



MWD NERO F156

Saveavet.org  
The other forgotten soldier

Summer 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

## How did Saveavet become?

by Danny Scheurer

A lot of you don't know me directly so let me introduce myself and explain why Saveavet exists. My name is Danny and I am the founder and CEO of Saveavet. During my last deployment in Baghdad, Iraq I was injured causing me to leave the military short of my contract. Upon leaving I was given a 70% disability rating which gives me supplemented income to offset my potential of trained income, I receive VA medical care, options for schooling and paid training for employment, and multiple other perks for serving my country and being injured in the line of duty.

I would like to introduce you to another friend of mine, DOS agent Paddy. Paddy was stationed at the US Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan for nearly four years where he worked as an Explosive Ordinance Division Technician. During his tour, Paddy was injured in the line of duty taking him out of service early and forcing him into retirement.

Paddy, due to unforeseen circumstances, was deemed unsuitable for typical retirement and initially would have been euthanized. How's that for a soldier who serves. Imagine hearing both stories, while not aware that Paddy is a canine. Most people's reaction would be anger, concern or

consternation regarding a veteran being denied retirement due to atypical retirement qualifications. This is where Saveavet comes in.

Unlike a lot of agencies, the DOS truly cares about their K9's and reached out to Saveavet asking us to take him into our program. I'm very happy they did this as he is now one of our most loveable K9's and the new mascot of the organization.

### Why Start Saveavet?

During my last deployment, I had a K9 save my life and the life of my unit. During this heroic act, the K9 was spooked making him unable to work and causing him to retire early. Much to my surprise the canine was slotted to be euthanized due to aggression he had during previous years. It was stated they wanted to save him but there was nowhere suitable to place him. At this point I knew what I had to do.

Shortly after returning home, myself and my two friends, Ed and Mike, started Saveavet. Both Ed and Mike have since moved on to other things and I remain running the program you know today.



### Upcoming Fundraisers

From 5k's to Bags Tournament to Bike Runs, Saveavet is working towards having a little something for everyone. Keep checking our social media for new events coming soon. *(We are planning something fun for this winter).*

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### Meet Harry

Harry Thomas, a Vietnam Veteran Dog Handler from 1969-1973 was responsible for the sentry dog training program in Vietnam which saved countless soldiers' lives. Pictured here, Harry performing the K9 Battlefield Cross Ceremony.

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## 5k Dog Dash

Benefiting Saveavet, Kg's for Veterans & Marine Corps Toys for Tots

Start the day with our innagural 5K Dog Dash, Walk, Crawl! Families are welcome and all dogs are welcome (so long as they are dog and human friendly).

Following the 5k we invite you to Dine with your Dog at the legendary Base Camp Pub and Eatery where ½ the establishment will have a human buffet and the other ½ will have a dog buffet. That's right, thanks to our good friends at Pet Supplies Plus and Redford Naturals we'll bring everything, you just bring your pup.

During this event, we will have a kids Fun Fair. The cost to enter is one (1) unwrapped toy per person to be donated to the DuPage County Marine Corp Toys for Tots. Entry includes a carnival lunch, face painting, moonwalks and more. We will have tons of games, all for \$1 and everyone's a winner every time (while supplies last).

Following the family portion of this event we invite you to stick around for the 21+ festivities. Starting at 3pm with the



legendary .5k event! That's right folks, 1640-foot run designed by the leaders in their field. This is a 21+ event as there will be adult beverages.

Don't miss out on our inaugural Bags Tournament boasting prizes like you've never seen before. 1<sup>st</sup> place is \$1000 plus 2 sets of American CNC Bag Boards. And that's not all! We pay out for top 5 places with a total of 6 sets of one-of-a-kind boards being given away for top 3 places!

5kDogDash Contd' on Page #6

### MUSIC LINEUP

CHARLIE FOXTROT  
OVER THE SUN  
LOVE & MONEY  
BAD-MEDICINE



*The Copperheads MC is formed as a Public Safety Motorcycle Club for recreational and other non-profit purposes. The singular focus is to support & assist Military, Law Enforcement & Public Safety and their families during times of need.*

[www.CopperheadsMC.com](http://www.CopperheadsMC.com)

## Copperheads Cruise

Benefiting Saveavet

Looking for that last ride of the season? We have a little something for you. Join the Copperheads Motorcycle Club of Illinois for their Annual Copperheads Cruise, benefiting Saveavet.

