

**Maricopa County Sheriff's Office  
Joe Arpaio, Sheriff**



**WINNING PORTRAIT PENNED BY INMATE CAPTURES  
THE ESSENCE OF "QUEEN"**

August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011

(Phoenix, AZ) The contest is over, a winner has been chosen and the portrait penned by one of Sheriff Joe Arpaio's inmates really is befitting a Queen.

During the last week, thirty four inmates worked diligently from a black and white photo, to capture the essence of a dog many here at the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office came to know and love.

'Queen,' the portly pit bull who served the longest sentence of any canine "inmate" in the Sheriff's MASH unit (Maricopa County Animal Safe House) died earlier this month from complications during liver surgery.

She'd spent eight years of her life inside the First Avenue Jail where she was cared for by inmates and detention personnel. She was incarcerated far longer than her abusive owner, who served only 20 hours in jail for animal cruelty and neglect, a fact that Sheriff Arpaio and others here often lamented.

After her death, staff here wanted to memorialize "Queen," in some permanent way. The Sheriff agreed to the inmate drawing contest.

After photos of 'Queen' were distributed, 34 inmates agreed to participate in the contest. Their reward, if chosen as the winner, was a meal of their choice purchased by the Sheriff himself.

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Phone: (602) 876-1801 Fax: (602) 258-2081

Media Contact: [SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov](mailto:SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov)

Earlier this week, the portraits were narrowed down to 10 finalists. “They were all very, very good,” Arpaio said. “There are a lot of incredibly talented artists sitting over in those jails.”

In the end, Arpaio chose the penciled drawing that he said was the perfect representation of the dog Arpaio made mascot of MASH.

“It’s so good we all thought it was a photograph, not a penciled drawing,” he added.

The winning inmate is Michael Wunsch, (DOB 6-12-77) in for fraudulent schemes. His meal of choice is a grilled steak stuffed burrito and four soft tacos from Taco Bell.

That meal will be purchased with Arpaio’s personal money and the Sheriff will join the inmate for lunch during today’s ceremony, where the winner will be officially named and the portrait will be hung inside MASH.

Media is invited to attend, see all the final drawing entries, as well as meet and talk to the inmate while he dines with the Sheriff. Also present at today’s portrait unveiling will be Queens’ final family, the East Valley veterinarian, Dr. Eva DeCozio, who kindly adopted Queen just months before she died.

**The unveiling will be at 11:30am on Thursday, August 18, 2011(TODAY) at the FIRST AVENUE JAIL MASH UNIT , located at the east end of the courts complex at 120 South First Ave. Contact the on call PIO for entrance into the facility. END**

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003  
Phone: (602) 876-1801 Fax: (602) 258-2081  
Media Contact: [SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov](mailto:SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov)