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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

War Dog Lucca is Honored with the 2021 Sergeant Reckless Award
Commending the Second Recipient of the Award

FORT WORTH, TEXAS (July 12, 2021) –The National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame honors Lucca, the war-hero dog, with the Sergeant Reckless Award for her courageous efforts of six years in the United States Marine Corps. This award recognizes animals, individuals or groups who risk their lives for the betterment and protection of others. She will be honored at the 45th Annual Induction Luncheon and Ceremony. The event will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2021, at the Dickies Arena, in Fort Worth, Texas.

While serving, Lucca held a distinguished record for leading more than 400 patrols in Afghanistan and Iraq during three combat tours. She is also credited with over 40 confirmed finds of insurgents, explosives and ammunition, and for having no human casualties during her patrols.

Lucca will be the first animal recipient of the Sergeant Reckless Award. She has achieved two other awards in her years of service, the Animals in War & Peace Medal of Bravery #6 and Great Britain's PDSA Dickin Medal #67, where she was the first U.S. Marine Corps dog recipient. Lucca retired in 2012 but proved during her years in service that she was bred for combat missions and could take charge in any situation pushed her way.

In the Alice Walton Cowgirl Park is the monument "Send Me" dedicated to Lucca, which shares the dog's courageous story.

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Sergeant Reckless the mare, whom the award is named after is, in the present day, the most decorated warhorse. Recognized for serving time with the United States soldiers, carrying over 9,000 pounds of recoilless rounds for 35 miles, she holds an official rank within the United States military. Sergeant Reckless' bravery helped her save many lives during her time in the Korean War.

The first recipient of this award was Robin Hutton, who wrote a New York Times bestseller dedicated to the story of Sergeant Reckless. Hutton works as the acting president of the Angels Without Wings, Inc. a nonprofit working to build statues of Sergeant Reckless. She also started a new book dedicated to other's who have won the Animals in War and Peace Medal of Bravery.

Induction Luncheon and Ceremony sponsorship opportunities, as well as tables for the event, are available at <http://www.cowgirl.net/hall-of-fame/>.

About the Inaugural Sergeant Reckless Award

Named for the most decorated warhorse in modern history, this award recognizes animals, individuals or groups who risk their lives for the betterment of others, and who stand courageously in the protection of others. Sergeant Reckless, a mare, held official rank in the United States military, and served in many

combat positions during the Korean War, including one in which she completed 51 solo trips, covering 35 miles in a single day transporting over 9,000 pounds of recoilless rounds –and saving lives in the process. A monument at the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame is planned for 2019.

About the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame

The National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame honors and celebrate women, past and present, whose lives exemplify the courage, resilience and independence that helped shape the West, and fosters an appreciation of the ideals and spirit of self-reliance they inspire. Established in 1975, the Museum is considered an invaluable national educational resource for its exhibits, research library, rare photograph collection and award-winning distance-learning programs. In 2019, the Museum opened the *Kit Moncrief Galleries* and *It's Never Just a HorseTM* exhibition. Located at 1720 Gendy Street Fort Worth, Texas 76107. Hours of operation are Tuesday – Saturday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission is \$12 for adults (13+); \$9 for seniors, military and first responders, (60+); \$6 for children (ages 3-12); free for children 3 and under with paid admission. For more news and information visit www.cowgirl.net or call 817.336.4475 and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest and YouTube.

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