Saturday, September 16, 2017 leaving Lake Shore Harley Davidson – 14000 W. Rockland Rd., Libertyville, IL 60048 @ 11am.

The ride will leave Lake Shore HD and venture through Lake County before ending at Pinsters Bowl for drinks, raffles, music and more.....

Pinsters located at: 1646 Sheridan Rd., Zion, IL 60099.

\$20 a Rider, \$25 w/passenger (includes after party). Not riding? No problem. Come join us for the party! Just \$10 at the door.

Live music by:

- The Hit List – Playing new and classics Rock-n-Roll the way it should be.

To pre-register visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/copperhead-cruise-tickets-35380166029>

For more information please contact Gunner at [gunner@copperheadsmc@gmail.com](mailto:gunner@copperheadsmc@gmail.com)

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



## Vohne Liche Kennels

Vohne Liche Kennels is the leading supplier of Military & Law Enforcement K9's. With over 5,000 agencies supplied, VLK is the best of the best for your working dog needs.



*This 15,000-square foot building will soon be home to 21 disabled veterans, 25 retired K9's, a veteran's club and a veterinarian clinic for all Saveavet canines.*

# Vohne Liche Kennels -Indiana

by Saveavet

Vohne Liche Kennels (pronounced Von Lick) is the leading supplier of Military & Law Enforcement Working Dogs. VLK is a full service K-9 training facility where the best of the best go for highly trained Military, Law Enforcement & Specialty trained canines. VLK has trained for over 5000 agencies to include:

- National Security Agency (NSA)
- Pentagon Police U.S.
- State Department

VLK was founded in 1993 by United States Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Kenneth Licklider. The training staff at VLK is either former military, law enforcement, or both.

Can you think of a better partner for Saveavet? We tell you this because thanks to a very generous donation from VLK, Saveavet is now the proud owner of one of their old training facilities, a 15,000 square foot building that sits on approximately, 3 acres.

This property sits in Peru, Indiana and lies dead center between two of the VLK training facilities. As an added bonus, we are only a few miles from Grissom Air Force Base which, thanks to the good folks at VLK, we have already started making great relationships with on base.

Once completed, the Saveavet VLK property will house approximately, 21 disabled veterans, 25 retired K9's, contain a veteran's club for our on-site residents and a veterinarian clinic for all our K9's.

Since taking over the property, Saveavet and our volunteers have been hard at work making the building suitable for our needs,

expanding living quarters to make them handicap accessible, demoing rooms to put in kitchens, bathrooms and some specialty rooms for some of our more special K9's.

Like many projects of this size we have hit a few roadblocks. We have been able to overcome them one at a time with the great support of VLK and our local volunteers. Now we are at a construction roadblock so we are reaching out to you, our supporters, to help overcome this so we can move forward with this massive project.

Currently we are in need of the following items to move forward into the next phase of work. We need these very specific items for a number of reasons such as:

- We own the building and we want to build it right from the beginning.
- The city supports us as long as we keep the ascetics up with the neighborhood.
- We take pride in what we offer our veterans, both 2-legged and 4-legged

### Current Materials Needed

- Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF) Insulation @ R-38. Enough to cover 8,000 sqft to move forward, 15,000 sqft to finish the project
- 9x 10-ton Package AC/Furnace Units with install accessories
- 9x Digital Electric Meters
- 9x Digital Water Meters
- 36x Handicap Sliding Patio Doors (all must match per the city)
- Plumbing, Electrical, HVAC materials of all kinds.



## American CNC

Behind a state-of-the-art facility lies a team of 29 expert technicians and programmers dedicated towards conveying the best possible image for your company. American CNC has sponsored and donated many much-needed supplies for nearly 8 years. Thank you.

### FAST FACTS

# 2500

There are about 2500 Military Working Dogs in active service today. These numbers do not reflect other government agencies such as DOS, Homeland, etc.

# 453,000

Number of unemployed Veterans in 2016

### IT'S A START

Our Indiana property will house approximately, 21 veterans and 25 K9's with room to expand. It's a start.

