

Impact Statement

Gage Pacetti, Grade 12.

Sergeant Stubby: The Most Decorated War Dog, 2018.

Mixed media on paper, 17 x 15 Inches.

Delcambre High School, Delcambre, LA

Unsung Hero: Sergeant Stubby

Some of the greatest heroes known to man are those who risk their lives for the freedom and privileges of his fellow citizens. The ones who willingly put themselves in danger for the sake of the people they love and support: the men, women, and even the canines. The most heroic of all is Sergeant Stubby. The short brindle bull terrier mutt is truly man's best friend. From comforting wounded warriors in the throes of war to sniffing out poison gas and giving warnings to doughboys in the trenches, Sergeant Stubby did his absolute best for the sake of all the other warriors.

Sergeant Stubby is a true inspiration. I believe he is the most selfless of all heroes. He seems to have willingly volunteered for the job based on him finding his way onto the training field, and his natural instincts and training allowed him to offer as much aid as he could during World War I. Through the sounds of gunshots and screams and injuries, he remained where he needed to be. He did not run, cower, or hide. He also provides an example to everyone that they do not need to be a specific height, weight, or build to excel at whatever they set their minds to. All it takes is courage and determination. It is no surprise that he soon became the first dog ever given rank in the US Army. He is the epitome of the courageous American soldier.

My vision portrays Sergeant Stubby where he belongs: being praised by all Americans. He is wearing all of the awards that he has earned, decorating his uniform. He is sitting on a table, being honored for his efforts in the war with flowers, showing America's appreciation. The picture is also beaming with patriotic colors to demonstrate the pride that Sergeant Stubby has for his country. I used a scene from a photoshoot of Sergeant Stubby after the first World War.

What I personally love about not just the visual arts, but all of the arts is its ability to portray a story or a message through sounds and visions. The unsung hero contest is a great opportunity for me and other students like me around the world to share these inspirational stories everywhere. Through this contest, I was able to explain Sergeant Stubby's story with my art class, classmates and teacher, my family and as well students from other schools that view my art. It has moved many people like most war stories have done. His story is most likely one of the most memorable stories because of how odd it is for a dog to willingly fight in a war for his country, whereas humans were forced into fighting.

Sergeant Stubby was a hero that deserved his decorations. He caught a German spy which led to his promotion to sergeant. He was the first American war dog to do so. He has earned 11 medals during his service. He is a true unsung hero, and his story has been an inspiration.