



**For Immediate Release**  
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**CONTACT: Brianna Ehrhart**  
K9s For Warriors  
[BEhrhart@K9sForWarriors.org](mailto:BEhrhart@K9sForWarriors.org)  
(904) 686-1956

## **K9s For Warriors Graduates 500<sup>th</sup> Warrior-Canine Team**

*The milestone was reached during December's all-female warrior class.*

**(Ponte Vedra, FL)** – K9s For Warriors celebrated its 500<sup>th</sup> graduate last night, seven years after graduating its first warrior-canine team. The nation's largest service dog provider for post-9/11 veterans suffering from PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury and Military Sexual Trauma crossed the milestone with a total of 507 graduates when December's class graduated to a full crowd of K9s For Warriors supporters, volunteers, donors and staff.

During the ceremony, members of the class presented the organization with a framed photo collage boasting the number 500, stating "We are the class of five hundred, and ... we really just wanted to say thank you to the staff and the volunteers and the trainers and the house moms because really without you guys, this wouldn't be possible."

Each class of warrior-canine teams trains together for three weeks on one of K9s For Warriors' two Florida-based campuses. There are twelve classes per year, three of which were female classes in 2018. Each veteran is paired to a highly trained service dog selected to meet her/his needs upon arriving to K9s For Warriors. The team then trains together every day during the program to create the bond between warrior and service dog that will help the veteran vastly reduce symptoms of PTSD, including night terrors, debilitating anxiety, and thoughts of suicide.

"We are so proud of what this class achieved, and equally proud to welcome them into the K9s For Warriors family," said Rory Diamond, K9s For Warriors CEO. "We hope this number of 500 represents hope to every other veteran out there seeking a solution to their invisible wounds. You are never alone. There is hope."

### Facts:

- Since K9s For Warriors' inception in 2011, it has graduated 507 warrior-canine teams and rescued nearly 1,000 dogs.
- Roughly 90% of the dogs used in the program are from shelters, rescued from abandonment and, often, euthanasia.
- K9s For Warriors serves post-9/11 veterans suffering from PTSD, TBI, and MST nationwide by providing a highly skilled service dog, training, equipment, meals and lodging at no cost to the veteran.

*K9s For Warriors is a 501(c)3 dedicated to our American Warriors who have sacrificed their tomorrows for our todays.*

114 Camp K9 Road • Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32081 • (904) 686-1956 • Fax (904) 686-1957  
Email: [info@k9sforwarriors.org](mailto:info@k9sforwarriors.org) • [www.k9sforwarriors.org](http://www.k9sforwarriors.org)

If you would like to schedule an interview with a K9s For Warriors representative or would like additional information, please contact Brianna Ehrhart at [BEhrhart@K9sForWarriors.org](mailto:BEhrhart@K9sForWarriors.org), or call (904) 686-1956.

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### **About K9s For Warriors**

K9s For Warriors is the nation's largest provider of service dogs to military veterans suffering from Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and/or military sexual trauma (MST) as a result of military service post-9/11. The service dog program is unique and offers an innovative approach to recovering from the invisible wounds of war. Two lives are transformed with each pairing. The veteran reduces his/her risk of suicide while the rescue dog receives a newfound purpose.

Find more information at [www.k9sforwarriors.org](http://www.k9sforwarriors.org) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

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