SAVEAVET IN  
333 N Smith St., Peru, IN

## Michelle Ingles



## Volunteer Spotlight:

Michelle has volunteered with Saveavet since 2014 beginning at the Lisle Eyes to the Skies Festival. Michelle asked what she could do to become more involved with Saveavet and she was given the responsibilities of helping with our orders in both shipping packages out to supporters and keeping a tally of our in-stock merchandise. Michelle has been a key player in the past few years in helping Saveavet keep track of inventory and keep up with orders. For these reasons, and for many others, Michelle has been chosen as our Volunteer Spotlight for this issue.

Michelle and her Husband Mark (who is also a volunteer), have two dogs, Roma and Miller, two cats, and are raising their beautiful granddaughter, Sandra.



## Online Store

by SAVEAVET

We understand times are tough and every corner you turn an organization you support is looking for a donation. This is why Saveavet has created such a large online store. We have prided ourselves on getting top notch quality gear at an affordable price so you can help support while getting a little something in return.

All of our clothing is printed in Genoa City, Wisconsin by the same company that has supported Saveavet for 10 years. In addition we offer a 100% guarantee. If you are not totally satisfied, we will work with you to make sure you are.



Take a look at the Saveavet Outlet for discontinued items and a discounted donation amount. Still the same product at a slightly lower price.

### AMELIA COLLECTION

Pictured to the left is MWD Nero. Many of you old school supporters probably remember Nero as he attended many of the Saveavet events.

As a recap: Nero was accredited with saving the lives of over 3000 soldiers while deployed in Baghdad, Iraq. During his tour he was severely injured in the line of duty causing nerve damage to his feet and back. Because of this he was never able to be held or properly hugged in his retirement.

In 2013 Nero passed away from cancer, and as he passed on, his handler, for the first and last time was able to give him a proper hug.

Amelia Cororna (Pictured above), a 17 year old art student from Wisconsin, drew this photo

with colored pencil for the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Competition. Amelia did such a wonderful job we decided to put her drawing on a shirt to always remember Nero and his service to our great country.

Thank you Amelia for capturing this beautiful moment in such an amazing medium. We are forever grateful of your work.



We all know how expensive it can be when a dog gets sick and you need emergency surgery. Now imagine having multiple dogs with all sorts of problems.

When the furnace in one of the organizations unit goes out in the middle of the night costs can add up quickly.

When the organizations main transport vehicle stops working, again, it becomes costly but is a cost that is needed to keep the organization running smooth.

Saveavet does have funds allocated for things like this but not as much that is sometimes needed. Donations that come in are typically used to expand and bring in more K9's and help more veterans. It's a rotating door that is typically not in our favor.

Donors and supporters do help the organization stay afloat and grow, but sponsors are the ones we go to on a regular basis when some of these roadblocks hit. Some of our sponsors have mechanics on staff that will stop their work to help us get back on the road and some have other resources that they will offer on a silver plate if it helps.

Please take a look at some of our spotlighted sponsors, see what they do and, if it's in your realm of day-to-day activities, reach out to see if you can work with them. Each of these great companies have and continue to go above and beyond in support of Saveavet.

### Pet Supplies Plus

Pet Supplies Plus came on board as a Saveavet sponsor and supporter over 8 years ago. With both monetary and in-kind donations, PSP has helped to grow Saveavet to who we are now.

Most recently PSP has partnered up with Redford Naturals to provide food and support for our upcoming 5k Dog Dash to be held at Four Lakes on September 9, 2017.

In addition to helping us make this the premier K9 event of the year, they have gone above and beyond yet again.

Continuing their support PSP has again partnered up with the FROMM Family throughout a number of their franchise stores and a few corporate stores as well.

### FROMM Feeding Friends Promotion

FROMM is produced in their own plants in Columbus, WI and Mequon, WI and has been in the same family for five generations. When you purchase FROMM, you're buying from

family. FROMM offers five distinct categories of pet food.

- **Four Star:** nutritionals that utilize single source proteins, fresh meats and non-allergen grains.
- **Four Star Grain Free:** recipes like Surf N Turf, Beef Frittala, Lamb & Lentil, Hasen Duckenfeffer and their latest Chicken Au Frommage.
- **Heartland Gold:** recipes that are grain free and life stage. These include puppy & large breed.
- **Gold:** recipes that offer premium quality at an affordable price. These are also life stage, are Duck and Chicken and non-allergen grains.
- **Classic:** recipes that offer high quality at a very affordable price.

