

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 every day make us a little more ... human.*

June 1, 2022

The Life and Liberty Edition



Dear Friends,

In my hometown of Philadelphia sits the Liberty Bell, perhaps the most iconic symbol of America's Independence, an everlasting representation of the freedoms we all enjoy and cherish.

In my adopted hometown here in Florida sits another Liberty Belle, this one with black fur, four legs, and a wet nose. And while she may not be as famous (yet) as her namesake, she also represents independence and freedom.

That's because this Liberty Belle is a Black Labrador Retriever who is being trained as a service and therapy dog for a military veteran afflicted by Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). She is one of several dogs in the acclaimed Pups4Patriots program, an initiative under the umbrella of the Lois Pope Center for Military Affairs at American Humane that LIFE has supported with proceeds from our annual Lady in Red Gala.

Pups4Patriots will again be a beneficiary of proceeds from our upcoming 29th Annual Lady in Red Gala on March 26, 2023, at The Breakers, starring globally-renowned superstar Paul Anka and America's queen of comedy, Rita Rudner.

As with the last few years, proceeds will also support the Lois' Food4Kids program at the Palm Beach County Food Bank.

This past Lady in Red was our most successful to date; it was sold out months in advance, so I urge you to contact me about tickets, tables, and sponsorships as soon as possible so you don't miss out on the action.



Lois Pope and Liberty Belle

As you may recall, Pups4Patriots takes dogs – many of whom are languishing in shelters – and gives them 12-18 months of very specialized training at one of the American Humane centers in eight states to become Certified Service and Therapy Dogs. These courageous canines are then given for free to veterans suffering from the invisible wounds of war, from PTSD to Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and military sexual assault trauma.

Long after the fighting on the battlefield ends, these American heroes continue to fight to readjust and reassimilate into their families, communities, and professional and home lives.

A minimum of 20% of veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars, 12% of Gulf War veterans, and nearly 300,000 Vietnam veterans are afflicted with devastating and life-altering PTSD, TBI, and psychological disabilities related to military sexual assault. And these numbers – while startling – are probably far below the actual cases because they only reflect those veterans who seek help through the Veterans Administration. It is no surprise, but cause for great alarm, 20 veterans take their own lives every day.

Clearly, the need to train more Pups4Patriots dogs is immediate and essential. These dogs, like Liberty Belle, can make a life-saving and life-altering difference for these veterans. Indeed, there is a large body of peer-reviewed scientific evidence on the benefits of service dogs to veterans with PTSD, including relieving stress, lessening anxiety, mitigating depression, and decreasing reliance on drugs and alcohol. I am proud and privileged to be sponsoring Liberty Belle's training. Now is the perfect time to do so because June is National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month.

The waitlist of veterans with PTSD and other psychological scars of war, who are in desperate need of service and therapy dogs, is a long one. You – LIFE's dearest friends and longtime supporters – can help shorten this list through your participation in our Annual Lady in Red Gala. Moreover, in the case of shelter dogs, the pairing with a veteran builds an unwavering bond that facilitates their collective healing and recovery. Without a doubt, your support of the Gala – buying tickets, tables, and sponsorships -- will be saving lives at both ends of the leash!

I thank you in advance for your continued generosity. I wish you a happy summer and I look forward to seeing you at the next Lady in Red Gala.

Love,

Lois...

and Liberty Belle 



SAVE THE DATE
LOIS POPE AND THE BOARD OF LIFE
PROUDLY PRESENT LIFE'S 29TH ANNUAL
LADY IN RED GALA

STARRING
**GLOBAL SUPERSTAR
PAUL ANKA**

AND FEATURING
**QUEEN OF COMEDY
RITA RUDNER**

**MARCH 26, 2023
THE BREAKERS, PALM BEACH**

Please reserve your tickets early
as our previous gala sold out!
Email life@life-edu.org, call 561.582.8083,
or visit www.life-edu.org

Proceeds benefit:
Disabled Veterans through American Humane's
"Pups4Patriots" Program and South Florida youth through
Palm Beach County Food Bank's "Lois' Food4Kids" Program

**For more information,
visit www.life-edu.org or call 561-582-8083.**