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Mount Dora Police mourn the loss of K-9 Officer Stryker

Mount Dora, Fla (November 8, 2018) – The Mount Dora Police Department is mourning the loss of K-9 Officer Stryker who passed away this week.

K-9 Stryker was diagnosed with cancer in December 2017, shortly after his retirement from the Mount Dora Police Department. The veterinarian gave Stryker approximately one year to live after three tumors were discovered in his digestive tract. The main tumor was surgically removed at that time.

Over the weekend, Corporal Adam McCulloch, Stryker's handler, discovered he had become lethargic, developed a fever and was unable to hold any food down. On November 5, Cpl. McCulloch took Stryker to the vet where he passed away around 3:15 p.m. He was only 6-years-old.

“I said goodbye to my partner in crime. Stryker showed me how caring and loyal a canine could be,” said Cpl. Adam McCulloch. “After a long battle with cancer, today (Monday), he fought his last battle. Today he showed me once more he would do anything to protect me and everyone known to him as his pack. Rest in peace brother. I got the watch from here.”

Stryker was a Belgian Malinois, born at Royal Police Dogs in Tallahassee on June 12, 2012. He was trained by Apopka Police and came into service to Mount Dora Police in March, 2014 where Cpl. McCulloch was chosen as his handler.

In June 2017, Stryker suffered an injury while off-duty, which required him to undergo surgery to repair a disc in his spine. Stryker was retired from Mount Dora Police on December 2, 2017 and remained with McCulloch at his home.

The K-9 team of Cpl. McCulloch and K-9 Stryker are responsible for making over 140 arrests, as



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well as, seizing guns, cocaine, meth, heroin, marijuana and prescription pills during their tenure as a team.

“Stryker was a big influence in the community doing demos, going to Mount Dora High School and Mount Dora Christian Academy and participating in classroom drug sweeps,” said Cpl. McCulloch.

Mount Dora Police will hold a memorial for Stryker in the near future at the Public Safety complex where a memorial stone will be placed in his name. Further information will be released about the memorial as it becomes available.

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