In support of Saveavet, FROMM will be donating a percentage of their sales from the month of September from many their stores.

When proofing our newsletter, a number of our volunteers asked why we didn't name the individual stores that are supporting us for this promotion. The answer is simple. PSP and FROMM are spreading the wealth to many great animal welfare organizations throughout the country, and we want to do our part to support the program as a whole. Regardless of which store you purchase your FROMM products from, be aware, it's all going to help worthy causes.

As a side note, we hope you continue to support Pet Supplies Plus and FROMM as they do more promotions, behind the scenes, throughout the year for Saveavet and other great organizations. Let's keep giving that support back.

Pet Supplies Plus is a price matching company. Let's start shopping local; help create local jobs.

### American CNC

American CNC has supported Saveavet for nearly 9 years. Going above and beyond they have offered numerous employment opportunities to a number of veterans that have passed through the Saveavet program.

From CNC Machining to Prototyping to Assembly to my favorite, Brazing, American CNC can literally handle all your machining needs.

<http://www.accessamerican.com/>

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

**PET SUPPLIES PLUS.**  
Minus the hassle.

### Pet Supplies Plus

Pet Supplies Plus was named the 2016 Pet Retailer of the Year by Pet Business Magazine. In addition, PSP was ranked #49 in Entrepreneur Magazine's top Franchise 500 and #1 in the pet industry.



### Inland Bank

Inland Bank and Trust is our local bank. Inland is dedicated to helping fulfill the financial needs of individuals and business owners, with the help of experienced bankers and flexible solutions designed to meet customers' needs today, and tomorrow. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.



### Four Lakes Recreation

Four Lakes Recreation has supported Saveavet by providing us with a facility to host fundraisers at (such as the 5K, motorcycle run, and more). Four Lakes has been a huge ally for Saveavet and are proud to call Saveavet their "Charity Choice". Four Lakes Recreation and Alpine Snowsports are nestled in nearly 200 acres of beautiful wooded landscape. Skiers and Snowboarders come out to enjoy the most fun to be had on snow in Chicagoland. Whether you're here for a day, or make it your home, Four Lakes has something for everyone! Bonfires, movies, pools and boats keep you occupied in the summer months, while the annual 5K, volleyball events and parties keep you going strong throughout the fall and spring months.

# In memory of our good friend.



Harry Thomas, a Vietnam Veteran Dog Handler from 1969-1973 was responsible for the sentry dog training program in Vietnam which saved countless soldiers' lives.

Upon returning home, Harry dedicated his life to the remembrance and support of Military Working Dogs and was a huge supporter and volunteer within the Saveavet program.

Harry passed away February 13, 2017. Harry, you will forever be missed and never forgotten.

## K9 Battlefield Cross

To commemorate Harry and the sacrifices he made for working dogs all over, this years 5k Medal is designed in remembrance of Harry and the K9 Battlefield Cross.

**The Rifle:** The rifle, bayonet affixed, is the most important tool to a United States fighting man or woman. It is the core to their livelihood and key to their survival. It is thrust into the ground signifying that the one being remembered died in battle, fighting to the end. It also signifies that the battle is over when the rifle is left this way. This rifle will never be fired again.

**The Boots:** The boots carry a service member through the fight for our freedom. They are the first and most important means of transportation. The boots are placed at the base of the rifle. They are worn and dirty reminding us of that final march to that last battle. These boots will never be worn again.

