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CONTACT: Tahoma Guiry
K9s For Warriors
Tahoma@K9sForWarriors.org
(904) 686-1956

K9s For Warriors Graduate Randy Dexter Named Campus Director of New Training Location

(Ponte Vedra, Fla.) – Randy Dexter, a 2014 graduate of K9s For Warriors, is being named Campus Director of the innovative nonprofit's new, second training facility. As an alumnus of the nation's largest service dog provider for military veterans, Dexter will be the first graduate-turned-staff member to attain the role of Director.

There was a campus dedication ceremony on January 31st, 2018, and a Media Open House Day will follow, on February 13th, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Dexter is the subject of K9s For Warriors' most popular [PSA, "Dear Captain,"](#) in which he reads a personal letter written to his service dog, Captain. In the video, Dexter details how Captain saved him from suicide and enriched his family's life. The pair completed its three-week training class at K9s For Warriors' formerly sole location in Ponte Vedra in August 2014.

Dexter has achieved many milestones of success since graduating with Captain, poising him to be the ideal director of the additional campus. During undergraduate studies at University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), he was president of the Student Veterans of America (SVA) group Rebel Vets, representing the 1,800 student veterans of the university. As Rebel Vets president, he helped lead veteran education policy change on state and federal levels, including education advocacy for veterans' families. In the state of Nevada, all legislation he advocated for was passed, including a bill to grant in-state tuition for children of fallen service members, and improving the way college credit is awarded for military training and education. Furthermore, Dexter represented UNLV at the 2018 SVA National conference, which "is the largest annual gathering of student veterans... in higher education in the world." ([source](#))

Additionally, Dexter travels to Washington, D.C. in partnership with K9s For Warriors executive staff to advocate for the Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers (PAWS) Act to push VA funding for service dogs. He's also travelled there to represent other veterans support causes, such as Troops to Teachers, the STEP Act, and more.

K9s For Warriors' new training grounds is named the Gold Family Campus, and is located near Gainesville, Fla., about two hours west of its Ponte Vedra headquarters. Donated by the Gold Family, it will be used to train all-female classes. The property includes a 9-bedroom, 7-bathroom house that sits on 67 acres, and is powered by \$1 million worth of solar energy panels.

"This is a dream come true," said Dexter. "In August 2014, I traveled to Florida as a warrior at the end of his rope. Captain and K9s for Warriors changed that. Now as we get ready to travel to Florida, it's to help veterans and rescue dogs live happy, productive, and meaningful lives. To me, there is no better job."

K9s For Warriors CEO, Rory Diamond, represents the anticipation of the K9s staff in his welcoming of Dexter to lead future warrior classes.

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“This campus feels like it was made for K9s For Warriors, and we all feel that Randy has built himself up to lead such an effort,” said Diamond. “We’re thrilled that Randy will be the campus director, and anticipate the Gold Family Campus helping manifest our goal to save more lives in 2018.”

Facts:

1. Randy Dexter served as a combat medic in the Army for 11 years. He received two bronze stars for his service while deployed to Iraq.
2. Dexter graduated from UNLV in January 2018 with a B.A. in Communication and Media Studies. He was also accepted into UNLV’s Masters of Public Administration, Nonprofit Management program.
3. As the largest service dog provider in the nation for disabled veterans, K9s For Warriors has graduated 395 warrior-canine teams since its inception in 2011.
4. K9s For Warriors also hires program graduates to be Warrior Trainers - those who lead the instruction of each service dog team.

If you would like to schedule an interview with a K9s For Warriors representative or would like additional information, please contact Tahoma Guiry at Tahoma@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 | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

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