

**25 MARINE WAR DOGS GAVE THEIR LIVES
LIBERATING GUAM IN 1944.
THEY SERVED AS SENTRIES, MESSENGERS,
SCOUTS. THEY EXPLORED CAVES,
DETECTED MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS.**

S E M P E R F I D E L I S

KURT	YONNIE	KOKO	BUNKIE
SKIPPER	PONCHO	TUBBY	HOBO
NIG	PRINCE	FRITZ	EMMY
MISSY	CAPPY	DUKE	MAX
BLITZ	ARNO	SILVER	BROCKIE
BURSCH	PEPPER	LUDWIG	RICKEY

TAM (BURIED AT SEA OFF ASAN POINT)

**Dedication of the United States Marine War Dog Memorial
A L W A Y S F A I T H F U L**



**The Marine Corps Research Center
Quantico, Virginia**



October 31, 2001

PROGRAM

OPENING CEREMONY

Major Richard Jaques, Master of Ceremonies

The Marine Corps Band

Semper Fidelis

The National Anthem

INVOCATION

The Marine Corps Chaplain

WELCOME

Brigadier General L. H. Hendrickson, USMC

President, The Marine Corps University

Major General Donald R. Gardner, USMC (Ret.)

Executive Director, The Marine Corps University Foundation

REMARKS

Dr. C. David McLaughlin, Benefactor and Veterinarian

Dr. William W. Putney, Honoree

Veterinarian, Captain USMCR, C. O. 3rd War Dog Platoon

Dr. Erwin Small, Honoree

Veterinarian, Sergeant USMCR, 7th War Dog Platoon

Ms. Susan Bahary, Sculptress

Creator of "Always Faithful"

UNVEILING

The Marine War Dog Memorial "Always Faithful"

THE MARINE CORPS BAND

Taps

The Marine Hymn

MEMORIAL VIEWING

Luncheon Reception

ALWAYS FAITHFUL – The Story

Today we commemorate the unsung heroes of our Nation's military conflicts: the valiant war dogs. During WW II, hundreds of dogs served overseas with the United States Marine Corps and the Army ground troops. For the Marines, most of these dogs were Doberman Pinschers. Their record in action was perfect. Dogs led more than 550 patrols on the island of Guam; not one patrol was ambushed. But because of their incredible ability to detect the enemy, the dogs, always out in front, paid a terrible price. In his book, *Always Faithful*, Dr. Putney puts it succinctly, "They died; we lived."

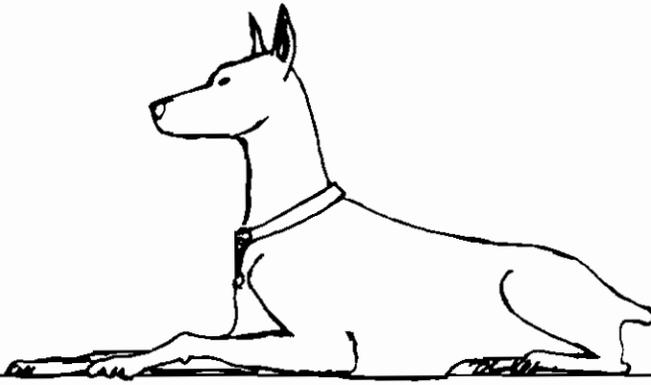
As we also honor the handlers and veterinarians who cared for these dogs, two special men have been chosen to represent the Marines and the veterinary profession. Both Dr. Small and Dr. Putney are Marines; both were dog handlers in World War II. Erv Small and his dog saw combat on Iwo Jima; Bill Putney and his dog were involved in the liberation of Guam; and both are veterinarians.

Dr. Erwin Small, currently Associate Dean for Alumni and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois, enlisted in the Marines during WW II and was assigned to the 7th War Dog Platoon for special training. Ultimately he and his dog landed on Iwo Jima. Later as a Marine reservist he returned to active duty during the Korean War. Discharged from the Marines with the rank of Sergeant, Erv Small returned to the University of Illinois where he remains a beloved fixture to this day. He has served in 10 different positions on the faculty of the U of I Veterinary College, has board specialty certification in both internal medicine and dermatology, and maintains membership in 19 veterinary organizations. He also devotes time to 14 civic and military organizations including the VFW, American Legion, and the 4th Marine Division, in all of which he has been awarded lifetime membership.

