

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.

Issue 38 April 14, 2017

What Do We Owe Our Veterans?



Upcoming events

VA: THE HUMAN COST OF WAR Makes Palm Beach Premier

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LIFE Welcomes New Board Member Dawn Assenzio

Palm Beach philanthropist, executive, and advocate Dawn Assenzio has been appointed to the LIFE Board of Directors.

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Saturday, December 2

LIFE's 24th Annual "Lady in Red"

"Over the Moon" Gala

The Mar a Lago Club, Palm Beach

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

Dear Friends,

My new film, VA: THE HUMAN COST OF WAR, made its Palm Beach premiere at Mar a Lago on April 6, 2017 to a sizeable audience, given momentous security issues caused by to the presence of the Presidents of the United States and China at the Club at the same time. The film, which I created and produced with Ric Burns, a six-time Emmy award winner, touches on the mission of the VA; it's scandals; the level of and access to its medical care; and raises questions about what we, the American people, owe our veterans.

I am proud and honored to have created this film and served as its Executive Producer together with Ric with whom I collaborated on the 2015 PBS film, *Debt of Honor*, about disabled veterans in America.

This new film, the second collaboration between LP LIFE Productions and Steeplechase Films, is a thought-provoking examination of the Veterans Administration - how it cares for our veterans; how it is funded; its often problematic history; its impact on America's healthcare system; and the scandals that caused national headlines related to the many thousands of suicides by veterans who could not gain proper care in a timely basis.

Most importantly it is my wish that this film opens a national discussion on what we as Americans can do to create real and meaningful change in the way our veterans are treated when they return home from serving our country. **Go to the dedicated Facebook page, What Do We Owe Our Veterans, to participate in the conversation.**

A panel discussion. moderated by PBS host Deborah Tornaben, featuring several veterans closed out the evening. Scott Davis, VA Whistleblower; Michael Buemi, Army veteran from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts (ret.); Johnny Castro, U.S. Airforce and Army Sergeant First Class (ret.); and Alex Holt, Army Ranger in the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (ret.), participated in this significant and eye-opening dialogue.

Following the event, Dick Robinson Legends 100.3 FM Founder/Chairman, said to me "Many of us feel helpless however you, Lois, through your efforts, have managed to bring us into causes that have meaning and purpose with serving humanity as the ultimate goal."

I recognize President Trump's strong commitment to the welfare of our more than 30 million veterans and I call on him to join with me to confront the shame of the more than 22 veterans who commit suicide every day, many for lack of timely care from the VA. I stand ready to help the President and am confident that the two of us as well as others similarly concerned can make a difference.

With Love,

Lois

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LIFE Welcomes New Board Member Dawn Assenzio (continued from page 1)



Palm Beach philanthropist, executive, and advocate Dawn Assenzio has been appointed to the LIFE Board of Directors.

Dawn is a member of the American Humane Board of Directors where she serves as secretary. She recently served as the vice chair of the American Humane National Ambassador Council and is Co-Chair of the American Humane Capital Campaign committee. Additionally, she is a key organizer for the organization's K-9 Battle Buddies Luncheon at the Mar-A-Lago Club in Palm Beach, honoring courageous military hero dog teams that have been reunited in recent years.

A passionate advocate for the voiceless, Dawn has worked tirelessly on behalf of American Humane and its nationwide efforts to help animals and veterans. She recently joined American Humane CEO, Dr. Robin Ganzert on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. which led to changes benefiting the armed services' military heroes. Locally, she has worked to promote and bring awareness to the lifesaving work of the Florida-based Lois Pope American Humane Rescue Vehicle, a 50-foot-long truck based locally to rescue animals during times of disaster. She has also volunteered at the Countdown to Zero Palm Beach County pet adoption event, where 313 animals were adopted into loving homes in one day.

Dawn has more than 23 years of experience working at Lockheed Martin. She received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Central Florida in Orlando. Her major was Management. She's a certified AS9100 lead Auditor and licensed real estate associate in Florida. Dawn is an expert in multi-tasking management, problem solving, contract preparation and negotiation. In her last position with the company, she developed company policies and procedures, performed internal audits and improved operations efficiency and cost effectiveness. She has earned her Six Sigma green belt certification, a set of techniques and tools for process improvement used in many industrial sectors. Ms. Assenzio also served on the Sun and Surf Condo Association Common Area Renovation Committee and serves on the Brazilian of Palm Beach Condo Association Beautification Committee. She was the former Vice President of the Brazilian of Palm Beach Condo Association.

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