

LIFEnotes

HONORING *Our* HEROES

May 2, 2025



Dear Friends:

Did you know that May is both National Military Appreciation Month and National Mental Health Awareness Month?

I tell you this because both designations encapsulate our profoundly impactful work at LIFE. Indeed, for more than a quarter-century, we have magnificently demonstrated our commitment to the men and women of America's Armed Services through our generosity and our energies benefitting veterans, and particularly disabled veterans.

Most notably, of course, this commitment is manifested in the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, the nation's only permanent public tribute to the now four million-plus individuals who continue to carry the physical and psychological scars of war long after the fighting on the battlefield ends. For those of you who joined me and thousands of others in Washington DC for the ceremony, you will



The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial was dedicated on October 5, 2014 to serve an eternal reminder to our country's leaders of the human cost of war.

vividly and proudly recall that the Memorial was dedicated on October 5, 2014, on a bright and beautiful sunny day, appropriate for shining a light on its overarching mission – to serve an eternal reminder to our country's leaders that the human cost of war far exceeds the economic one, and that we have a collective responsibility to ensure that the sacrifices of disabled veterans are never marginalized or forgotten.

There are myriad other efforts we have engendered through our support of these valiant, selfless, and sacrificing individuals. These include a National Day of Recognition for Disabled Veterans every October 5th; the Lois Pope Center for Military Affairs at American Humane; and two acclaimed PBS documentaries that focused on their plight and the struggles they continue to have reintegrating into their families, their professions, their communities, and society at-large, as well as how the Veterans Administration has far too often failed them.

Most recently, we have made a life-saving and life-transforming difference for disabled veterans by allocating proceeds from our annual Lady in Red Gala to Pups4Patriots, our partnership with American Humane that trains dogs, often rescued from shelters, to be Certified Service Dogs and then gives them for free to veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury.

This endeavor has become more and more important and more and more urgent than ever. Studies indicate that between 20% and 30% of Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans – more than 600,000 – have PTSD and upwards of 15% of Vietnam veterans are still dealing with PTSD related issues. And these numbers are most certainly too low because they only represent those veterans who apply for health benefits from the VA; only about 50% of veterans do so.

At the same time, we know now that Service Dogs save lives. Last year, the first National Institutes of Health-funded clinical trial of its kind, led by Dr. Maggie O'Haire of the University of Arizona College of Veterinary Medicine, linked the pairing of service dogs with military veterans to lowered PTSD severity, odds of PTSD diagnosis, and other negative mental health symptoms, and to increased levels of life satisfaction and overall psychological well-being.



Now, as you all know, in addition to being National Military Appreciation Month and National Mental Health Awareness Month, May is also home to Mother's Day. And as you all know, I am a very proud mom, not to mention grandmother. Like so many of you, I look forward to celebrating the second Sunday of the month with my family.

But my family extends to those four million-plus living disabled veterans and all those who have died in the years since I first conceived of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial decades ago. Just as I want the very best for my children and grandchildren, I also want the very best for those men and women who gave us their best in defense of our freedom and ideals. I know you want that, too.

So, I hope that you will continue to support all LIFE's endeavors benefitting disabled veterans, and to show your appreciation for our military – not just during the designated month of May, but throughout the year. We can never say "thank you for your service" enough to them.

And I can never say "thank you" enough to all of you for your kindness, friendship, and generosity.

With Love Always,

Lois





SAVE *the* DATE

LOIS POPE AND LIFE CELEBRATE
LIFE'S 32ND ANNUAL

LADY IN RED GALA

FEBRUARY 7, 2026 ✨ 6PM

THE BREAKERS | PALM BEACH

STARRING THE MOTOWN LEGEND

**SMOKEY
ROBINSON**

AND

COMEDIENNE EXTRAORDINAIRE

RITA RUDNER

*Reserve your tables and sponsorships
early for what promises to be a truly
historic event.*

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