

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

Issue 27, April 25, 2016

American Hero Edition



Star Board Member of the Month

Upcoming events



Soula & Rick
Rifkin

Soula Rifkin, our Star Board Member of the Month, lives her life guided by the principle that it is just as important, if not more important, to do good as it is to do well. This is reflected in her commitment and passion for our work here at LIFE.

Of course, LIFE is not the only beneficiary of Soula's largesse. She has served on committees for the Vera Bradley Foundation, Big Brothers/Big sisters, Old Bags, and American Heart Association. She has also been a Board

member of the Fort Wayne (Indiana) Museum of Art and Canterbury School, and currently serves on the Board of the Fort Wayne chapter of Blessings in a Backpack, which provides meals on the weekends to underprivileged children in the Fort Wayne school system.

Soula grew up in Fort Wayne after immigrating to the United States from her native Greece. She received a Social Work degree from Purdue University and met her husband Rick while working for a social services agency. They married in 1985 and have two daughters, Illana and Alexandra.

September 10, 2016

American Humane Association
Sixth Annual Hero Dog Awards
Sponsored by
the Lois Pope LIFE Foundation
Los Angeles, California

December 3, 2016

LIFE's "Lady in Red" Gala
"Speakeasy"
Starring the Empress of Soul,
Gladys Knight
The Mar a Lago Club
By Invitation

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

People

**AFTER SERVING 50 MISSIONS TOGETHER,
SOLDIER ADOPTS WAR DOG PAL**
BY AMY JAMIESON

The dog's name, Bond, says it all.

Staff sergeant Justin was reunited on Saturday with the military working dog who served beside him on 50 missions and three deployments to Afghanistan.

According to the Star-Telegram, who reported the story, the sergeant – whose last name is being withheld because the soldier is still involved in sensitive operations until he is discharged this fall – was reunited with the Belgian Malinois thanks to help from the American Humane Association which has reunited 23 soldiers with their former military working dogs.

Bond had been working as a police dog with the Pine Mountain Police Department in Georgia since Christmas. The Lois Pope Life Center for Military Affairs gave the department \$10,000 to fund a replacement for the dog so that Justin could formally adopt him.

“I really would like to thank the American Humane Association, Lois Pope and the Pine Mountain Police Department for reuniting me with Bond,” Justin said. “It’s pretty awesome.”

Justin's longtime girlfriend Sarah told the Star-Telegram that her boyfriend just wasn't the same without Bond in his life.

“The day they were separated and he was adopted out of Justin's unit, it was heartbreaking,” she said. “It was the same relationship like any pet owner but obviously even more of a relationship because of what they had been through in combat in the past. For me, it was very difficult to watch. Typically, a military guy, Justin really doesn't wear his emotions on his sleeves, but I definitely noted he was sad in missing his buddy.”

It took two months for the American Humane Association to orchestrate the reunion, which Justin found out about a few weeks ago. Even though Bond had been working with the police department for just four months, he bonded with people there, too.

“It's kind of bittersweet, but I understand the sacrifice the gentlemen do for our country,” said officer Brad Harrell, who opened his home to Bond while he was on the force. “He was overseas with him and he deserves to be with his dog.”

To see a video of Justin and Bond visit:
<http://www.peoplepets.com/2016/04/05/article/soldier-adopts-war-dog-he-served-50-missions-video>

Dear Friends of LIFE,

The heartwarming and inspiring story presented in the People magazine article (left) is a beautiful manifestation of the goals of the new Lois Pope LIFE Center for Military Affairs at American Humane Association. The Center aims to build a more humane world for those who protect us - our military heroes, human and canine. All of us associated with LIFE should take great pride in knowing we are part of this remarkable and necessary effort to serve those who have served us with such honor.



Lois Pope
and 2015 Hero Dog
of the Year Harley

At the same time, reuniting battle buddies here at home is but one of an array of initiatives that now falls under the auspices of the new Center. In addition, the Center will provide: access to free specialty veterinary care for all retired military dogs; care packages to be sent to active duty military so that they have vital necessities and a taste of the comforts of home; service and therapy dogs to help returning veterans cope with the hidden wounds of war; warm, playful and living therapy dogs and other animals for children of military families; and trained volunteers from the veterans community who can mobilize on the ground during times of natural disasters, animal cruelty cases and other emergencies here at home.

In short, the Center enables American Humane to continue its 100-year legacy on behalf of serving our nation's military heroes -- protecting those who protect us on the battlefields and on the home front - on both ends of the leash.

With much love,

Lois

Founder &
President of LIFE

Follow Lois:

