

The Pride of Safford award is presented to Karen Ramirez-Ragland and her dog Murphy for their loyal and selfless acts of visitation to hospital and care center patients. Karen is a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Dorothy Stinson School who adopted an abandoned mutt (Murphy) and trained and certified him through the Pet Therapy by Love on a Leash.org Program. Murphy's certification is renewed every year through this program. For over two years Karen and Murphy have gone to the care center and hospital to visit patients and show them Murphy's tricks: he puts his paws on their lap or bed, shakes hands, sits, jumps in the air, plays peek a boo, plays dead and spins around; all with hand signals. Karen gives the patients a treat which they give to Murphy. It has been observed that the patients' eyes light up when Karen and Murphy walk into their rooms. Karen's acts of kindness demonstrate that she is truly a person who serves others.