



Harold "John" Witt  
Sentry Dog Handler (MWD)  
and More



# THE LEGACY OF HAROLD "JOHN" WITT

Written by son, John Jefferey Witt

This is a brief collection of my father's life as a United States Air Force Sentry Dog handler (MWD).

Harold "John" Witt retired as a TSgt. in 1969 from Lackland Air Force Base after serving 20 years. His life started in orphanages as his mother was unable to care for him. He went from foster parent to foster parent, in and out of orphanages, and having off and on contact with his two half brothers, Donald and Leonard. Harold "John" Witt was adopted by his uncle Harold Witt who was married to Lei Witt. On August 1, 1958 he married Jeanette M. Badger, my mother.

Harold or "John", as he likes to be called, joined the services and found himself training sentry dogs in French Morocco, Germany, Japan, Korea, and eventually in San Antonio's Lackland Air Force base. By the year 1969 Harold "John" Witt had come to the end of his 20 years service in the United States Air Force. He was faced with re-enlistment and the threat of another Vietnam tour was enough to dissuade him. "John" was drawn to a United States Treasury Department narcotic dog program starting up under the Nixon administration. His years of experience made him a quick study of training his two dogs Kishi and Rico to detect Marijuana and Opiates (Heroin, Cocaine) .

Harold "John" Witt was posted to the San Francisco Bay area. Checking the incoming Pacific mail quickly raised a spotlight on him and his dogs. The new program was quickly placed in front of Richard M. Nixon and two separate demonstrations produced outstanding results. The US Customs dogs and their handlers were also quickly put on "hit lists" and their security became serious. Later "Zorro" was sent in to replace "Rico" The team also checked airplanes, cargo ships, warehouses' and naval ships. Finally after four years, "John" gave up the handling of dogs and became a US Customs patrol officer on the Rio Grande river area of Laredo, Texas. In 1985, he retired.

Although I'd like to include more, I don't have many facts except that I have witnessed that he has always tried to serve his country and he enjoyed a nearly 60 years marriage to Jan, my mother.

Harold "John " Witt currently resides in Laredo with his wife Jan and their family. He is the father of one son John and his son's beautiful wife Cindy, grandfather of five grandchildren, Heather, Ian, Kimberly, Brittany, John Ian and the great grandfather of nine great grandchildren. Sydney, Alexis, Santiago, Carlos, Nyah, Joshua, Austin, Alivia and Aurum.

