

Search the past 14 days (Free)

Search



Serving Clinton, Berlin, Bolton, Lancaster and Sterling

NEWS SPORTS OBITUARIES CALENDARS PUBLIC SAFETY SLIDESHOWS

About Coulter Press Staff/Contact Subscriptions The Banner The Item Appeal



We Stand Behind All Our Work With A Commitment To Safe, Effective Repairs Completed To Industry Standards & Guaranteed For Life Of Your Vehicle. Full Service Auto Body • Collision Repair Center With 2 Licensed Appraisers On Staff \*Licensed • \*Bonded • \*Insured • \*MA Registered Repair Shop #3077 115 Chestnut St., Clinton • 978-733-1092 • www.clintoncollisioncenter.com

SHARE

E-mail this article | Print this article

Friday, June 24, 2011

# Celebrating a 'golden' moment with a big gift

By Karin Radock ITEM CORRESPONDENT

Add a comment

**CLINTON** — What does a couple want when they are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary? If they're anything like Nancy and Jack McDonald, a pair of animal lovers, they'll ask to donate a protective vest for a police dog.

At Nancy and Jack McDonald's 50th wedding anniversary celebration at the Old Timer Restaurant last Saturday, a rendition of "How Much Is That Doggie In The Window" was played by the band as police dog Bruno was led in by his partner, Officer Brian Kinny, of the Lowell Police Department, to receive his new vest. Once he and his friend, police dog Falco and his partner, Officer Todd Donaldson (also of the Lowell Police Department), got settled in, the couple's son, Sean McDonald, congratulated his parents on their "journey" before explaining what he called their "incredibly unique and touching" anniversary gift.

"So anybody who's known my parents for any length of time, short, long, or in-between, probably knows that they are animal lovers," McDonald said. "Growing up, we always had animals in the house: Dogs. I just think it's a wonderful thing having that unconditional presence of love in the house for kids, for



Nancy and Jack McDonald celebrated their 50th anniversary at the Old Timer Restaurant with K-9 Bruno (wearing his new vest) and his partner, Lowell Police Officer Brian Kinny. (Photo for The Item)

Advertisement for ROTMANS GIFT CARD featuring an image of a gift card and a chair. Text includes: ROTMANS GIFT CARD, -OR- ROTMANS GIFT CARD!, ROTMANS, and Details at rotmans.com

### MOST READ

1. Edmund Domkowski
2. Joan Hamilton
3. Sterling's Maple Street closing

family, for everybody. And that has continued.”

McDonald said that when he and his sister Marykate talked to their parents about what they wanted for their anniversary, “they came up with something that really tells me everything I need to know about the way they live their lives as far as looking to give vs. receive. And they wanted to donate a protective vest to a K-9 unit to help out those who protect and serve us on a daily basis.”

Jack McDonald’s family has lived in Clinton for four generations and his father worked there when the bar opened, according to the family.

The vest was provided through a non-profit fundraising organization called Vested Interest in K-9s, Inc., dedicated to providing bullet and stab protective vests for law enforcement K-9s, out of East Taunton. Sandy Marcal, president of the organization, said she was very thankful and proud to be a part of the McDonald’s special day.

“We raise money for bullet and stab vests for the working police dogs all over the United States, whether they patrol, search, rescue, do narcotics work, tracking,” Marcal said. “And it’s with people who have such incredible, generous hearts that want to help these dogs and love animals that we have the opportunity to do this.”

Vested Interest offers two options for a bullet/stab protective vest, costing between \$735 and \$1,006 with a five-year warranty. The vest donated by the McDonald’s for K-9 Bruno is both bullet and stab protective. Marcal said she’s been working with the organization for 11 years, but has never seen a vest like Bruno’s.

“One thing that’s unique about Bruno’s vest is an inscription, and it’s something very sentimental to the couple,” Marcal said. “It’s in memory of their three dogs that have passed. And on the bottom of it, it says, ‘In loving memory of Snow, Folger, and Trisha,’ that I know K-9 Bruno will wear proudly.”

Bruno’s vest cost \$1,006, with an additional payment for its personal feature.

Kinny said the vest he’s had for Bruno is at least 10 years old, if not older.

“They’re very expensive and, through the donations of many great people, we now have a new vest for Bruno. We’ll put this vest into good use,” Kinny said.

Falco and other Lowell Police Dog, Hope, will also be receiving vests from other donors.

Marykate McDonald, daughter of Nancy and Jack McDonald said, “The most important thing to know is that my parents are such dog lovers. And they wanted to give back to the community by expressing their love of animals. Rather than receive a regular gift, they wanted to make sure that an animal could be protected in the line of duty.”

After the vesting ceremony, Marcal said, in the last three and a half months, Vested Interest in K-9s has provided vests for 34 Massachusetts police dogs. Because their efforts have been so successful, they are now vesting dogs throughout the United States. She said there is currently a waiting list of dogs that need vests.

People donating a vest through Vested Interest get to select the dog to receive it. For those who just want to donate money to put toward a vest, the money is put in a general fund, and once enough for a vest has been raised, the vest goes to the next dog on the waiting list.

“People always ask me ‘who needs it most?’ I can’t answer that. I’d like to say they all do, but I usually tell them to donate to the next dog on the waiting list,” Marcal said.

For information about donating or volunteering for Vested Interest in K-9s, call (508) 824-6978 or visit the website, [www.vik9s.org](http://www.vik9s.org). The address is Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., P.O. Box 9, East Taunton, MA 02718.

[Add a comment](#)

4. Wilfred Baird
5. George Kinzler
6. Richard Krafve
7. Adrienne Kara
8. Monty Tech project ready for blastof
9. John Gonet
10. Adele Beatty