

PATRIOTPAWS

SERVICE DOGS



ON THE ROAD TO **101**

When WWII Army veteran Sgt. Norval “Nick” Nichols told everyone not to buy him gifts for his 99th birthday but to donate to Patriot PAWS Service Dogs instead, he started a tradition because he did it again for his 100th. Sgt. Nick celebrated turning 100 in March with a party given by his daughter Cheryl. A total of 14 family members, including sons David and Jim, traveled from various parts of the country to join Nick and Cheryl making that the first time ever that all 16 had been together. Longevity definitely runs in the family because Nick’s sisters Agnes and DonnaSue, both in their 90s, were there to wish their big brother



a happy 100th. Patriot PAWS was also in attendance and surprised Nick with the news that a **puppy was being named “Sgt. Nick” in his honor.** Puppy Sgt. Nick is currently at the prison in Gatesville receiving his first round of training from our inmate trainers.

The motto of Sgt. Nick’s regiment all those years ago was “Never Give Up” which Nick went on to adopt as his motto for life. (His regiment’s amazing service story was featured on the cover of our Summer 2016 newsletter.) Sgt. Nick is a shining example of what has been dubbed “The Greatest Generation”, and Patriot PAWS is proud to call him our friend.



gofundmeTM

SGT. NICK already has plans to make his 101st birthday another Patriot PAWS fundraiser, but in the meantime, if you would like to help him help his fellow veterans, you can visit his GoFundMe page at WWW.GOFUNDME.COM/SGTNICK100 or designate any other form of donation with “Sgt. Nick.”



LETTER FROM LORI

I am very proud of the fact that Patriot PAWS has met and maintains the strict criteria to be fully accredited by Assistance Dogs International. There are many organizations and individuals who claim to be service dog trainers who turn out inadequately trained dogs often at a cost of thousands of dollars to the recipient. A poorly trained dog being presented as a service dog can cause problems in public as well as be unable to provide the support needed by the recipient. Currently, the service dog industry is not regulated, and although the Texas legislature showed bipartisan support this past session to change that, it failed to be heard in committee and now must wait until the next session. Pets in vests are not service dogs and shouldn't be presented as such, and people who do so are harming the public's perception of what a true service dog is and are doing a great disservice to everyone who relies upon one.

SPOTLIGHT

ON INMATE TRAINERS:

In 2008, Patriot PAWS partnered with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to create an inmate dog trainer program. Today there are on average 30–35 participants including female inmates from the Crain and Lane Murray Units in Gatesville and male inmates from the Boyd Unit in Fairfield. These inmates provide valuable dog training that benefits both Patriot PAWS and the inmates themselves. Many use their knowledge and skills to work in dog-related fields after being paroled, and the recidivism rate of the

participants is far lower than the state average. The Boyd trainers train rescue dogs to become PTSD dogs, while the Crain and Lane Murray trainers focus on the full-service mobility dogs from their initial training as puppies to customizing their specialized skills at the time of placement with a veteran. Inmates who wish to participate must apply and go through a rigorous approval process, and once approved, must maintain a clean record to remain in the program. To all of our inmate trainers... **THANK YOU!** We couldn't do it without you!



ELI'S CORNER

Summer is one of my favorite times of the year. With Memorial Day kicking off the season and Fourth of July celebrations close behind, folks just seem to be more patriotic in the summer. But as you shop the sales and attend the events, take a moment to remember what these holidays are really all about.

From the Revolutionary War to today, untold numbers of brave men and women fought and died to achieve and maintain our country's freedom. We remember them with gratitude on Memorial Day and celebrate our nation's birthday on July 4th, but why limit patriotism to a couple of days a year? Any day...see a veteran, thank a veteran...because it was that person and all of their brothers and sisters in uniform, past and present, who gave us the many freedoms that we enjoy every day. The price of freedom is never free, and they paid the price for us all.

So, celebrate America this summer, but then let's keep that Fourth of July spirit going year-round because patriotism, like gratitude, should never be out of season.

Until next time, dear friends.

Eli





VETERAN ADAM ALMQUIST & GATOR

US Navy veteran Adam Almquist of Texas served in the Gulf War era with the USMC as an FMF hospital corpsman. During his service, Adam sustained a major back injury as well as a traumatic brain injury that causes him to have epileptic seizures. He has also been diagnosed with PTSD.

In April 2017, Adam received service dog Gator, a male white Lab, at a graduation held at the prison in Gatesville. According to Adam, "Gator started helping me the day I brought him home. He helps me with my mobility issues, (and) we are currently working on Gator to remind me when it's time to take my seizure medication. It is very important that he goes to get me help when I need it. Every day together we find new ways for him to help me."



VETERAN MICHAEL LAMMEY & STAN

US Navy MM1 (SW) Michael Lamme of Texas served on board the USS Frank Cable AS-40 in Guam where he operated the ship's main propulsion boilers. Michael was severely burned in a boiler accident which resulted in a great loss of mobility and initially a complete dependency upon his family during his many surgeries and long and painful recovery. He has also been diagnosed with PTSD.

