

LIFE notes

LIFE prides itself on helping those in need and for being the champion for those who cannot speak but who enrich our lives and everyday make us a little more... human.

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Victory for Vets Edition



American Veterans Disabled for Life Finally Have Their Day

Upcoming events

At a Veterans Day ceremony almost 20 years ago, I said to then Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the now late Jesse Brown, “We have Veterans Day, complete with all the parades, pomp and pageantry. But, we should also have a day specifically for disabled veterans -- a day for all Americans to show gratitude and support for the men and women who continue to bear the scars of war long after the fighting on the battlefield ends.”

Nearly two decades later, my vision has become a reality for the nation’s four million-plus living disabled American veterans. October 5 each year has been recognized as the day that all Americans should pay special honor to American Veterans Disabled for Life.

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Thursday, February 9

American Humane
Cocktail Party
The Brazilian Court, Palm Beach
Tickets \$250

Wednesday, March 8

American Humane Luncheon
The Mar a Lago Club, Palm Beach
Tickets \$325

To learn more or to donate, visit
www.life-edu.org or call 561.582.8083.

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Our wounded warriors have come home from battle missing arms and legs, blind and burned, and permanently traumatized both physically and emotionally. They left the war but the war will never leave them. Now we have an opportunity each year to recognize their courage, sacrifice and fortitude. I can't thank my friends Lois Frankel, Jeff Miller and all the other member of Congress enough for bringing this day to fruition.

October 5 has special significance to me and disabled veterans across the country as it is the anniversary of the official dedication of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial. I conceived of the memorial 18 years ago as the nation's first and only permanent public tribute to the country's millions of disabled veterans past and present, and spent the next nearly two decades chairing the non-profit authorized by then President Bill Clinton to build and endow it. It was dedicated in a ceremony presided over by President Barack Obama on Oct. 5, 2014.

It has always been my wish that the memorial should serve to educate all of us, and generations to come, that war is not just about bullets, tanks, and I.E.D.s. War is not just about winners and losers, because in essence we all lose something or someone when nations take up arms against other nations, when humans take up arms against their fellow humans.

It is my hope that Americans young and old visit the memorial and learn that the costs of war far transcend dollars and cents. Long after the fighting on the battlefield ends, the fight continues for our disabled veterans as they struggle to reintegrate into their families, their communities, and society at large. We have a national obligation to recognize their service, and we have a moral responsibility to thank them for their sacrifices.

This newly designated day to honor American Veterans Disabled for Life on October 5 will be a day to do just this. It will be a day when we can collectively express our enduring gratitude to these valiant women and men who, despite their frailties and infirmities, strive to live as hard-working, productive citizens, husbands and wives, sons and daughters, fathers and mothers. These brave men and women are forgotten no more!

With Love,

Lois

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