



The American Legion Albert E. Schwab Post 555 Department of California
14582 Beach Blvd., Midway City CA 92655 . 714-893-9525

February 10, 2020

Garden Grove City Council
11222 Acacia Pkwy
Garden Grove, CA 92840

Ladies and Gentlemen

My name is Jeff Gallagher and I am the Commander of Albert E. Schwab, The American Legion Post 555, located in Midway City. The purpose of this letter is to express support for the establishment of a dog park and war dog memorial along the former Pacific Electric right of way through the city of Garden Grove.

On January January 13, 2020, Mr. Craig Durfey spoke at our regular membership meeting concerning his effort to have a full service dog park and war dog memorial in the vicinity of a bike/walking trail that is currently under construction in Garden Grove. After his presentation, a vote was taken of the membership to fully support Mr. Durfey's efforts and the project.

Military K-9's, often called "war dogs", have a long history with our military services of all branches. They were in the trenches of World War I, the mine fields of World War II, and on the front lines in Korea. Over 4,000 military dogs were used in Vietnam on search-and-destroy missions, for sentry duty and for mine and explosive detection. It is estimated that each dog saved more than 150 lives.


Most did not return home.

These dogs deserve to be remembered for their courage before enemy fire, their versatility in the field and their sheer tenacity. Today, every branch of service uses military working dogs for a variety of tasks. They are more valuable than ever as bomb and IED detectors. Surely, the war on terror would not be as effective without them.

To my knowledge, there are only two war dog memorials in Southern California and none in Orange County.

For these reasons, the entire membership of Albert E. Schwab The American Legion Post 555, endorses and supports the efforts to establish a dog park and war memorial in the City of Garden Grove, California.

For God and Country,


Jeff "Hollywood" Gallagher
Post Commander