

Memorial proposed for fallen K-9 officer



**Officer Nitro**

Titus County Historical Commission Chairman Steve Austin has submitted a request to Commissioners Court to consider allowing a memorial marker to be placed next to the First Responders Memorial on the courthouse grounds honoring Winfield K-9 Officer "Nitro".

Officer Nitro was killed in the line of duty on July 10, 2009 as he worked a traffic stop on I-30 at the 154 eastbound mile marker with Sgt. Charlie Walker at approximately 2:20 a.m., when he was struck and killed by a truck.

Nitro was two and a half years old and had been working with Walker for more than a year.

Funds for the memorial have already been secured along with the donation from Fitch Memorials/Martus Stone, according to Austin. If approved, the dedication is tentatively scheduled for 10:00 a.m. July 10, 2017 at the East entrance of the Titus County Courthouse, location of the First Responders Memorial.

The Winfield Police Department is in the process of closing and will not be in existence by the time the marker is dedicated, according to Austin.

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**In Loving Memory of**

**K9 NITRO**

**July 10, 2009**



**Handler: Sgt. Charlie Walker  
Winfield Police Department**

**200 Cleveland St  
Winfield, TX 75493  
(903) 524-2020**

### **Winfield drug dog Nitro is killed in line of duty**

Winfield Police officers, along with all area officers, are mourning the death of Nitro, the Winfield drug dog and partner of Sgt. Charlie Walker, who was killed in the line of duty as he worked Interstate Highway 30 Friday morning. "We're just still in shock right now," said Winfield Chief J.R. Reyes. Nitro, a black Labrador Retriever, was working along Interstate Highway 30 at the 154 eastbound mile marker with Walker at approximately 2:20 a.m., when he separated from Walker and, in an apparently youthful burst of enthusiasm, began running along the Interstate.

"He was only 2 and ½ and, really, that's still young for a Lab," said Reyes. It was the wrong time for Nitro to want to run. Charlie was calling him back when Nitro was struck and killed by an 18-wheeler," said Reyes. According to Reyes, Nitro died instantly when he was struck. "It's just devastating for Charlie and for all of us," said Reyes. "Nitro didn't normally do things like that. I mean, yes, he was sometimes hyperactive like most Labs, but he normally didn't behave that way when he was working," Reyes said. Nitro was 2 and ½ years old and had been working with Walker for more than a year.

He and Walker not only worked drug interdiction on the Interstate as part of their duties with the Winfield Police Department, they also assisted the Mount Pleasant Police Department and the Titus County Sheriff's Office when those agencies served search warrants or searched vehicles during traffic stops.

"I don't know for sure how much dope and money was seized or how many people were arrested on felony charges because of Nitro, but I do know he was responsible for a lot of drugs being taken off the streets,"

Reyes said. A memorial service is being planned for Nitro at this time. *submitted by Jim Cortina, Dir. CPWDA*