



**INAUGURAL ANIMALS IN WAR & PEACE
MEDAL OF BRAVERY
CEREMONY**

NOVEMBER 14, 2019

**THE GOLD ROOM
RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC**

HONORARY ATTENDEES

(at time of printing)

The Honorable John Warner, Former United States Senator (VA)

The Honorable Don Beyer (VA-8th)

The Honorable Julia Brownley (CA-26th)

The Honorable Sanford Bishop (GA-2nd)

The Honorable Brendan Boyle (PA-2nd)

The Honorable Judy Chu (CA-27th)

The Honorable Charlie Crist (FL-13th)

The Honorable Ro Khanna (CA-17th)

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18th)

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40th)

The Honorable Albio Sires (NJ-8th)

The Honorable Dina Titus (NV-1st)

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Pre-ceremony Video - "Ride Me Back Home"

Willie Nelson - Singer and songwriter

Opening Remarks

Pamela Brown - CNN Senior White House Correspondent

Invocation

*Steve Janke - Chaplain of the Vietnam Dog Handlers Association
and the Vietnam Security Police Association*

March on the Colors

Young Marines - Quantico, VA

National Anthem

Retire the Colors

Welcoming Remarks by Robin Hutton

President, Angels Without Wings, Inc.

PDSA Dickin Medal Video

People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, Great Britain

Presentation of Posthumous Medals of Bravery

SSgt Reckless - Mike Mason, Served with SSgt Reckless in Korea

Cher Ami - Robert McKenna, VP, American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.

Chips - John Wren, Chips' Owner

GI Joe - Tommy DeRosa, Handler/Churchill Loft, Monmouth, NJ

COL Roger Keen, Director, US Army Museums

Stormy - Ron Aiello, Stormy's Handler in Vietnam

Lucca K458 - GnySgt Chris Willingham - Lucca's Handler/Owner

Remarks by Dr. Richard A. Vargas

Manager - DOD Military Working Dog Program

Procession of K9 Dog Teams - K-9 Honor Guard

Presentation of Medal of Bravery to K-9 Bucca

Fire Marshal Joe DiGiacomo - Handler

Presentation of Medal of Bravery to MPC Bass

SSgt Alex Schnell - Handler/Owner

Blessing of the Animals

Pastor Steve Janke

Closing Remarks

Reception Continues till 8:00pm

PDSA DICKIN MEDAL

Maria Dickin CBE, founder of British veterinary charity, PDSA (People's Dispensary for Sick Animals), introduced the PDSA Dickin Medal on December 2, 1943, at the height of World War II.

A tireless campaigner for animal welfare, Maria Dickin was determined to raise the status of animals in society and improve their care. The Medal was instituted to recognize outstanding acts of gallantry and devotion to duty displayed by animals serving with the Armed Forces or Civil Defence units in any theatre of war, throughout the world.

Regarded worldwide as the animals' Victoria Cross, the PDSA Dickin Medal is as inspirational and relevant today as it was 75 years ago. It is a fitting tribute to the gallant animals 'who also served' and whose remarkable contributions helped save countless lives.

This Medal stands as testament to the Diligent, Resolute, Fearless and Relentless qualities shown by animals in action. Since its inception, it has been awarded seventy-one times to thirty-two pigeons, thirty-four dogs, four horses, and a cat - including four of the honorees being awarded today.

PDSA continues Maria's legacy of honoring animals with its international Animal Awards Program which, in addition to the PDSA Dickin Medal, includes the PDSA Gold Medal, PDSA Order of Merit and PDSA Commendation. These awards recognize lifesaving devotion, outstanding service to society and celebrate the companionship and enrichment that animals provide.

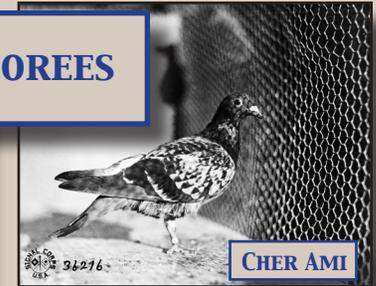
To find out more about the Medals and to meet the recipients, visit PDSA.org.uk/medals.



