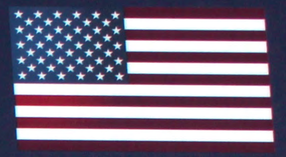
# MILITARY WORKING DOG MEMORIAL
## AKA "WAR DOGS"



# Honoring Our "War Dogs"

## *The Early Wars*

Dogs have been used in wars by the military since ancient times. In the US, the first canine on record to serve was noted during the Seminole War. Later, during the Civil War, they were used for a variety of reasons including protection and as messengers. In WWI, they were used extensively as pack animals, messengers, and sentries. War Dogs were very effective in detecting enemy troop movement and lifting the morale of service men.

United States Coast Guard

## *World War II*

Canines were used in a variety of roles in WWII. The USMC used them to help clear islands in the Pacific that were occupied by Japanese forces. During this time, the Doberman Pincher was named the official dog of the USMC. Many dogs were wounded and burned during this war, but were still able to keep working.

U.S. Marine Corp University

## *Korean and Vietnam Wars*

Dogs were also used in both the Korean War and Vietnam War. Often trained as scout dogs, they were capable of detecting ambushes, weapon caches and even enemy soldiers who would be hiding under water. Close to 5,000 dogs served during the Vietnam War. Along with their handlers, it is estimated they saved over 10,000 lives. In the end only one dog returned to the U.S. A few dogs were moved to locations in the Pacific Theater. While over 4,000 came to a sad end at the conclusion of the Vietnam War either being euthanized or given away to Vietnam Forces.

U.S. Marine Corp University

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*War Dogs have served with distinction, giving their lives, while faithfully protecting American soldiers. They deserve our respect and to be honored.*

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## *Gulf Wars*

During the Gulf Wars, over 600 canines were used for guarding, patrolling, and detection work. Each was assigned to a handler who was specially trained to work with the dog. These dogs were brought home; some by their former handlers.

Wikimedia

United States Army

Sgt. Manuel J. Martinez, U.S. Air Force