



CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM™

CMA to Host Retired Sergeant Amputee Injured in Line of Duty

Former New Orleans police sergeant lost her leg and made a connection to Winter

Clearwater, FL (Oct. 12, 2018) – Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) and local law enforcement will honor Sergeant Kristi Bagneris of the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) and her family on Mon., Oct. 15. Bagneris suffered a severe injury in the line of duty which led to her leg being amputated in February 2018.

Bagneris says her three children, ages 12, 10 and 9, have found comfort and inspiration in Winter the dolphin's story of survival and perseverance after losing her tail. She and her husband, a swat officer with NOPD, plan to surprise them with a trip to the aquarium while on vacation in Florida.

"My family has been my rock. For six months, they have supported me during my recovery after my amputation," says Bagneris. "I am excited to see a dream so special to them come true. My children have loved the Dolphin Tale movies for years, and introduced me to Winter's inspiring story when I needed it the most."

The family will meet Winter and Hope, the rescued dolphins, at 11:30 a.m. Local law enforcement will be there to honor the family for their sacrifice. Media advised to arrive at 11 a.m.

Media Details:

- When: Monday, Oct. 15, 2018. Media arrival at 11 a.m.
- Where: Clearwater Marine Aquarium: 249 Windward Passage, Clearwater, FL 33767
- Video and photos available upon request.

Media interested in attending or receiving video/photos, contact Julia Anderson: Janderson@cmaaquarium.org or 727.686.3499.

About Clearwater Marine Aquarium:

Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working marine rescue center dedicated to inspiring the human spirit through leadership in education, research, rescue, rehabilitation and release. CMA is home to rescued dolphins, sea turtles, river otters, stingrays, nurse sharks and more. Winter the dolphin's story of survival, after an injury that caused her to lose her tail, has impacted millions of people around the world. A major motion picture, *Dolphin Tale*, highlighted her life story in 2011. The sequel, *Dolphin Tale 2*, was released in September 2014 and features the incredible story of Hope, a young resident dolphin of CMA. The mission and potential to change people's lives differentiates Clearwater Marine Aquarium from any other aquarium in the world.

WE BELIEVE in preserving our environment while inspiring the human spirit through leadership in the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of marine life, environmental education, research and conservation.

249 Windward Passage | Clearwater, FL 33767 | 727.441.1790 | SeeWinter.com

A Florida non-profit 501(c)(3)