

Cheers! to a New Year of Health, Happiness and Helping Others!



Dear Friends:

When it comes to world leaders, Sir Winston Churchill may have been one of the most quotable. In fact, one of his best, most timely, and relevant as we embark on the year 2026, is this quote about wellness and health, *“Healthy citizens,” he opined, “are the greatest asset any country can have.”*

I couldn't agree more. It's why when I, and I'm sure all of you, greet our loved ones, friends, neighbors, and others when we first see them in January, we say, “best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.”

To fulfill this blessing, we must first acknowledge those courageous individuals who go above and beyond, who put themselves and their lives on the line, who are selfless and steadfast in their determination to secure a happy and healthy life for all of us.



Lois Pope addresses attendees at the dedication of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial in Washington, D.C.

I'm referring to the 4.2 million plus disabled American Veterans living in our midst today. These heroic men and women have sacrificed so much for us, for our freedoms, for our democracy, for creating a safe environment for us to celebrate New Year's – and every other day of the year – and for setting us all on a path to a happy and healthy life.

Far too often, those Veterans come home and are marginalized or forgotten. We see them in wheelchairs because they lost legs and arms, we see them with walking sticks for the blind because they lost their eyesight, we see them with shock on our faces because their faces are covered in burns, we see them struggling with the deep and invisible psychological wounds of war...we see them -- but we don't always SEE them.



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As most of you know, my eyes were fully opened to their plight years ago when I was a Broadway performer participating in a holiday concert at the Rusk Hospital in New York. I was singing “Somewhere” from the megahit show *West Side Story*, and when I came to the line, “Hold my hand and I’ll take you there,” I reached down to take the hand of a man lying on a gurney. Alas, he had no hands for me to hold.

I promised him and the dozens of other men like him at that hospital – all of whom were disabled fighting in Vietnam – that if I ever had the means, I would do something big, something truly tangible to honor them, recognize their sacrifices, and lay the foundation for each to have as happy and healthy a life as possible.

It took many years – decades, actually – but on Oct. 5, 2014, I was proud to once again be on a stage, this time not to sing but to dedicate the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial. Located on a 2.5-acre plot of land 1,000 feet from the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C., the memorial is the nation’s only permanent public tribute to disabled American veterans, past, present, and future.

More than just a staid memorial, it is a stark reminder and a highly visible tool for educating all of us – most notably members of government – that the costs of war go far beyond those for bullets, bombs, tanks, planes, and other equipment. Rather, there are enormous, almost incalculable human costs.

It is those profound human costs that have propelled me to support Magen David Adom. Israel’s national emergency service is committed to helping and improving the lives of all people – ensuring as many happy and healthy lives as possible.

This mission is fully synergistic with what I’ve strived to achieve with all my philanthropic endeavors – to give voice to the voiceless and most vulnerable in our society, no matter who they are, whether they are disadvantaged, marginalized, or forgotten because of disabilities, socio-economic status, neglect, age, abuse, or other barriers to a happy and healthy life.

They are disabled American veterans, and they are hungry and food-insecure children. They are women whose bodies have been disfigured by sexual violence. And they are kids who have difficulty learning because of vision impairment. They are dogs, cats, and other pets who have been lost, abandoned, and displaced by extreme weather catastrophes and severe abuse. And they are men and women whose bodies and minds have been forever altered by spinal cord injuries and other neurological diseases. They are all of them, and so many others who have benefited from our collective generosity and our collective commitment to providing them with a happy and healthy life.

The very word “LIFE” has deep meaning to me. So much so that when I first established my foundations, I put the word in their names. So, there is LIFE, Leaders in Furthering Education; the Lois Pope LIFE Foundation; and the Disabled Veterans LIFE Memorial Foundation, the organization that spearheaded the building of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial.

That same word lies at the foundation of Magen David Adom’s mission. Every ambulance it dispatches in an emergency... every drop of blood it collects for transfusion...every person it saves on the battlefield or after a rocket attack...every baby it delivers – it’s all about LIFE.

So, a few weeks ago, in a beautiful event at my home, I was proud to dedicate the 18th ambulance I’ve donated to Magen David Adom. Actually, I helped donate a second ambulance that day, but I called them 18A and 18B. That’s because in Hebrew, the number 18 is very significant. It is the numerical value of the word “CHAI,” which means “LIFE” in English.

As with all the previous mobile emergency units I’ve donated, I always dedicate them in honor of dear friends of mine who share my vision for making a difference in this world... for giving a happy, healthy life.

These new ones were no exception. I donated one of the ambulances to Magen David Adom’s national director of strategic partnerships, Tami Karu. And for the one I helped to donate, I honored Holly and David Dreman and the Ferder Family in presenting the vehicle to the people of the State of Israel.

In “The Fiddler on the Roof,” one of the greatest Broadway musicals of all time, there is a wonderful song of celebration called “L’Chaim – To Life.” That is what the new year 2026 is all about.

So, to all of you, I wish you: “L’Chaim – To A Happy and Healthy Life!”

And, of course,

Love always,

Lois



Lois donated an ambulance in honor Magen David Adom’s national director of strategic partnerships, Tami Karu and helped donate an ambulance in honor of Holly and David Dreman.

Lois Pope Gives the Gift of Life to Magen David Adom







COME TO LIFE'S
MASQUERADE BALL

AT THE 32ND ANNUAL

LADY IN RED GALA

**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 7, 2026**

**6PM
THE BREAKERS PALM BEACH**

SOLD OUT!

EXTRAORDINAIRE
RITA RUDNER

Guests will also enjoy the Palm Beach Symphony performing Broadway hits during cocktails, a gourmet dinner, a towering ice cream sundae dessert, and dancing to music by the Legends Band.

Reserve your tables and sponsorships early for what is always THE social philanthropic event of the entire Palm Beach season!

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