Division of Capitol Police
News Release

Va. Capitol Police retiring Police K9 "Luca"

Richmond – The Virginia Division of Capitol Police are announcing the retirement of Police Canine Luca after seven years of service, three years of which were in service with the Division of Capitol Police (DCP).

Luca joined DCP in March of 2022 after working with a defense contractor and making several overseas deployments. At the age of 4, Luca joined the Capitol Police and transitioned into a law enforcement role. Luca became the 12th canine to serve on the Explosive Detection K-9 Unit, working alongside his Handler, Officer Sandoval. During his time with the Division, Luca served diligently, conducting nearly 1,800 security sweeps, while helping to ensure the Capitol, other state facilities and surrounding area were a safe environment for visitors, stakeholders and elected officials.

Luca is well known around the State Capitol and the Richmond Area. He exemplifies the values of community policing. Luca has participated in demonstrations for state officials, state employees, and visitors to the Commonwealth, along with attending events such as On the Square and the Dominion Energy Christmas Parade. Luca excelled, working in collaboration with local, state, and federal law enforcement partners, assisting with explosive/firearm sweeps for schools, businesses, marathons, concerts, and dignitary events.

Colonel McKee stated "Retiring a Police K9 is similar to an Officer retiring, I want to proudly recognize Luca's service in public safety as well as his dedication and commitment to protecting the thousands of people that visit the Capitol area each day. Luca will surely be missed; we appreciate his service and wish him well in his retirement. Luca was adopted by a member of the DCP family who is excited to provide him with a loving home".

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