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# Family gives to canine unit

## Newport police get donation in relative's name

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

**NEWPORT** - Joseph McCarthy loved dogs. Throughout his life he liked to bring home dogs from the shelter.

"You learned to live with it," said his widow, Elizabeth.

When her husband died unexpectedly while recovering from surgery, Elizabeth and her children knew the best way to honor him.

ADVERTISEMENT The family asked during the funeral that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to an animal shelter.

Then the family donated more than \$1,000 to the Newport Police Department canine unit in Joseph's name.

"It was a very great thing that she did. A total surprise. She just called and asked for the canine unit," said Newport Officer Bruce Markus.

Joseph's love of dogs began as a child when he brought home a stray.

"It was just a little old scroungy hound that ran around the neighborhood," his widow said. "He named him Norton because the dog like to sleep in the sewers just like than man from 'The Honeymooners.'"

Joseph McCarthy spent six years in the Air Force and the following 31 years working full time in the Ohio Air National Guard, first with the 123rd Air Squadron in Blue Ash then with the 178th Fighter Wing in Springfield.

"He spent a lot of time at Wright-Patterson (Air Force Base in Dayton) watching them train dogs, and he thought they were awesome and really liked them," Elizabeth McCarthy said.

Over the years, he brought home many dogs but especially liked German shepherds and labs.

The Newport Police Department has two police dogs. Nine-year old Ace is handled by Markus and 3-year old Valko is handled by Officer Chris Gallichio. Markus does the training of the dogs. Both dogs are trained for narcotics detection and patrol work. Each night the dogs go home with the officers with whom they work.

The McCarthys' gift will be used for training equipment.

Markus said with the donation the unit will get leashes, collars, training sleeves and equipment.

"We're going to get training sleeves, called 'bite sleeves.' Also, five narcotic boxes, which are boxes and that won't hold the narcotic odor and you hide it in different boxes and switch them around. We'll also get leashes and more collars - things that just wear out," Officer Marcus.

A plaque honoring the gift now hangs in the hallway showcase at the Newport Police Department headquarters.

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