In April 2017, Michael received service dog Stan, a male chocolate Lab, at a graduation held at the prison in Gatesville. According to Michael, "I wanted to take my recovery to the next level...I fought to become more independent to relieve the burden I had placed on my family, and... with the advanced training of Mr. Stan, I can now depend on him to help me with the tedious tasks that my family used to have to help me with. My family can finally stand down...because I now have a buddy that loves to help and look after me!"



VETERAN CHRIS NUNNERY & PAPI

US Army SSG Christopher Nunnery of Texas served in Iraq in the Military Police. He conducted a multitude of missions and was severely injured by shrapnel in Samarra during a firefight when an RPG hit the door of his Humvee. Chris has mobility issues and vertigo from a traumatic brain injury and anxiety and depression from PTSD.

In April 2017, Chris received service dog Papi, a male chocolate Lab, at a graduation held at the prison in Gatesville. According to Chris, "With Papi, I don't have to watch my back as much anymore because he now has it. Papi doesn't sleep much at night, he watches me and makes sure I wake up out of my nightmares. When he helps me get up in the morning, I am already much happier and in a better mood. I am not so bitter anymore. Thank you just isn't enough."



VETERAN WALLY SILGUERO & IZZY

US Army PFC Guadalupe (Wally) Silguero of Texas served in Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Wally was a Paratrooper (Airborne) and Telecommunications Center Operator whose job was to decrypt encrypted top-secret information and relay it to high-ranking officers. Wally has been diagnosed with severe PTSD and suffers from panic attacks, anxiety and hyper-vigilance which makes it difficult for him to leave home and be in public places.

In April 2017, Wally received service dog Isabel (Izzy), a female yellow Lab, at a graduation held at the prison in Gatesville. According to Wally, "Izzy is an amazing service dog, team mate and best friend. She helps me to feel more at ease with anxiety and my surroundings. She...is always very close to me as if to tell me she is there. I love Izzy's 'happy ears' whenever she sees me. I can't say thank you enough to Patriot PAWS for giving me my life back."

CHECK OUT OUR NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE

WE THINK YOU'LL LIKE IT! WWW.PATRIOTPAWS.ORG

THANK YOU!

- **TO SERVICE DOGS FOR HEROES** for sponsoring our April graduation at the prison in Gatesville! Service Dogs For Heroes works to connect high-quality service dogs to deserving veterans through a network of partner providers, and Patriot PAWS is proud to be a partner provider in the Service Dogs For Heroes network.
- **TO THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST ANDREW** for hosting a charity golf tournament in May benefitting Patriot PAWS! This was the 6th year for the tournament but the first at the beautiful Firewheel Golf Park in Garland. We'd also like to thank the approximately 140 golfers for participating as well as all the hard-working volunteers and Firewheel Golf Park for making this wonderful event possible.



LOOKING AHEAD

- **NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY: 09-14-17.** Please put this date on your calendar and be a part of the event by making your donation to Patriot PAWS Service Dogs. You don't have to live in Texas to participate. Info at: www.northtexasgivingday.org.
- **PATRIOT PAWS BRICK YARD COMING THIS FALL!** We will begin offering engraved bricks to honor or memorialize your loved ones, both two-legged and four-legged, which will be installed as part of a walkway behind our facility. What a unique gift for everyone on your Holiday gift list! Details coming in our Fall 2017 newsletter.



NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2016 SPRING 2016 FALL 2016

PATRIOTPAWS SERVICE DOGS

NEVER GIVE UP

JOURNEY

BY RAISING PUPPIES

WANT TO READ our Summer 2016 cover story about Sgt. Nick and his regiment's amazing service in WWII or catch up on any previous newsletter issues that you may have missed? Just go to www.patriotpaws.org and click on News/Newsletters. There you'll find every issue dating back to our very first in 2011. Read how we've grown!

• 972-772-3282 •

Consider today what you can do to help us help them...



"The atmosphere here is unreal and reinforces the fact of how great it is to be an American veteran! What is really amazing is how the commitment of Patriot PAWS never ends. They are here forever for each veteran who receives one of their great animals..." — Arlie Matthews, 2016 Graduate

PLEASE DONATE TODAY

- We accept all major credit cards on our website at www.patriotpaws.org
- Cash, checks and money orders by mail or in person. **Address: 254 Ranch Trail Rockwall, TX 75032**

ALSO CONSIDER:

- Setting up a recurring donation
- Honoring or memorializing someone
- Matching your employee's donation
- Pledging for a 3-year period
- Becoming a PAWS ambassador

- Conducting a fundraiser
- Volunteering or becoming a puppy raiser
- If you are a Federal employee, you may make donations using our CFC# 35710
- Every time you shop at www.smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate .5% of the purchase price to Patriot PAWS at no cost to you.