



Letter of Recommendation for K9 Tambo

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my honor and privilege to nominate K9 Tambo, a distinguished 10-year-old German Shepherd, for consideration of the Animals in War & Peace Medal of Bravery and the Distinguished Service Medal. His life and legacy are a powerful reflection of unwavering courage, operational excellence, and selfless service to our nation.

From the beginning of his career, K9 Tambo displayed an exceptional aptitude for detection work, chosen early for service as an Explosive Detection K9 within the Federal Police's Law Enforcement Intelligence Community. His capabilities quickly set him apart, and he would go on to become a critical member of one of the East Coast's most active K9 units, working in some of the country's most demanding environments.

During his career, K9 Tambo executed more than 10,000 vehicle searches and responded to over 500 operational deployments—an astonishing feat by any standard in the explosives detection field. His steadfastness, accuracy, and composure in high-pressure situations became his hallmark.

Tambo's career was not only defined by volume but by the high stakes of the assignments he undertook. He was trusted with securing major national events, including the 2017 Presidential Inauguration, a testament to the confidence placed in his training and reliability. He also helped safeguard large-scale venues like Camden Yards, M&T Bank Stadium, and the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, regularly supporting federal agencies, dignitaries, and local law enforcement throughout the Washington, D.C. metro area.

Tragically, K9 Tambo's career was curtailed by a significant injury to his right front leg, and shortly after retirement, he suffered further trauma, including bilateral ACL tears, which substantially impaired his mobility. Though no longer able to serve in the field, his mission of service continued in a different form.

Thanks to the intervention and care provided by Project K9 Hero, K9 Tambo received the critical surgeries and rehabilitation he needed. With renewed strength,

he transitioned from operational work to public advocacy, using his story and presence to inspire, educate, and drive legislative change.

K9 Tambo has since become a national ambassador for retired working dogs. He's made impactful appearances at events honoring fallen officers, supported awareness campaigns for the K9 Hero Act, and stood beside advocates on Capitol Hill to elevate the conversation around working K9 care. He has been recognized by the Baltimore Orioles and most recently celebrated by the Philadelphia Phillies on his 11th birthday, underscoring how far his influence has reached—both in and beyond the law enforcement community.

K9 Tambo's legacy is not only in the lives he protected during his operational years but also in the attention he has brought to the importance of aftercare for our nation's four-legged heroes. His story represents valor in duty, resilience in adversity, and purpose in retirement.

It is without hesitation that I recommend K9 Tambo for this well-deserved recognition. His life is a living example of bravery, dedication, and honor, and he embodies the very spirit of the Animals in War & Peace awards.

Respectfully,

Steven Antommarchi

Police K9 Trainer | Founder, Next Level K9 Texas

Law Enforcement Secretary, American Working Dog Association

Nextlevelk9texas@gmail.com

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven Antommarchi", with a stylized, flowing script.