

FROM THE DESK OF
A Cure for Kyler

January 19, 2022

National Service Animals Monument
2101 Pear Street #567
Pinole, CA
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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)

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