

Dartmouth family makes donation to Bristol County Sheriff's Office canine program in honor of animal lover

From left, Bristol County Sheriff Thomas M. Hodgson, Dolores Costa, Deby Rezendes and Dolores Patenaude smile after Mrs. Costa received an official declaration from Sheriff Hodgson for donating \$1,000 to the BCSO canine program.

A future canine arriving at the Bristol County Sheriff's Office will be named in honor of a local animal lover and his caring family.

Dartmouth resident Dolores A. (Guyon) Costa presented a \$1,000 donation to the Bristol County Sheriff's Office canine program recently in honor of her late husband, Bill Costa.

"I can tell you he's smiling now," Mrs. Costa said after presenting the donation to Bristol County Sheriff Thomas M. Hodgson. "My husband loved animals. He would be so happy right now."

Sheriff Hodgson presented Mrs. Costa and her daughters, Deby Rezendes and Dolores Patenaude, with an official citation of gratitude for the donation.

He said it will be used to secure another canine for the department, which will be named after Mr. Costa.

"It's heartening for our entire staff to see caring people in the community coming forward to help out," Sheriff Hodgson said. "We want to put it toward another canine named Bill."

Mr. Costa passed away on Jan. 18 after a brief illness. He was married to Mrs. Costa for 57 years, living in New Bedford before moving to Dartmouth in 1980. The Marine Corps veteran and his wife had 11 dogs over the years, making it easy to see how the last paragraph of his obituary stated that donations may be made to an animal cause of the donor's choosing in lieu of flowers.

Colonel Robert Sylvia of the Bristol County Sheriff's Office canine program said the donation was much-needed and much-appreciated.

"We're very thankful," Col. Sylvia said. "Funding is tight, so this will go a long way to help us purchase another canine."

The Bristol County Sheriff's Office canine teams have been called upon to investigate and assist local police departments on a range of matters, from armed robberies and narcotics problems to missing children and search and rescue.

The great work done by the Bristol County Sheriff's Office canine teams made the decision to make a donation in Mr. Costa's memory an easy one for the family.

"This is like Christmas for her," Patenaude said as her smiling mother chatted with Sheriff Hodgson after a brief ceremony. "This is going to do so much good."