

January 17, 2000

Dear VDHA Member,

A year ago, we were anxiously awaiting the release of "War Dogs... America's Forgotten Heroes." We knew that once the public learned about the role dogs play in our military history they would be touched. And, they were. Contributions to the War Dog Memorial Fund began immediately after the first airing of "War Dogs" and continue on today.

The public, like you and I, wanted one thing... a memorial to recognize and honor these canine heroes. It is with this exciting news that I write you today. The first War Dog Memorial has been given to March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California, and I am thrilled. This site was selected because of its excellent accessibility, high visibility and commitment to honor military history. The Museum attracts nearly 100,000 visitors annually. Additionally, this May they will hold their second annual Air Show where it is estimated 500,000 people will attend. The Museum is as excited about the dedication as we are and plans to develop a K9 exhibit to complement the memorial. The second memorial likely will be placed at Ft. Benning later this year.

The Riverside memorial dedication is scheduled for February 21, 2000 at 11:00 am. We are planning a beautiful and touching ceremony and expect attendance upwards of 10,000 people. However, in order to make it genuine, we want and need you there. You have been their voice since you served, and this memorial is as much for you as for the dogs. I have attached a map to the dedication site as well as additional background information. Please contact Laura Bengé or Maurice (Mo) Johnson at _____ if you are attending.

(877) WAR-DOGS

FAX 909.278.9727

www.war-dogs.com

Also, you may already know that the VDHA is planning a mini-reunion dinner later in the day on February 21 at the VFW Post #9223. The cost of the dinner is \$15 and the Post is located on the corner of Tyler and Arlington in Riverside. Tom Mitchell is coordinating the dinner along with a great group of guys in Riverside. Please let Tom know if you are attending the dinner. For hotel accommodations, the VDHA has selected the Best Western Hotel on Magnolia Street in Riverside. Please call Joan at _____ for reservations and more information on the hotel.

It has been a wonderful past year, and I am looking forward to an even more exciting upcoming year. I hope to see as many of you as possible at the War Dog Memorial dedication at March Field Air Museum and will update you on the Ft. Benning dedication shortly. Please contact us if you should need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bennett
President, War Dog Memorial Fund, Inc.