

# PATRIOTPAWS

SERVICE DOGS



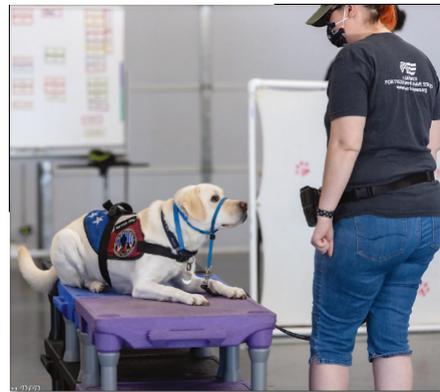
## BOOT CAMP PATRIOT PAWS STYLE

When we give a veteran a service dog, that's only the beginning of our relationship with that veteran/service dog team. Our trainers are always available to answer questions, assist with concerns and, if the need arises, provide refresher training for the team. Since this additional training takes a back-to-basics approach, we call it boot camp.

Handling a service dog in public requires a great deal of confidence in both the veteran and the dog, and sometimes, a team may find themselves a bit "off". Going through refresher training such as they were given when they were first matched as a team can help them both get back to where they need to be. If the timing happens to coincide with a graduation, they can join the veterans just receiving their dogs who are being taught all the basics of service dog handling, or if not, they can schedule a time to come to the training center to work with the trainers on their own. Those who have opted for boot camp have found the additional training to be just what they needed.

Rod did not feel as confident as he would have liked in handling his service dog, Austin, and was concerned that it was affecting Austin's behavior. "I felt that I couldn't deal with it on my own." They joined in on a graduation, and the boot camp training they received there helped

Rod become more confident in his handling of Austin and helped Austin to overcome his behavior problems so they



could once again successfully work together as a team.

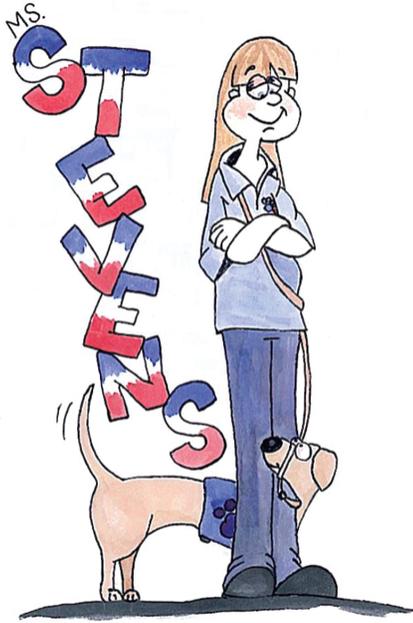
Rebekkah and her dog, Reba, also attended boot camp at a graduation. After staying at home so much because of the pandemic, Reba became reactive to

other dogs when they finally started venturing out again. Our trainers worked with Reba to mitigate her behavior, and now, she and Rebekkah are happily back on track. Rebekkah says, "It's good to know that we can always come back. We had to drive 9 hours, but it was well worth the trip."

Don also took his dog, Axle, to a graduation boot camp to address some problems they were having. They had not been getting out much because of COVID concerns, and coupled with Don's health issues, the team found itself in need of what Don called a "tune-up". "It worked. The trainers were all terrific and went above and beyond to get Axle and me back up to speed. I appreciate them all so much. It was the next best thing to getting my dog."



No veteran is ever on their own after receiving a service dog from Patriot PAWS. The day they were matched with their dog, they became a part of the Patriot PAWS family and, just like any family, we are always here for them if they need us. *It's what families do.*



## LETTER FROM LORI

It's always hard to lose a friend, especially one who did so much for you over the years. Bill Cecil was that kind of friend.

Bill did many things in his life, including serving our country in the United States Air Force, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel, and later serving as mayor of Rockwall. He was also a long-time board member of Patriot PAWS and was instrumental in our growth, especially in assisting us in the realization of our state-of-the-art kennels facility. We would not be where we are today without his leadership.

Bill also loved our dogs, especially Jazz, our now-retired demo dog. In fact, I think he'd drop by to see her more than me! And he delighted in bringing his family by to see and play with our new puppies.

It was truly my honor to have known Bill Cecil, both professionally and personally. Bill, my friend, you will be missed!

# SPOTLIGHT

## On Patriot PAWS of Aggieland



Since its beginning in 2013, our fully accredited student puppy raiser program at Texas A&M University has grown into an invaluable and integral part of our training process. The dogs in training are regularly rotated among the A&M puppy raisers, the DFW Area puppy raisers, the TDCJ inmate trainers and the training center in Rockwall.

Patriot PAWS Assistant Training Director, Cindy Sutton, reports that there are currently a total of 210 students in the program, 115 who are trained puppy raisers. At any given time, 35-40 of our dogs live there with the students, rotating among them. Active participants must attend regular training classes at our satellite campus in College Station, where many of them become lifelong friends. After graduation, several have even gone on to join the Patriot PAWS staff.

A great big **THANK YOU** to all the student participants, past and present. We couldn't do it without you!