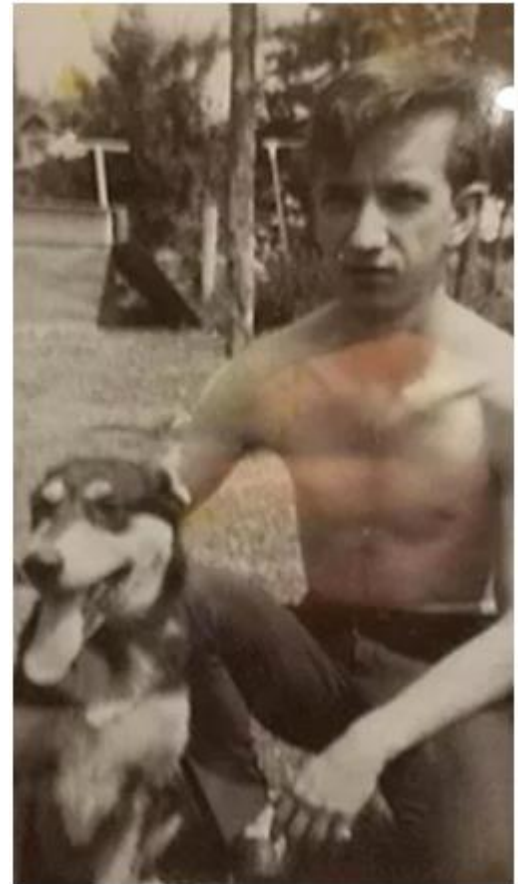
**Dog Tags:** Dog tags are worn by each service member; they have imprinted into them, all of the important identifying information regarding that individual. The dog tags are hung from the rifle, so that the name of the fallen will never be forgotten. These dog tags will never be worn again.

**The Helmet:** The helmet is an important piece of protection on the battlefield. Some believe that the hat or helmet of the individual represents what that person stood for; and so the helmet is placed on top of the rifle signifying that the battle is over and that a great sacrifice has been made. It will never be worn again.

**The Harness:** The harness represents the loyal canine who fought side by side with his fellow soldiers. Some believe that the harness represents what the canine stood for and so the harness is placed next to the boots to signify that the battle is over and that a great sacrifice has been made. This harness will never be worn again.

**A Second Helmet:** The Second helmet represents an important piece of equipment on the battlefield. This helmet represents when a soldier would take of their helmet, invert it with water for their four legged soldiers to hydrate from; and so the helmet is inverted and placed in-between the boots signifying that the battle is over and that a great sacrifice has been made. It will never be drunk from again.

The Soldier's Cross or Battlefield Cross... stands in tribute and memory as we honor, we remember, and never forget....



## Canine Spotlight - Ornella

Ornella came to Saveavet in April 2012. When she arrived, she was in the cone of shame for several months. Among other issues, she had developed a taste for her own tail. Ornella was retired from Homeland Securities U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency (CBP) for medical reasons and was not adoptable due to severe behavioral challenges. Her sharp nose served our countries borders for two years and her handler, CBP officer Shawn Johnson stated; "Ornella possesses those qualities and energies that make a successful detector drug dog a smugglers worst fear". Thanks to the dedication of former board member Mike and our dear friend Harry, Ornella was reconditioned in only a few short weeks and was able to live a full and normal life.



# Saveavet.org

## The other forgotten soldier

387 Northgate Rd  
Lindenhurst, IL 60046

Hello, and thank you for supporting Save A Vet nfp, without the continued support from donors, volunteers, veterans and supporters we could not be what we are today. I wanted to take a moment of your time today to shed some light on some troubling information that we've received lately. As of late, we have been alerted that several people are misrepresenting themselves by saying they are either board members or CEO's of Save A Vet. These people are not affiliated with our organization and we would like to take a moment to inform all our supporters that our board members and volunteers can be easily identified through several methods. The easiest way, of course, is to identify them at an event that Save A Vet is at. We bring our T-Shirt trailer to every event we do, it's a large, wrapped trailer that opens in the rear and on the passenger side. Anyone in the trailer or assisting near the trailer is a volunteer of our organization. A second method is to ask for a business card, while most of our board and longtime volunteers have cards, not all do, so if they can produce one of our cards which is a thick, glossy double sided card, they are most likely a legitimate volunteer. The third way to identify a volunteer is to ask them about the organization and what our goals are. If the person in questions states that they've "worked" for Save A Vet for a number of years, they are most likely not a volunteer since 100% of us are 100% volunteer. Our executive board, officers and volunteers do not receive a paycheck in any way.

The reason we have brought this up to you today is because we are 100% volunteer and the people that are faking their involvement with Save A Vet are attempting to, in some cases, spread bad press, falsify what Save A Vet does, or scam people into donating. If you are ever unsure if the person you are talking to is a legitimate volunteer please err on the side of caution and ask to see their card, or a card of a person who is with them if they do not have one.

If you are not satisfied that they are indeed a legitimate member of our organization, please call the police and report them. If they are indeed legitimate they will be able to prove to you and the police that they are.

### Save A Vet nfp

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