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War Veteran, State Fire Marshal Explosive Detection Canine Euthanized Due to Health Issues

Baton Rouge, LA – The State Fire Marshal is mourning the death of one of its explosive ordinance detection (EOD) canines after she was diagnosed late Wednesday with an aggressive form of kidney cancer.

Xena, a 9-year-old black Labrador who joined the State Fire Marshal’s Office in November 2012, was euthanized Wednesday afternoon after LSU veterinarians discovered cancerous tumors in both of her kidneys.

After being transferred to the State Fire Marshal’s Office in 2012 from the U.S. Marine Corps, where she served two (2) terms in Afghanistan identifying areas where explosives posed threats to U.S. troops, Xena immediately adapted to her new environment and handler Cpl. Garrett Reeves.

During her service with the State Fire Marshal’s Office, Xena participated in numerous detection sweeps at major events in Louisiana including LSU and University of Lafayette sporting events, Mardi Gras festivities in New Orleans, and pre-inaugural events for Gov. John Bel Edwards.

“An end of watch for law enforcement officers is a solemn time of reflection as to the service that the officer provided,” said State Fire Marshal H. “Butch” Browning, Jr. “It’s the same for canines who constantly prove their worth to the citizens they help protect. Xena was one of those special souls that will never be forgotten.”

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Death of State Fire Marshal Explosive Ordinance Detection Canine – October 18, 2017

State Fire Marshal Cpl. Garrett Reeves with Xena in March 2015.

Photo courtesy of the Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal

Photo courtesy of the Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal
Xena with former handler and U.S. Marine Dan Ranum in Afghanistan.