



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Public Safety

DIVISION OF ALASKA STATE TROOPERS
Office of the Director

5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225
Main: 907.269.5511
Fax: 907.337.2059

January 22, 2014

Ms. Stacie Burkhardt
MAT+SAR Search and Rescue
P.O. Box 876467
Wasilla, Alaska 99687

Re: Recognizing a lifetime of public service

Dear Stacie,

I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of your partner for many years, Sage. It is always difficult to lose a friend but to lose a friend that you have worked with for so long is incredibly heart breaking. When this happens in our lives we need to focus on the memories of the good times we had which I understand are plentiful when talking about you and Sage as a SAR K-9 team. You and Sage were first united long before you moved to Alaska and it is my understanding that Sage had a very successful SAR career long before signing on to do SAR work in Alaska. The resume for your team indicates Sage worked SAR in Washington and successfully located live persons on four searches and bodies during another nine searches between 2003 and 2009. These are some very impressive statistics.

We here in Alaska were lucky to have received Sage shortly afterward, first with the Alaska Search and Rescue Dogs and then starting a new K-9 group within MAT+SAR. Sage soon became a very valuable asset to the people of the Matanuska-Susitna Valley, an area where SAR K-9 resources were needed to help find those people in need.

The SAR K-9 team is an incredibly valuable resource that takes many years to become proficient. This type of resource is not taken for granted in the SAR world, particularly here in Alaska. I'm very pleased you and Sage decided to come to Alaska and then to continue to spark an interest in K-9 SAR teams in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley.

I thank you for sharing Sage with the people of the State of Alaska and I hope you can find comfort in the fact that Sage's life was filled with an extraordinary dedication to public service.

Sincerely,

Lt. Steven D. Adams
State Search and Rescue Coordinator
Alaska Dept. of Public Safety