

Tikva, Canine partner of Deborah and Bill Hatherley

On April 26 Bill and Deborah Hatherley, and HOPE for that matter, lost a member of our family. Tikva, aka "Tickles", passed away. She was an 11-year-old golden retriever and had been a member of HOPE for 9 years. She helped start the Southeast region and over the many years she attended numerous HOPE callouts and events. She was an active ambassador for the organization and she represented HOPE wonderfully on many, many occasions. In the past year, she attended meetings with Red Cross, VOAD and emergency managers and other county and state disaster leaders, as well as FEMA and GEMA officials. She also attended HOPE's annual meeting in South Carolina and most recently, in her last callout opportunity, she was traveling to Tennessee to assist people affected by the Brussels bombing when that callout was called off at the last minute. As with all HOPE dogs, she was active in therapy work and often performed 40-50 visits a year. And finally, she was a wonderful, loving little girl who was an integral part of our family. She will be dearly missed. We should mention that we adopted the name Tikva in honor and respect for Cindy Elhers' original HOPE dog that was at 911. We loved the fact the name means "hope" in Hebrew. We believe our little girl certainly added to the positive legacy of the name Tikva in HOPE. As dog people, I am sure all of us have suffered through similar circumstances, losing a dear friend, as have we. We understand the drill and accept it, but it is still so hard. We know she will be joining her brother Brinkley and many other former HOPE dogs, running freely and without pain in great, green fields. We thank HOPE for the opportunities that we have had in this great organization. We cherish the many visits and "starfish stories" we were able to be a part of.