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## NEWS RELEASE

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### IVAN'S SPOT DOG PARK NAME DEDICATION JUNE 1, 2013

Join us Saturday, June 1, at 9 a.m. at Purple Heart Park, 10050 East Rita Road, as we celebrate the life and loving memory of Ivan, the two year old Belgian Malinois. He was born in Czechoslovakia but eventually was tested and purchased by the Tucson Police Department to become a police K-9. Ivan was certified as a patrol and narcotic K-9 handled by Officer Chris Fenoglio and was a cherished member of the Fenoglio family. Ivan and his family live in the Rita Ranch Neighborhood and after every work shift Ivan would come to Purple Heart Dog Park to run off steam and relax.

On December 12, 2012, Ivan and Officer Fenoglio found themselves involved in a high speed pursuit of a carjacking suspect. The suspect crashed the stolen vehicle and ran into the neighborhood. The suspect was known to be armed and was a clear danger to the citizens of Tucson. K-9 Ivan pulled Officer Fenoglio and other officers through the neighborhood to the front patio of a house. The suspect was hiding on the patio and K-9 Ivan was sent to apprehend the suspect. Without fear or hesitation K-9 Ivan charged the suspect and bit him on the arm. The suspect revealed a handgun and fired one shot into Ivan's shoulder before turning the gun towards the police officers. K-9 Ivan was rushed to Valley Animal Hospital but the bullet had caused too much damage for Ivan to recover from. K-9 Ivan became only the third police K-9 killed in the line of duty for the Tucson Police Department.

"An incident like this demonstrates the extreme danger faced by the officers of the Tucson Police Department, both human and canine, on a daily basis. Ivan was a fairly new partner for Officer Chris Fenoglio, and he was demonstrating excellent promise to become an outstanding canine partner. Canine partners are more than just service animals to the family of their handlers, and to the members of the department. Through their bravery, loyalty, devotion and sense of duty, they endear themselves to us and hold a special place in our hearts. Ivan will be sorely missed by this agency and in my opinion by the community at large. If there is any solace to take from this tragedy, it is that Ivan gave his life honorably while doing what he was trained to do...protect the lives of the officers and citizens of this City, and help remove violent individuals from the streets of Tucson" said Chief of Police Roberto Villasenor in a statement issued to the media.

Police K-9's are used extensively throughout the world in all aspects of law enforcement. They are often asked to do things that police officer's cannot do without them. These amazing animals are capable of doing these jobs faster and safer than their human counter parts. They are willing to sacrifice everything just to hear their handler say "Good boy". K-9 Ivan's heroism directly saved the lives of the police officers that were with him and his sacrifice for the citizens and City of Tucson will never be forgotten. Ivan's Spot is a permanent thank you to Ivan and the Fenoglio family. Good Boy Ivan!

*If participants require an accommodation or materials in accessible format or require a foreign language interpreter or materials in a language other than English for any event, please call Tucson Parks and Recreation, 791-4873, at least five business days in advance*



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For more information about the event contact Paul Sheldon at [secretary@tpoa.org](mailto:secretary@tpoa.org)

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