



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 05-008

BY SENATOR(S) Takis, Bacon, Fitz-Gerald, Hagedorn, Lamborn, McElhany, Taylor, Teck, Tochtrop, Tupa, Wiens, Windels, Anderson, Dyer, Entz, Evans, Gordon, Groff, Hanna, Hillman, Isgar, Johnson, Jones, Keller, Kester, May R., Owen, Sandoval, Shaffer, Spence, Tapia, Veiga, and Williams;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Frangas, Balmer, Benefield, Berens, Borodkin, Boyd, Brophy, Buescher, Butcher, Cadman, Carroll M., Carroll T., Cerbo, Clapp, Cloer, Coleman, Crane, Curry, Decker, Gallegos, Garcia, Green, Hall, Harvey, Hefley, Hodge, Hoppe, Jahn, Judd, Kerr, King, Knoedler, Larson, Lindstrom, Liston, Lundberg, Madden, Marshall, Massey, May M., McCluskey, McFadyen, McGihon, McKinley, Merrifield, Paccione, Penry, Plant, Pommer, Ragsdale, Riesberg, Romanoff, Rose, Schultheis, Solano, Soper, Stafford, Stengel, Sullivan, Todd, Vigil, Weissmann, Welker, White, and Witwer.

CONCERNING HONORING THE MEMORY AND SERVICE OF MILITARY WORKING DOGS AND THEIR HANDLERS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, SUPPORTING EFFORTS OF THE VIETNAM DOG HANDLER ASSOCIATION IN CREATING A NATIONAL MEMORIAL FOR MILITARY WORKING DOGS AND THEIR HANDLERS.

WHEREAS, The United States of America does not have a national memorial that honors the services and sacrifices of the tens of thousands of dogs it has sent to war since World War I; and

WHEREAS, A national tribute is long overdue in recognizing America's loyal and heroic four-legged soldiers, marines, airmen, sailors, and coast guardsmen; and

WHEREAS, America's military working dog teams have a long and legendary history of courage, heroism, and sacrifice on thousands of named and unnamed foreign fields of battle in World War I, World War II, Korea,

Vietnam, Panama, Kuwait, Somalia, Haiti, Kosovo, and Bosnia; and

WHEREAS, America's military working dogs are still helping to fight the war on terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq and supporting our country and the Department of Homeland Security; and

WHEREAS, Most military working dogs were donated by American families; and

WHEREAS, Military working dogs have been specifically trained for jobs like scout, sentry, tracker, mine and booby trap, tunnel, water patrol, coast guard, messenger, search and rescue, explosive detection, and patrol and drug detection; and

WHEREAS, Military working dogs have been credited with saving the lives of countless thousands of Americans, foreign allied soldiers, and noncombatants, and their deployment has significantly reduced the enemy's ability to sabotage and destroy war equipment worth billions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, Because of the effectiveness of these dogs, the enemy has often offered bounties on them and their handlers; and

WHEREAS, Out of an estimated 4,000 dogs that served in Vietnam alone, only an estimated 190 were reassigned duty at other military installations outside Vietnam; 281 were officially listed as killed in action; an estimated 500 died in service; and the remainder were either transferred to the South Vietnamese Army or euthanized by order of the United States government because they were classified as equipment and, as such, deemed expendable; and

WHEREAS, The destruction and abandonment of those courageous animals was wrong and should never happen again and their service must not be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, The soldiers nationally and those in Colorado whose lives were saved because of the training, dedication, and courage of military working dog teams, wish to recognize the service of these four-legged American heroes and their place in history; and

WHEREAS, These four-legged heroes had names like Rex, Lucky, Brandy, Clipper, Big Boy, Corky, Fritz, Lobo, Prince, Major, Duke,

Keechie, Crypto, and King; and

WHEREAS, These remarkable animals have never before been honored for their bravery and service, and it is indeed appropriate that they be remembered at this time while they continue to protect American lives today; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

(1) That the General Assembly with great pride hereby recognizes and honors the service of the military working dogs and handlers residing in Colorado and the service of military working dogs and handlers throughout American history; and

(2) That the General Assembly declares its support for the creation of a national memorial honoring military working dogs and their handlers.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to the Vietnam Dog Handler Association and the National War Dog Memorial Committee.

Joan Fitz-Gerald
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Andrew Romanoff
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Karen Goldman
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

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