OUR HONOREES



SSGT RECKLESS



CHER AMI



CHIPS



GI JOE



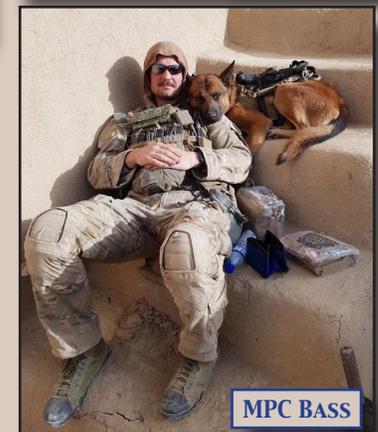
STORMY



LUCCA K458



BUCCA



MPC BASS

MEDAL OF BRAVERY #1 - KOREAN WAR STAFF SERGEANT RECKLESS



In LIFE Magazine's "Celebrating Our Heroes," listed alongside George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Martin Luther King, is a small Mongolian mare named Reckless, who became the greatest war hero horse in American history.

On October 26, 1952 Lt Eric Pedersen purchased Reckless for \$250 from a young Korean man who sold his beloved mare to buy an artificial leg for his sister who lost hers in a land mine accident.

During the pivotal Battle for Outpost Vegas in March 1953, on one day alone, Reckless made 51 round-trips from the Ammunition Supply Point to the firing sites, most of the time by herself. She carried 386 rounds of 75mm recoilless rifle ammunition (over 9,000 lbs) and walked over 35 miles through open rice paddies and up steep mountains with enemy fire exploding at the rate of 500 rounds per minute. Wounded twice, she never stopped. She even shielded Marines going up to the line, and helped carry the wounded to safety. There's no telling how many lives she helped save.

Reckless's actions during the Korean War got her officially promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant by the Commandant of the US Marine Corps, a rank never before or since bestowed upon an animal. After the war, she was brought to America and lived out her days at MCB Camp Pendleton until her death in 1968.

Five national monuments by artist Jocelyn Russell have been dedicated to SSgt Reckless since 2013. They are at the National Museum of the Marine Corps (Quantico, VA); MCB Camp Pendleton (Oceanside, CA); Kentucky Horse Park (Lexington, KY); a farm in Barrington Hills, IL; and the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame (Ft. Worth TX). In 2020, one will be placed at the World Equestrian Center (Ocala, FL). On July 27, 2016, Reckless became the fourth horse and 68th recipient of the PDSA Dickin Medal.

Military Decorations:

Two Purple Hearts * Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal * Presidential Unit Citation * Navy Unit Commendation * National Defense Service Medal * United Nations Service Medal—Korea * Korean Service Medal w/ 3 Stars * Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation * PDSA Dickin Medal * Ambassador for Peace Medal

She wasn't a horse - She was a Marine!

MEDAL OF BRAVERY #2 - WORLD WAR I CHER AMI

Cher Ami ("Dear Friend") is one of America's most famous fliers. She was actually a British bird, registered with the National Union of Racing Pigeons (NURP 18 EAD 615) and trained by American expert pigeoneers.

Cher Ami was attached to the U.S. 77th Infantry Division, which fought in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, part of the final Allied offensive of the war, in early October 1918. The operation, with 1.2 million American soldiers, was the largest offensive in U.S. military history, and it is second only to the Battle of Normandy (D-Day) as the deadliest foreign battle (26,277 Americans killed).



Before the Meuse-Argonne, Cher Ami had flown twelve missions from the front lines at Verdun to her loft at Rampont, averaging eighteen miles in twenty-four minutes.

But on October 4, 1918, Cher Ami would take to the air carrying her most important message. She was serving that day with the First Battalion of the 308th Infantry Regiment. The unit was also known as the "Lost Battalion." The battalion had broken through enemy lines only to be pinned down by German forces near Grandpre in the Ardennes. Inaccurate coordinates of the battalion's position resulted in the unit being shelled by friendly fire from its own artillery.

Two pigeons were released and quickly shot dead. Only Cher Ami remained. As soon as she was released, Cher Ami, too was immediately shot down. Yet, amazingly, she was able to pick herself up and fly twenty-five miles in as many minutes to Allied headquarters. On arrival she was found to have been shot in the breast. Her right leg, which carried the capsule bearing the critical message, had also been hit; it was hanging by a tendon.

