

MERCY'S MEMORIAL SERVICE
Jonnie England

On behalf of all of us at Operation Kindness,
and on behalf of Mercy,
thank you for being with us today.

You all know Mercy's story.
And you've been touched by her plight.
That's why you're here.

We hope this simple service will bring some comfort
to those of you who mourn a little dog you never even met,
as it will to those of us who knew and loved Mercy
during her short time in our care.

The outpouring of love, compassion,
outrage, sympathy and grief,
has been immense—
and unprecedented in Operation Kindness' 30-year history.

Your calls, letters and emails have helped us all as we try to come to terms
with her horrible ordeal...
and her death.

Among the thousands of messages we've received
is one in particular that will always stay with me.

It may have been from one of you.

The message was left anonymously by a sobbing woman who said,
"This has touched me to the core of my heart."

I've been asked several times
just what it was about Mercy
that captured the hearts and hopes of people throughout North Texas,
across the United States,
and in many foreign countries.

I think it's many things—

- the horror of her intentional and malicious abuse.
- The terrible pain she endured.
- The fact that she was just a puppy.

All of these things speak to people who love and care about animals.

But perhaps more than anything else it's the gentleness that was so evident in her beautiful, trusting eyes.

We'll never forget those eyes.

Mercy's gone, and we can't bring her back,
or take away her pain and suffering.
But we can make her life have meaning by making a pledge to her today...
that each and every one of us will do everything in our power
to ensure that no other dog, or cat, or living being will suffer and die from abuse.

Take action. Speak up for the animals.
Don't allow someone to neglect or abuse an animal.
Report animal cruelty whenever and wherever you see it.
Write your elected officials, and demand that laws protecting animals be passed,
and enforced.
Parents, teach your children to be kind to animals, to love and respect them.

If we all do this, at least Mercy will not have died in vain.

And we must do this...for Mercy's sake.