

*Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2025*

**Message on National K–9 Veterans Day, 2025**

*March 13, 2025*

Dogs are not only man's best friend, offering companionship and loyalty, but also guardians, instinctively protecting their loved ones with unwavering devotion. On National K–9 Veterans Day, the First Lady and I join our Nation in honoring the dedicated service of those working dogs serving alongside our military and law enforcement to defend our citizens and our homeland.

Since the U.S. military began employing Military Working Dogs, over 30,000 dedicated working dogs have served. The K–9 Corps has played a vital role in strengthening America's safety, with over 1,600 active Military Working Dogs currently providing support to our brave men and women defending our freedom. These dogs are specially trained to detect explosives, drugs, and other contraband, often risking their lives alongside their handlers. During search-and-rescue operations, these dogs use their keen sense of smell and unparalleled agility to support military personnel. Serving on the front lines, in combat zones, and at our borders, these fearless four-legged fighters are an invaluable part of protecting America.

Canine courage has a storied legacy in our history. In 2019, I was honored to award a medal to Conan, the hero dog, Army Special Operations Forces, who took down ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the most vicious terrorist leader in the world at the time. After his retirement, Conan was adopted by his former handler and, after many years of pleasant walks and peaceful naps, he passed away in 2023.

Recently, Hurricane—a K–9 renowned as the most decorated dog in the history of the U.S. Secret Service—also passed away, leaving behind a legacy of love and loyalty. After a long tenure of service, punctuated by the takedown of a White House intruder, Hurricane earned a place in all our hearts and in the Guinness Book of World Records with numerous awards.

There was also Cairo, a member of the U.S. Navy's SEAL Team Six, who participated in the raid on Osama bin Laden, and Rex, who saved countless lives by detecting explosives in combat in Iraq. These dogs, along with so many others, exemplify extraordinary courage and dedication to supporting our military service personnel.

Today we salute the sacrifices and service of our dedicated working dogs for their incredible acts of canine courage. As we remember the fallen, we thank all of the brave veterans of the K–9 Corps who protect the American people and our way of life, living up to the name of man's best friend.

NOTE: The message referred to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist organization.

*Categories:* Letters and Messages : National K–9 Veterans Day, message.

*Names:* Trump, Melania.

*Subjects:* Counterterrorism and homeland security; Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist organization; Military working dogs; National K–9 Veterans Day; U.S. servicemembers, service and dedication.

*DCPD Number:* DCPD202500352.