Thanks to Cher Ami's success, the shelling stopped, and the men eventually fought their way to safety. Of 554 members of the "Lost Battalion," 194 walked away relatively unharmed.

Heralded a heroine on arrival in the U.S., Cher Ami was presented the Croix de Guerre with Palm, France's prestigious medal for heroism and bravery in combat.

Today, Cher Ami can be found on display at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C..

MEDAL OF BRAVERY #3 – WORLD WAR II CHIPS



Chips is arguably the highest decorated dog in American history. He received the Silver Star and a Purple Heart for his heroics (yet, sadly, these were later revoked).

Donated to the Army by the Wren family in August 1942, Chips, a Collie-Shepherd-husky mix, gave tireless service to the US Army and coalition partners from November 1942 to September 1945.

On November 8, 1942 Chips saw action as part of 'Operation Torch', the North African amphibious invasion that landed under fire near Casablanca. His role was to accompany patrols, some of which were under enemy fire, and carry out scouting duties behind enemy lines with his handler. He then went on to serve as a sentry dog for the Roosevelt-Churchill Casablanca Conference in January 14-24, 1943. He patrolled the area every night. During this period, Chips met with both President Franklin D Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

But it was on July 10, 1943 where Chips made his mark and became the first American dog hero of the War. It was during the invasion of Sicily as part of "Operation Husky," one of the largest combined operations of the war. As he was led ashore under cover of darkness, the platoon was attacked on the beach by an enemy machine-gun nest in a nearby hut. As the platoon dove for cover, Chips broke free from his handler and charged the hut. Shots rang out. Inside the hut, Chips had grabbed the machine gun by the barrel and pulled it off its mount. He then grabbed the gunner by the throat and dragged him out. Three other Italians surrendered for fear of their lives. Chips' actions undoubtedly saved the lives of the men in his platoon. Chips sustained a scalp wound and powder burns during the incident, and required treatment for his injuries. Later that night, Chips' alertness and keen sense of smell also led to the capture of ten Italian soldiers trying to infiltrate the camp. For all this, he was awarded the Silver Star.

After the war, Chips returned to New York to resume life with the Wren family.

On January 15, 2018, on the 75th anniversary of when he guarded Roosevelt and Churchill, Chips became the 70th recipient and 20th dog of the World War II era to receive the PDSA Dickin Medal.



MEDAL OF BRAVERY #4 – WORLD WAR II GI JOE



Joe was a blue checker cock hailing from the exotic land of the celebrated Casbah. Hatched in Algiers on March 24, 1943, he was merely five weeks old when American forces took him to the Tunisian front, yet he was too young to be used on many missions at the time.

After the Tunisia campaign, Joe was moved first to Bizerte, Tunisia, then joined his unit on the Italian Front on October 6, 1943. A dozen days later, GI Joe made a name for himself.

On October 18, 1943, the British 56th (London) Infantry Division had made a request for air support to aid in the breaking of the German defense line at the heavily fortified village of Colvi Vecchia, Italy. But when the Germans suddenly retreated before the town was scheduled to be bombed, events took a dangerous turn.

The British 169th Infantry Brigade, of the 56th Infantry Division, had captured the village of Colvi Vecchia at 10:45 hours just a few minutes before a unit of the Allied XII Air Support Command was due to bomb the town. The now ill-time bombing mission was scheduled for 11:10 that morning. Radio attempts had failed to get the word out to cancel the attack. With time running out and the situation increasingly desperate, GI Joe was dispatched with the vital message to abort the bombing.

Joe flew twenty miles—from the British 10th Corps Headquarters to U.S. Air Support Command base—in just twenty minutes. The message arrived just as the bombers were on the tarmac, about to take off on the mission. Joe saved the lives of at least one hundred Allied soldiers that day. "Had the message arrived five minutes later," the recommendation for GI Joe's Dickin Medal reads, "it might have been a completely different story."

After the war, GI Joe returned home a bona fide hero. He was housed at the Churchill Loft, also known as the U.S. Army's "Hall of Fame" at Fort Monmouth, along with twenty-four other pigeon heroes.

In August 1946, GI Joe was named the fortieth recipient of the Dickin Medal. He was the first - and only - American recipient of this prestigious medal during World War II - a distinction he held for fifty-five years.

