

August 11, 2010

Dozens salute K-9 Adrian at North Park

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Star Beacon



ASHTABULA — More than 100 people gathered Tuesday afternoon in Ashtabula’s North Park to say goodbye to a faithful and dedicated canine police officer. K-9 Adrian, who partnered with Lt. John Koski for 10 years, died July 26 as the result of an unforeseen medical condition.

Dozens of people, including police officers from across the county and city officials, shrugged off heat and humidity to attend the emotional 30-minute service. Police officers brought an urn containing the dog’s ashes to a place of honor in front of the crowd as a bagpiper played.

Ashtabula Police Chief Robert Stell said Adrian successfully helped reintroduce the K-9 program to the city’s police department a decade ago.

“Adrian set the standard, set the bar very high,” he said. Adrian had a stellar career, helping to make many felony arrests and detecting more than \$200,000 worth of illegal drugs, Stell said.

“He saved officers from serious harm — or worse,” he said. A friendly, easygoing dog with the public, Adrian was all business when it mattered, Stell said.

“Given the right command, he did his job and knew what to do,” he said. “He had a calming presence,” Stell said. “When he was present, the bad guys were calm.”

Ashtabula City Manager Anthony Cantagallo said the community owes a debt of gratitude “for these dogs and officers for what they do.”

Ashtabula County Sheriff’s Department Deputy Greg Korabek, a dog handler, presented the Koski family with a plaque containing an ode to Adrian written by Korabek’s wife, Angela. Sharon Hamilton of Ashtabula also presented a plaque with a tribute she authored.

The ceremony ended with a salute from Adrian’s honor guard and “Amazing Grace” from the bagpiper.