

S.A. is home to monument for military working dogs

On Memorial Day, we honor and mourn soldiers who died while serving in the U.S. military. In San Antonio, there is another "soldier" we can remember: the military working dog.

Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland trains military working dogs for all branches of the Armed Forces. So, it's only fitting that the Military Working Dog Team National Monument is located there. The monument was the brainchild of John C.



Cathy M. Rosenthal

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Burnam, an author of several books on military working dogs and a Vietnam veteran infantry soldier and handler of a military working dog named Clipper. Thanks to Burnam, he

raised money for its creation, and legislation for the monument was signed into law in

2008. The memorial was unveiled at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland on Oct. 28, 2013.

If you have never seen it, the monument features a granite pedestal with four larger than life, bronze sculptures of the breeds of military working dogs used since World War II – the Doberman Pinscher, German shepherd, Labrador retriever and Belgian Malinois. It also features a 9-foot working soldier with a leash in one hand and a

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Edward A. Ornelas/Staff file photo
Statues of four military dog breeds are featured at the U.S. Military Working Dog Teams National Monument.

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rifle in the other.

Behind the pedestal is a granite wall. One side gives the history of the military working dog and the other side shows images of those dogs with their handlers from five wars since World War II. Off to one side, is surrounded by a green hedge, is

Her husband, John Henry Worsham, had served with his military working dog, King 150A. Her husband has since died, but she quickly recalled his first night in Da Nang and relationship with King.

"They were at a bomb dump when a missile landed," she said. "He spent the rest of the night putting out fires. John said he could always count on King to let him know danger was

afoot. When King perked up his ears, John knew there was something there."

When asked if King had ever saved John's life, she said, "Yes, many times. But John wouldn't talk about it. John always said King was his best friend and that he doesn't know if he would have survived the war without him."

These dogs not only protected soldiers but were their friends

as well. I'm glad there is a monument that honors them both. To see the monument, visit the Visitor's Center at Luke East Gate at 2602 Luke Blvd., Lackland Air Force Base, for your visitor's pass. It's worth the trip to honor these canine soldiers.

Send your pet questions, tips and stories to cathy@petpundit.com. You can follow her on Twitter at [@cathyrosenthal](https://twitter.com/cathyrosenthal).