When the Churchill Loft closed in March 1957, GI Joe and some of his friends found a new home at the Detroit Zoological Gardens, where he lived out his days until his passing on June 3, 1961 at age eighteen.

GI Joe was stuffed and mounted. He will soon be on display at the brand new U.S. Army Museum in Ft. Belvoir, VA.

MEDAL OF BRAVERY #5 - VIETNAM

STORMY



Ron Aiello served in Vietnam with Stormy, a female German Shepherd, from 1966 to 1967 as one of the first thirty Marine Scout Dog Teams to be deployed to Vietnam. Trained to find explosives, weapons, humans, and booby traps, Stormy led daytime and nighttime patrols to protect troops from ambushes—sometimes on nights so dark, Ron would only know if Stormy was alerting by the leash going slack.

In May 1966, Ron and Stormy were on their very first patrol, leading an inspection of two villages. Stormy walked ahead with the other Marines following at a distance. As they reached a clearing, Stormy

suddenly stopped. Ron bent down on his knee and asked, “What do you see, girl?” Just then, a sniper bullet buzzed over his head.

“A Marine walking into that clearing without her would have been killed,” Ron says. “She picked up a sound of a twig breaking or a safety being released and alerted to it—she saved my life.”

Though they went on many missions together, one still stands out.

Ron and Stormy, along with another dog team and their bodyguards, were assigned to scout an area hoping to flush the enemy into a trap. About an hour into the mission, Stormy alerted. Just then a machete-wielding female enemy soldier leaped up from her hiding position, screamed and charged Ron and Stormy. Ron shot her in the arm, but she wasn’t deterred. Stormy then charged her, lunged and hit her hard on the side of her body - knocking her down and sending her machete flying. The bodyguard knocked the woman out with the butt of his M14. She was taken prisoner.

Once they settled down, the mission continued. After several more alerts from Stormy, their search led them to find a tunnel. When the entrances and exits were discovered, the tunnel was destroyed. The mission was over.

When they reached camp, they learned that the dogs’ alerts throughout the mission caused a group of enemy soldiers to retreat right into the hands of the Marines. Not a shot was fired during the capture, and Ron and Stormy, along with the other dog team, were officially credited as the primary reason for the captured enemy soldiers.

Stormy was a beloved member of the team. As Ron notes, “She was really a therapy dog for all of us. I honestly believe if I’d been there without Stormy I’d be a different person today. We had a great friendship.”

Stormy’s story is excerpted from the book, “A Soldier’s Best Friend,” by John C. Burnam.

MEDAL OF BRAVERY #6 - AFGHANISTAN/IRAQ

LUCCA K458



Lucca was a German Shepherd/Belgian Malinois mix born in the Netherlands. The Israel Defense Forces brought her to Israel where she trained for six months with an American team. She was then inducted at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX and there she was paired with her handler, GnySgt Chris Willingham.

Lucca served in the Marine Corps for six years as a Specialized Search Dog. She belonged to an elite group of canines capable of working off-leash at long distances from their handlers in dangerous situations. She was trained to search open areas, road ways, building and vehicles for explosives.

Lucca deployed twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan where she led over 400 patrols. She was credited with finding ammunition, explosives and insurgents at least 40 times, which resulted in zero casualties. On March 23rd, 2012, Lucca sniffed out a 30-pound IED and was continuing her search when she lost one of her legs when another IED detonated underneath her. Cpl. Juan Rodriguez, her handler at the time, thought she had been killed, but was able to rescue her. He administered first aid, and Lucca was then airlifted to Germany for medical treatment and rehabilitation. After recovering at Camp Pendleton, CA, Lucca officially retired in 2012 and was adopted by her original handler, GnySgt Chris Willingham.

In her six years of retirement, Lucca served as an Ambassador to the Military Working Dog community. Along with her GnySgt Willingham, they visited wounded veterans at Walter Reed, conducted community outreach at various schools and volunteered for Non-Profits who directly benefit wounded veterans and families of the fallen.

On April 5, 2016, Lucca was awarded the PDSA Dickin Medal. She was the 67th recipient, and the first US Marine Corps dog awarded this honor. Lucca also received an unofficial Purple Heart plaque and ribbons from a two-time Marine recipient of the award.

