

HARLINGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE
2022-0011

HONOR ◆ COURAGE ◆ INTEGRITY

Harlingen Police Department K9s Katniss, Azlan, Ranger, and Modry have received donation of body armor

Harlingen Police Department K9s Katniss, Azlan, Ranger, and Modry have received bullet and stab protective vests thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Katniss' vest was sponsored by Martha Burgess of the Robert L. Burgess Memorial Fund and embroidered with the sentiment "In memory of CSP Sergeant Bob Burgess 197". K9 Azlan and Ranger's vests were sponsored by National Police Association and embroidered with the sentiment "Gifted by NationalPolice.org". K9 Modry's vest was embroidered with the sentiment "In memory of Glenn Sommers".

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., established in 2009, is a 501(c)(3) charity whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. This potentially lifesaving body armor for four-legged K9 officers is U.S. made, custom fitted, and NIJ certified. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has provided over 4,538 vests to K9s in all 50 states at a value of \$6.9 million, made possible by both private and corporate donations.

The program is open to U.S. dogs that are at least 20 months old and actively employed and certified with law enforcement or related agencies. K9s with expired vests are also eligible to participate. There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. accepts tax-deductible contributions in any amount, while a single donation of \$960



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Michael Kester

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Officer
Jose Gonzalez

Officer
Eric Foale



Harlingen Police Department
1018 Fair Park Boulevard
Harlingen, Texas 78550
956.216.5401 – www.myharlingen.us



will sponsor one vest. Each vest has a value of \$1,744-\$2,283, weighs an average of 4-5 lb., and comes with a five-year warranty. For more information, or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts donations at www.vik9s.org, or you may mail your contribution to P.O. Box 9, East Taunton, MA 02718.



KATNISS



AZLAN



MODRY



RANGER



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1018 Fair Park Boulevard
Harlingen, Texas 78550
956.216.5401 – www.myharlingen.us