Dr. William Putney graduated in January 1943 from Auburn University with a degree in Veterinary Medicine, was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Marines and assigned to the War Dog Training School at Camp LeJeune, NC. In April of 1944 he joined the 3rd Marine Division as Commanding Officer of the 3rd War Dog Platoon and 1st War Dog Field Hospital, then participated in the invasion of Guam on July 21, 1944. In his book, *Always Faithful*, Dr. Putney tells the story of the dogs that fought in Guam and across the islands of the Pacific. It is a tale of immense courage, but sadly, also of incredible sacrifice. 25 war dogs were killed in action during the liberation of Guam. Due to Dr. Putney's unrelenting determination, their remains are buried in the War Dog Cemetery restored on the U.S. Naval Base at Orote Point, Guam, and their names are inscribed on this monument. After the war, he fought for the dogs' right to go home with their handlers, be "debriefed" and return to civilian life. Although he won that battle, the victory was short-lived because unhappily the dogs of Korea and Vietnam were not so fortunate. But once again Bill Putney led the charge to ensure the passage last fall of legislation that allows the military dogs to come home once their service days are done. In a lifetime of achievements, it must rank as one of his most significant and certainly the most humane.

Susan Bahary, one of the foremost fine art acrylic artists in the world, is equally acclaimed for her work in the classic bronze medium. Her sculptures have appeared in national and international publications, including *The New York Times*, and on network television, including CNN and the Discovery Channel. Ms. Bahary's work is shown in museums and in top galleries from Beverly Hills to New York, and she enjoys an international patronage, including the royal families of Morocco and of Qatar.

This memorial, a replica of the original in the War Dog Cemetery on Guam, dedicated here today has been given by Dr. & Mrs. C. David McLaughlin. Dr. McLaughlin, a fourth-generation veterinarian, is retired from small animal private practice and currently serves as President of the Doberman Pinscher Foundation of America, a not-for-profit organization which funds research and education to improve the health and welfare of the Doberman Pinscher. The McLaughlins are dedicated to the breed and currently share their lives with 5 Dobermans and 3 rescue cats. They believe it is important to give something back to what is most significant in one's life. Mrs. McLaughlin said, "For us, that would be our country and all it stands for, all animals but especially dogs, and the veterinary profession. It is a special privilege to be able to honor all three with one gift. We hope this memorial will be a lasting reminder of the sacrifices made by those who served so valiantly in defense of our Nation and our priceless Freedom."



**“ ‘ALWAYS FAITHFUL’ WAS INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT
OF THESE HEROIC DOGS WHO ARE THE EMBODIMENT
OF LOVE AND DEVOTION.”**

**SCULPTRESS:
SUSAN BAHARY**

**THIS REPLICA OF THE MEMORIAL IN THE WAR DOG CEMETERY
ON GUAM WAS GIVEN TO THE MARINE CORPS UNIVERSITY
BY DR. & MRS. C. DAVID McLAUGHLIN
TO REMEMBER AND TO HONOR THE UNSUNG HEROES
OF THIS NATION’S MILITARY CONFLICTS:
THE VALIANT DOGS, THEIR MARINE CORPS HANDLERS
AND VETERINARIANS WHO CARED FOR THEM
AS PERSONIFIED BY EXEMPLARS:**

**ERWIN SMALL, DVM, 7TH WAR DOG PLATOON,
SERGEANT USMCR
WILLIAM W. PUTNEY, DVM, C.O. 3RD WAR DOG PLATOON,
CAPTAIN USMCR**

**WITH ADMIRATION AND APPRECIATION
FOR THEIR COURAGEOUS SERVICE
IN DEFENSE OF OUR COUNTRY
AND ITS PRICELESS FREEDOM.**

DEDICATED THIS 31ST DAY OF OCTOBER 2001

