



NEWS RELEASE



**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
State Parole Board**

**Phillip D. Murphy, Governor
Sheila Y. Oliver, Lt. Governor
Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr., Chairman**

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For Immediate Release

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NEW JERSEY STATE PAROLE BOARD PAYS TRIBUTE TO FALLEN K9 OFFICER “AARON”

Principal Investigator Daniel Braun Presented with Plaque Honoring His Former K9 Partner

TRENTON, NJ, May 29, 2019 – During the New Jersey State Parole Board monthly meeting earlier today, the agency honored its first-ever K9 officer “Aaron,” who passed away this past April. State Parole Board Chairman Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr. presented Aaron’s handler and partner, Principal Investigator Daniel Braun, with a plaque to recognize Aaron’s contributions to the agency and his important work to ensure public safety.

Over the course of his career with the New Jersey State Parole Board, K9 Aaron and Investigator Braun were responsible for the seizure/confiscation of over \$100,000 worth of criminal contraband. The duo were involved in numerous operations throughout New Jersey and assisted external law enforcement agencies, including the Trenton Police Department, Mercer County Sheriff’s Department, New Jersey State Police, and the United States Marshals Service. These operations led to the discovery of controlled dangerous substances, prescription drugs, hand guns, assault weapons (including a WWII Japanese machine gun), cash, automobiles, and other criminal contraband items.



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K9 Aaron and Investigator Braun were certified in April of 2009, after completing the United States Customs Certification training in Jackson, Tennessee. Aaron completed 360 hours of obedience training, agility/environmental training, and scent association imprinting. He was further trained to detect the odor of controlled substances; marijuana, hashish, cocaine, crack cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin.



In 2015, K9 Aaron was awarded the United States Police Canine Association's (USPCA) Region 15 "Top Dog" award after placing first in a three-day regional certification competition. The USPCA is the oldest and largest police K9 association in the United States. After winning the regional competition, K9 Aaron then represented New Jersey USPCA Region 15 at the national competition in Jackson, Mississippi where he placed 21st in the country.

K9 Aaron will be remembered and missed by his partner and friend, Investigator Daniel Braun and his extended New Jersey State Parole Board family. The plaque presented

to Investigator Braun reads as follows:

***He is your friend, your partner,
your defender, your dog, he will be yours
faithfully and true, to last beat of his heart.
You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion.***

The New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB) is committed to promoting public safety, utilizing effective methods to aid former inmates in reentering society, and to reduce the recidivism of offenders while addressing the needs of crime victims. As required by law, appointed parole board members and staff conduct approximately 13,500

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hearings per year, solicit input from victims, and decide upon parole matters. Nearly 400 sworn SPB parole officers supervise more than 15,500 offenders and act as New Jersey's primary law enforcement agency responsible for sex offender supervision. Additionally, SPB officers are also active partners with a variety of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and task forces. Finally, the SPB's Community Programs Unit partners with government, non-profit, and private agencies to connect former inmates with vocational, mental health, and related services.

Photo Captions:

Photo # 1: New Jersey State Parole Board Chairman Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr. presents a commemorative plaque to Principal Investigator Daniel Braun.

Photo # 2: New Jersey State Parole Board Principal Investigator Daniel Braun and his K9 partner "Aaron" shortly after being certified in 2009.

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