

PROCLAMATION

A PROCLAMATION HONORING FALLEN VIRGINIA STATE POLICE K-9 DUKE

WHEREAS, in 2016 German shepherd “Duke” joined the Virginia State Police Canine Team, at the tender age of eight months old; and

WHEREAS, Duke trained under his handler and partner, Senior Trooper Jesse R. Lewis, and was highly a respected member of the Culpeper Division Tactical Team; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, August 28, 2021, Duke’s final act of service was in response to a request for tracking assistance during the pursuit of suspects fleeing a hit-and-run crash on Interstate 81; and

WHEREAS, tracking and search efforts required of the canine team were extensive and demanding as temperatures reached into the 90s with extreme humidity; when Duke began showing symptoms of heat exhaustion, Senior Trooper Lewis returned him to their patrol vehicle to help cool and hydrate Duke, and immediately sought emergency veterinary care; and

WHEREAS, on Monday, August 30, 2021, unable to recover from complications related to heat exhaustion, Duke crossed the rainbow bridge and peacefully passed away with Senior Trooper Lewis at his side; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors offers its heartfelt condolences to Senior Trooper Lewis and those who knew and worked with Duke; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors wishes to pay tribute to Duke for his life of dedicated service and having died in the faithful execution of his duties; now, therefore, be it

PROCLAIMED by the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors this 9th of September 2021, That the Board of Supervisors hereby honors fallen Virginia State Police K-9 Duke for his valiant service to the community.

Christopher T. Butler, Lee District Supervisor
Fauquier County Board of Supervisors