

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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Pawfect Edition



Upcoming events

Dear Friends:

Over the past few days, I watched two of the most "pawfect" TV shows for any dog lover, like me: the 143rd Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show from the famed Madison Square Garden in New York and the 2nd Annual American Rescue Dog Show on the Hallmark Channel. Both shows were amazing, heartwarming, and tons of fun. In fact, you can say I was so inspired that I felt like I had a new "leash" on life.

Both shows also got me thinking "bach" to another canine-related initiative that always takes a little "bite" out of my heart: American Humane's Annual Hero Dog Awards. The Lois Pope LIFE Foundation is proud to have been the presenting of this event since its inaugural year in 2011, and we are once again serving in this role for this year's program. The nationwide competition searches out and recognizes America's Hero Dogs - often ordinary dogs who do extraordinary things, whether it's saving lives on the battlefield, lending sight or hearing to a human companion, or simply providing the tail-wagging welcome a pet owner relishes at the end of a hard day.

October 5, 2019

2019 Hero Dog Awards Gala
Beverly Hills California
By Invitation Only

January 3, 2020

LIFE's 26th Annual Lady in Red Gala
The Breakers Palm Beach
6:00 pm

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

(Dear Friends continued)

Dogs compete in seven different categories for the Hero Dog Awards:

- ◆ Law Enforcement/Arson Dogs
- ◆ Service Dogs
- ◆ Therapy Dogs
- ◆ Military Dogs
- ◆ Search and Rescue Dogs
- ◆ Guide/Hearing Dogs
- ◆ Shelter Dogs

I still remember being at the very first American Hero Dog Awards ceremony at the Beverly Hilton in Los Angeles. The hundreds of us in the audience rose in applause and tears when the guide dog for the blind Roselle took home the top dog honors. Roselle and his owner were working in the World Trade Center on the 78th floor of Tower One on that fateful day of Sept. 11,

2001 when the jumbo jet crashed into the building. From the outset, Roselle guided and did her job perfectly, taking her owner to the stairwell and traveling down 1,463 stairs. After leaving the building, they were across the street from Tower Two when it collapsed. Despite the dust and chaos, Roselle remained calm and totally focused on her job, guiding her owner to a subway entrance to escape the heavy dust and debris.

Last year's winning pooch was Chi Chi, a quadruple amputee who inspired me and people all over the world. She was left for dead in South Korea where she was found in a garbage bag with her legs bound, worn to the bone. The only way to save her life was to amputate portions of all four. But she was adopted by a family in Arizona and quickly adapted to her first set of custom prosthetics. Then, she was dealt another blow, being diagnosed with cancer. She survived and amazingly, she then spent the rest of her days as a certified Therapy Dog sharing her joy and cheerful demeanor with people of all ages. I and so many others were deeply saddened to learn that Chi Chi died just a few days ago. But she still is an inspiration for the unconditional love that dogs give us and the unbreakable bond between us.

I urge you to go to <http://www.herodogawards.org> and nominate your favorite furry friend who inspires you; nominations are open through Feb. 28. After voting by the American public, winners in each category are flown to Hollywood with their human friends to attend the American Humane Hero Dog Awards Gala in Los Angeles in the fall. There they walk the red carpet, are recognized in video tributes, and mingle with celebrities, both two-legged and four-legged! The 2019 American Hero Dog will then be announced to the world. To me, however, all dogs are heroes!

Love,

Lois

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