for Americans at home and abroad.

Within the field of animal studies, it is often said that "animals are good to think with," and they are also good to remember with. As it is envisioned and proposed, this monument will allow those who work with or have worked with service animals, anyone who has been helped by them, and those who have been saved by them to remember the animals who have done so much for them.

In addition, we strongly support the Purple Poppy movement and the recognition of animal service through the establishment of the National Service Animals Day on February 24th.

Following its establishment, this monument will be a lasting and powerful tribute to human and animal service and to the importance of the human-animal bond for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Laura Gelfand
Professor of Art History



Olivia Burnett	Juliet Andreen	Kelsiah Kishes
Hin Lee	Rachel Wright	Lucy Grace Pen
Pammy [unclear]	Joe [unclear]	Janet Cize
Bekah Moss	[unclear]	Cheryl [unclear]
Yaden Sagers	Tim Reese	[unclear]
Morgan Leber	Sophia Hess	[unclear]
Amy [unclear]	Antonia [unclear]	Kendra Darksen
Thomas Nelson	Myra Cabrera	Marilyn [unclear]

Wednesday, July 7, 2021

andersonwsmoa@gmail.com

WESTERN STATES MOUNTED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

TO: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

FROM: ERIC ANDERSON, PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: NATIONAL SERVICE ANIMALS MONUMENT

The Western States Mounted Officers Association (W.S.M.O.A.) is dedicated to enhancing relationships throughout the communities we serve and to being a high-performing organization that best represents police personnel and their police mounts assigned to mounted patrol duties across the United States. As President of this organization, I often ask new members why they have chosen to work in partnership with a horse for their job function. In all responses, it's the love for the animal they all share; in this particular case with our organization – the love and bond you get with a horse. I am writing this letter in full support of the creation of the National Service Animals Monument and the mission of the Purple Poppy movement in support of all our service animals.

Any animal lover can tell you the impact their animal has not only in their own personal and family life but the impact that animal may have on their daily job duties and requirements. The horses that represent the members of our organization receive countless hours of training in order to help protect the communities we serve during civil unrest, through combating criminal activity, or whether enhancing the bond with the public we serve. Through various training and schools, our horses officially are given the title of "Police Officer" from our respective states based on the certification and training they receive. The horses are also given a badge to indicate their sworn position as a Police Mount, which is a distinctive honor.

Sadly comes the day and time when we must say goodbye to our beloved animals as they retire from serving our communities and pass on to the heavens of greener pastures. What often gets forgotten is the memory of that animal. The impact that animal left on that military or law enforcement person's job, personal life, and even family life as a whole. I believe a monument like this will not only be a great memory to the men and women in law enforcement and military as a whole but to the service animal themselves as honor and pay tribute to the effort and sacrifice they gave to our communities.

As artist Trisha McGagh once said, *"Animals are the bridge between us and the beauty of all that is natural. They show us what's missing in our lives, and how to love ourselves more completely and unconditionally. They connect us back to who we are, and to the purpose of why we're here."* I thank you for your consideration and support for the National Service Animals Monument, as this monument, will be a lasting tribute to the importance of service, our country's history, and to the animal-human bond for families to share for generations to come.

Respectfully,

