

## Impact Statement

Isabella Capobianco, Grade 5.

***A Country's Best Friend***, 2020.

Pencil, charcoal on paper, 11 x 8.5 Inches.

Blackwell Elementary, Marietta, GA

Unsung Hero: Sgt. Stubby

During my quest for an unsung hero, I came across Sergeant Stubby. I chose Sergeant Stubby because I wanted to choose something unique, and my family has a long history loving Boston Terriers. Since Sgt Stubby was part Boston Terrier, he stood out to me. I also visited the "Military Working Dog Teams National Monument" at Lackland Airforce Base in San Antonio last summer. Reading about all the sacrifices made by dogs throughout American history, was extremely impactful. Sgt. Stubby served during WW1. He was not supposed to be there, but his ability to follow commands not to mention, his charm; earned him a spot as mascot with the 102nd Infantry Regiment 26th (Yankee) division. Sgt. Stubby served in the trenches and was once under fire for an entire month! We all know how much dogs hate fireworks, so he must have been very brave. He survived 17 battles in all and earned 2 wound stripes, saved his fellow soldiers from lots of mustard gas, and even captured a German spy! Stubby did not know how to detect mustard gas until he actually experienced breathing in this gas. After he recovered from being gassed, he was able to learn from that experience and warn his fellow troops when gas attacks were coming. His service was not only in the form of protecting and capturing but he also raised morale of the troops.

I researched my topic by reading several articles, Wikipedia entries, and watched the movie, Sgt. Stubby: An American Hero. I was inspired by many artists' renditions and photographs of Sgt. Stubby and I felt that what I most wanted to illustrate is his selfless sacrifice to our Country. Sgt. Stubby did not serve for medals or glory, he served for love but was not given enough credit during his life. For this reason, I decided to mute the flag in the background and add color only to Sgt. Stubby so that he is in the spotlight. As he is in the spotlight, it only makes sense that he casts a shadow.

This experience has taught me that heroes do not necessarily have to be people or famous. A hero is someone (or some dog) who does good for the sake of doing good regardless of how many people know what he or she did. Sgt. Stubby's story has taught me that I can help others without seeking acknowledgement. Stubby did become famous after his time in the Army, attending parades, meeting 3 President's and later was the star of a movie. His fame was because of the impact he made while serving in the Army and not because he wanted the fame or attention. Since I am currently sheltering in place at my home, spreading the word about this project has been a little bit tricky since I am not allowed to have social media accounts. I am presenting this project to my class in a Zoom meeting and my Art Teacher is sharing our work on our school's social media account to encourage others to learn more about unsung heroes. I also think that Sgt. Stubby would be a great mascot for a sports team because he is so cute and decorated. This project has given me the opportunity to understand how many people stood up for what (or who) they believe in, and to always use your voice (or bark).