

*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.*

A Royal Tribute Special Edition



September 14, 2022

Dear Friends:

Like many of you, I was deeply saddened by the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. My sadness is not like the intense sorrow I would feel for a close family member – after all, I did not know her personally. Rather, it is because of what she represented: a life of purpose, a life of leadership, a life of humanitarianism.

Indeed, over the years, and certainly over the past few days, we've all seen the film clips of the then Princess, just 21 years of age at the time, pledging in a 1947 TV broadcast to "devote my life, whether it be short or long," to service.

And as King Charles, III maintained in his first speech as the new head of the Royal Family, "that was more than a promise: it was a profound personal commitment which defined her whole life..."

Consider that the Queen was a patron of more than 600 charities during her 70-year reign. She helped raise over \$2 billion – more than any other monarch in history – for countless non-profit organizations, including those promoting education, hospitals, health care, disaster response and relief, children's welfare, military veteran assistance, the British Red Cross, and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Perhaps I feel a bit of kinship with her because her causes of choice are synergistic with those that I – and all of us at LIFE – hold so near and dear to our hearts. Without a doubt, our collective philanthropy has greatly benefitted:

- disabled veterans, through the national American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial;
- people with spinal cord injury, through the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis at the Lois Pope LIFE Center;
- abused animals and those who have been abandoned, displaced, or lost during extreme weather catastrophes, through American Humane – where our generosity also supports Pups4Patriots, taking dogs out of shelters and training them to be service and therapy dogs for veterans with PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury;
- children from underserved communities who are experiencing hunger and food insecurity through the Palm Beach County Food Bank;
- refugee children from Ukraine in desperate need of food and healthcare through Save the Children;
- those who aspire to go to medical school and become primary care physicians in low-income, under-represented areas of the country, through City College scholarships...all this, and so much more.

Perhaps I also feel kinship with the Queen as a woman. It is no secret that women have historically faced greater barriers than men in fully participating in society and in leadership. When young Elizabeth inherited the Crown, there were many who doubted she was ready and many more who thought her ascension to the Throne was going to be disastrous. Needless to say, she proved them all wrong, becoming arguably the most accomplished and admired leader in the entire world!

I vividly recall the naysayers when I first proposed the creation of the nation's first and only permanent public tribute to disabled American veterans. Who was I, a woman – and one with no military background and no real Washington DC connections– to have the chutzpah to take on such a daunting campaign? The fact is, I proved them wrong -- thanks in large measure to all of you who rallied to my side and supported this project through to its completion in 2014.

It has been said: "In the end, it's not how many days you live that counts, it's how you lived those days."

Yes, Queen Elizabeth lived many days – 96 years' worth. But it is how she lived those days that will be her true legacy. Her dedication and devotion to her family, her people, and her country never wavered in good times and in challenging times, in times of celebration and in times of sadness, in times of peace and in times of war. And as King Charles said: "the affection, admiration and respect she inspired became the hallmark of her reign."

My wish is that all of us live many days. But I also wish that we continue to live all of them filled with an abiding commitment to make a difference. And like Queen Elizabeth, when we eventually pass, our legacy will be that we left this world a better, more humane place and that by doing so, we have inspired affection, admiration, and respect from many future generations.

As always with love,

Lois



