

Glendale Heights Police Department Press Release

For Immediate Release

August 6, 2009

Glendale Heights Police Canine “CHERRY” has Died After Nearly Nine Years of Service To the Community

The Village of Glendale Heights regrets to announce the death of the Police Department's Canine, Cherry, after nearly nine years of service to the community.

Cherry was a ten year old German Shepherd originally from Germany. The Glendale Heights Police Department purchased Cherry in November of 2000 and after completing training in Indiana with his handler, Officer Ronald Kirstein, was put into full service in December of that year. Cherry was certified in three specialty areas of police canine activities; narcotics detection, search and general patrol certifications.

The loss of Cherry will be felt across the entire Village as well as in many surrounding communities. Cherry has been involved in countless public appearances at many Village of Glendale Heights sponsored events. Several towns had Cherry and Officer Kirstein appear at their schools and community events as well.

The entire police community will greatly miss Cherry's skills in assisting with drug detection and missing person searches. Cherry and Ron assisted other agencies nearly 250 times in Cherry's career. Cherry's assistance in a multi-agency task force resulted in the seizure of 13 kilograms on cocaine in just one case.

Cherry left active patrol in the beginning of July when he was diagnosed with tumors on his spleen and liver. On August 5, 2009 Cherry passed away.

The members of the Glendale Heights Police Department will greatly miss this faithful member of our agency. He was truly a dedicated servant to the community giving his all at every request.

Photographs of Cherry are available upon request. Cherry will be remembered at tonight's Village Board meeting.

Prepared by
Commander Dennis Schar
Patrol Operations
(630) 909-5453



**GLENDALE HEIGHTS
POLICE CANINE**

Cherry

SERVING 2000 - 2009