

"Folks, We Have a Search..."

There are times when language fails us. How do you memorialize someone who impacted so many, in a few paragraphs? How do you thank them for being your Leader, Teacher, Mentor and Friend? How do you explain to others how crossing paths with this person changed you and your life forever?

Nancy Lyon came to NEK9 in 1988. During her time on the team, she certified 6 airscent dogs, taught workshops in search management and strategy and visited countless schools presenting the "Lost proofing" and Hike Safe" programs to help children understand how to avoid getting lost or what to do if they did to be found safe and sound. With children she always said, "This is what we train for." From 1992 to 2011 Nancy served as President and Operational Leader of New England K9 Search and Rescue, working tirelessly as the liaison between Law Enforcement agencies across New England. In addition to everything else she did, Nancy worked her dogs at more than 360 searches, making numerous finds herself, including her very first search and her last this past September.

Nancy's life was creative, driven and above all altruistic. She gave of herself without reserve and taught many to do the same. Her insight, gentle leadership and guidance led many of us to where we are today in our lives, not just in our Search and Rescue endeavors, but on all levels. Her integrity ran deep, she never took credit as an individual, she never allowed NEK9 to play hero to the media. It was never about the accolades; it was about saving lives and bringing loved ones home. It was that simple. Her work with the team dogs and trainees was patient, positive and intuitive. She embodied the essence of the "Benevolent Alpha". She made the relationship between handler and canine an artform.

Nancy's last message to the team was: "Tell everyone I am watching them "trust their dog."

Message Received Shepherd 11...



Nancy Lyon

11/30/46-10/25/11

"Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear." - Ambrose Redmoon



AVA, SAGE, TRACE, HAVEN, KEEPER, QUIKLIE