Lucca died on January 20, 2018.



MEDAL OF BRAVERY #7 – FDNY NEW YORK CITY BUCCA



In March of 2017, Fire Marshal Joe DiGiacomo was matched up with an approximately 5-year-old rescue dog, a Black Labrador retriever mix, from the Saratoga Animal Shelter. The pup was soon given the name Bucca, after Fire Marshal Ronald Bucca who made the Supreme Sacrifice on September 11th, 2001. Ronnie was a distinguished U.S. Army veteran in the Special Forces “Green Beret” and a Jump Master. He was also a decorated fireman within the FDNY and served with the Special Operation Command in Rescue 1.

Bucca had a troubled beginning with training. This included having to deal with an abusive past, minor health issues, and trust issues. However, after 10 weeks of training, 6 days a week, 12- 14-hour days on average, that included 276 searches, burned-out structures, familiarization with maritime vessels and helicopters, and working in extreme cold and heat, Bucca overcame those tremendous odds and graduated from his training. He now serves with the largest and busiest fire department in the United States, and some may argue the world. The FDNY Bureau of Fire Investigations responds to and investigates over 10,000 fires per year within the City of New York.

From the beginning, K-9 Bucca was thrown into the mix responding to fire investigations throughout the 5 boroughs of NYC. Arson is a unique criminal offense, since it is very rarely a crime performed by itself. Most arsons are committed to cover up other crimes, such as domestic abuse; insurance fraud; assaults; religious and bias hate crimes; and homicides. K-9 Bucca has responded to and worked with the Bureau of Fire investigations on all these crimes in the over 500 responses since May 2017. Notably in November of 2017, K-9 Bucca’s positive indications at a fire scene led to the confession and arrest of a suspect in a double fatal fire in Brooklyn N.Y.

K-9 Bucca has worked over 100 fires in the City which resulted in an arrest. This includes 29 Homicides and 5 Hate Crimes.

Bucca has led by example. In May of this year, Bucca became the number one dog in the country for Accelerant Detection at the United States Police Canine Association’s 2019 National Detector Dog Trials in Albany, New York. Over 100 teams ran through a battery of tests, and the dogs and their handlers were judged on a number of objectives, including accuracy, speed, and how the officer handled the dog. Bucca and Joe came through with flying colors, and were awarded “Top Dog.”

MEDAL OF BRAVERY #8 – AFGHANISTAN/IRAQ/ MPC BASS SOMALIA

Multi-Purpose Canine (MPC) Bass is a Belgian Malinois who served at Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command (MARSOC) for the past 6 and a half years. It takes an exceptional animal to become a Multi-Purpose Canine for a Special Operations Command. All MPCs must be able to detect explosive materials, perform team protection through controlled aggression, and track the movement of a person or group with their nose. Bass is no exception. Bass was born in the Netherlands and purchased from a vendor in Indiana.



Bass was selected by MARSOC and assigned to a Marine who deployed to Afghanistan in 2014. Upon Bass’ arrival back to the United States, he was reassigned and paired up with SSgt Schnell in December 2014.

Bass and SSgt Schnell began their training together to prepare for their first deployment. In January 2016 Bass and SSgt Schnell deployed to Iraq with 2D Marine Raider Battalion. During his deployment Bass conducted over 350 explosive detection searches for force protection of his Marine Special Operations Team.

After returning to the states in July 2016, Bass and SSgt Schnell began to prepare for their next deployment together. They were reassigned to 3D Marine Raider Battalion and deployed to Somalia in October 2017. During their time in East Africa they conducted 12 named operations for high value individuals. The Special Operations team relied heavily on Bass during each mission for his explosive detection and personnel apprehension capabilities.

Bass and SSgt Schnell returned home after another successful deployment in April 2018. After a short break and some advanced training, Bass and SSgt Schnell were attached to 2D Marine Raider Battalion, again, and deployed to Afghanistan in February of 2019.

During their deployment, the Marine Special Operations Team conducted 34 helicopter assault raids for high value individuals. Bass was used to conduct explosive sweeps in areas with a high threat for Improvised Explosive Devices, provide force protection at the camp where the Marines lived, and even lead the assault force during dangerous building clears.

Bass led Marines during four deployments in three countries. Through all of Bass’ time overseas he never had a Marine fatality during his watch. Bass is now retired from active duty and lives with SSgt Schnell.

WHO WE ARE



PAMELA BROWN

Pamela Brown serves as CNN's Senior White House Correspondent covering President Donald Trump and his administration for all of the network's programs and platforms. Brown's reporting on the Trump administration has covered key moments such as the controversial travel ban and child separation policies, missile strikes in Syria and the firing of FBI Director James Comey. She was also a lead reporter on the Mueller investigation, looking at Russia's

interference in the US election and whether the president's campaign played any role. She also serves as a key fill-in anchor for CNN Newsroom.



ROBIN HUTTON

Robin has spent all of her adult life working in major event productions and the motion picture business as a writer and producer. She is the author of the NY Times bestseller, *Sgt Reckless: America's War Horse*, and *War Animals: The Unsung Heroes of World War II*.

She's President of Angels Without Wings, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit California corporation, whose DBA The Sgt. Reckless Memorial Fund

has dedicated five national monuments by artist Jocelyn Russell to this great Korean War horse hero at Quantico, VA; Camp Pendleton, CA, Lexington, KY; Barrington Hills, IL; and Ft. Worth, TX.



MARI LOU LIVINGOOD

Mari Lou Livingood is the President of the Livingood Group, LLC in Washington, DC. The Livingood Group specializes in securing national partners with attention to conservation, government relations and animal rights and recognition. For over 25 years, Mari Lou has worked with non-profit organizations to advance their legislative and philanthropic goals in the

Washington, DC region. This new project for Livingood Group comes with a long history and love of animals and an inspiration to recognize our American animals' service to our nation's freedom and peace.

ANGELS WITHOUT WINGS, INC., AND THE LIVINGOOD GROUP WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS AND DONORS:

National Marine Corps League
Tails of Hope Foundation, Inc.
Ross Communications

Timothy T. Day Foundation, Inc.
American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.

James E. "Ted" Bassett, III
Alex G. Campbell, Jr.
Russell B. Scott, Jr.
Gary & Mary West
Robin Lightner

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We also wish to thank Mardu and Ron Lydick at Marathon Services, Inc. for the printing services of our program and flyers.

And, a shout out to The Residence Inn Alexandria Old Town South at Carlyle for their wonderful hospitality!

Robin Hutton, President
Angels Without Wings, Inc.
WarAnimals@yahoo.com
(805) 603-2174

Mari Lou Livingood
The Livingood Group, LLC
MarilouLivingood@gmail.com
(703) 297-5961

Honoring these War Animals permanently with the
**ANIMALS IN WAR & PEACE MEDAL OF BRAVERY &
THE INTERNATIONAL WAR ANIMALS MUSEUM**

MISSION: To honor & recognize animals for bravery in both war & peace with a permanent museum & programs where their stories, and their valiant human handlers, will be appreciated and recognized for generations to come. We want the Medal of Bravery to become the highest honor for an animal to receive during war and peacetime, with hopes of it becoming a Congressionally mandated award.



First in the world: Learn history through the eyes of the animals! Filled with galleries, displays, interactive exhibits, events, statues and artifacts relating to war service animals, the museum will become a destination to experience and appreciate the role animals have played in military history throughout the world.

The Museum will also feature:

Service Animals Exhibit: An exhibit dedicated to service animals: how they provide wonderful healing and support to people with PTSD, etc.

Sculpture Garden: A sculpture garden will be offered where people can relax in the presence of the animal heroes.

Children's Art Gallery: An annual national contest will be held and the award winners' art will be displayed and published in a book/calendar.

Community and Interactive Events: Military working and police dogs can provide demonstrations; therapy dogs and horses show their work. Gift Shop, Café and Rental Space: A gift shop, café, and rental space with a catering kitchen will be offered at the museum.

Affiliations: The goal is to become accredited through the American Alliance of Museums and a Smithsonian Affiliate.

Location and Build Out: To be located in the Washington, DC metropolitan region with a building to be determined by the collection of displays, artifacts and media.

For more on the Medal and Museum, visit our website
WarAnimals.com

International War Animals Museum / PO Box 1125 / Moorpark, CA 93020
(805) 603-2174 / WarAnimals@yahoo.com