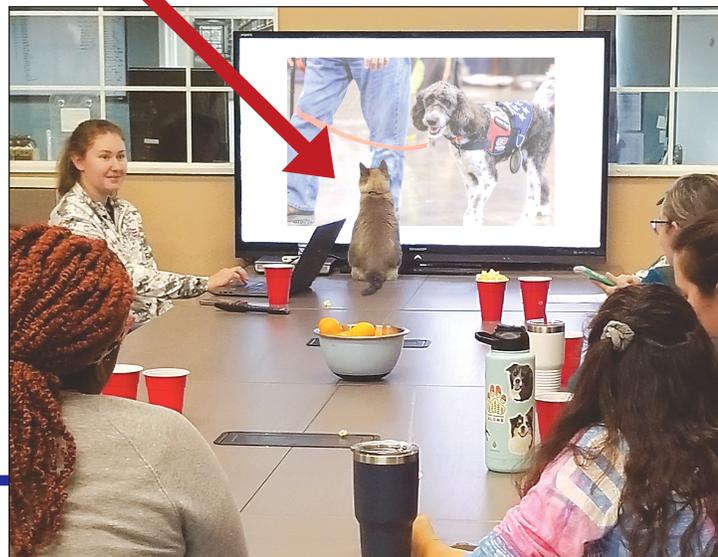
## Eli's Corner

Even a seasoned dog trainer like myself can use a little refresher course now and then. For the past 12 years, I've trained dogs here at Patriot PAWS, trained my apprentice, Leo, to become a dog trainer like myself and even trained a few people to like cats who thought they didn't. Not like *ME*? Impossible!

But seriously, sometimes I sit in on trainer meetings just to make sure that I'm current on all of our methods. We use only positive reinforcement to train our dogs, so they never know anything but patience and understanding. Their work is presented to them as a game with a reward when done correctly. They are never scolded or punished in any way, so their confidence in themselves and trust in humans are never compromised, only reinforced. I think we'd all benefit from treating each other that way, don't you?

Until next time,  
dear friends.

*Eli*

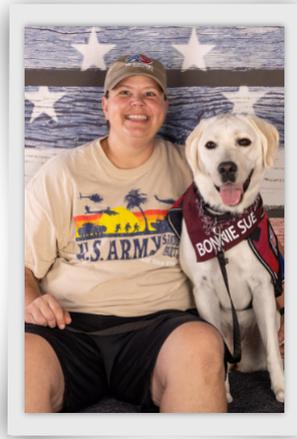




**JOE & KOKO**

Army CW4 **Joe** served for 22 years, including 2 deployments to Afghanistan and one tour in the Balkans. He was an aviation maintenance technician.

At the Fall 2021 Graduation, Joe received service dog **Koko**, a female black Lab. Joe says, “When Patriot PAWS blessed me with Koko, it was like finding the missing puzzle piece to my family. She is such a joy to wake up to! She is very intelligent, loyal and a hard worker. Koko has made such a positive impact in so many ways. I wish I had her long ago!”



**STACY & BONNIE SUE**

Army SPC **Stacy** served in both the Army National Guard and the Army for a total just short of 12 years, including a deployment to Iraq. She worked in transportation running supplies as a PLS machine gunner and driver.

At the Fall 2021 Graduation, Stacy received service dog **Bonnie Sue**, a female yellow Lab. Stacy says, “Bonnie Sue is a wonderful companion and friend. She amazes me daily at the ways she can push past my depression and anxiety to bring me back to her in the present. I’m glad Bonnie Sue chose me to rescue.”



**RAMON & TINK**

Army SPC **Ramon** served for 4 years, including a deployment to Afghanistan. He worked as a 92 Alpha supply warehouse specialist.

At the Fall 2021 Graduation, Ramon received service dog **Tink**, a female yellow Lab. Ramon says, “The wait was worth it. Now that my symptoms are eased, I decided to go back to school. It is challenging, but Tink calms me down. She even calmed my 10-month-old crying baby by giving her one of her dog toys and lying beside her. Tink made a huge difference in my life. Now I can enjoy and spend time with my family.”



**GARY & DEREK**

USMC Sgt **Gary** served for 8 years, including 2 tours in Vietnam, where he was shot twice. He later underwent 2 heart surgeries to mitigate the effects of Agent Orange exposure.

In 2011, Gary received his first Patriot PAWS service dog, Memphis, but sadly, Memphis passed away in early 2021. The loss of a service dog is devastating, and Patriot PAWS strives to provide

another dog as soon as the veteran is ready. At the Fall 2021 Graduation, Gary received his second service dog, **Derek**, a male English Lab. Memphis left some big paw-prints to fill, but we’re confident that Derek will fill them well.

A very special **THANK YOU** to Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers for raising \$35,000 for Patriot PAWS in honor of the late actress and animal activist, Betty White. On what would have been Ms. White’s 100th birthday, Raising Cane’s launched a 2-week online fundraising campaign, making a donation itself and asking its customers to donate to Patriot PAWS, to name a puppy “Betty” after Ms. White. This is the 5th Patriot PAWS puppy sponsored by Raising Cane’s. Thank you, Founder and Co-CEO Todd Graves and Raising Cane’s customers, for sponsoring puppy Betty!





## CARRY THE LOAD Who Are You Carrying?

Patriot PAWS is honored to once again be selected as a non-profit partner of Carry The Load for 2022. Started as a memorial march in Dallas in 2011 by 2 veteran U.S. Navy SEALs to bring awareness to the general public about the true meaning of Memorial Day, Carry The Load has grown into a nationwide relay covering 20,000+ miles across all lower 48 states in 32 days culminating in Dallas on Memorial Day. To find out more about Carry The Load and its mission, go to [www.carrytheload.org](http://www.carrytheload.org), and to reach our Patriot PAWS Carry The Load team page, scan the QR Code below.



**PATRIOTPAWS**  
SERVICE DOGS

### Missing any newsletters?

No worries, all of our previous issues are archived on our website. Just go to [patriotpaws.org](http://patriotpaws.org) and click on News/Newsletters. You'll see all the good news about our mission and how you help us serve our veterans.



### IN MEMORIAM

Patriot PAWS Family Members:

Bill Cecil, long-time Board member

Charles Trask, Veteran

Lily, service dog of Veteran Harry Goad

Tyler, retired service dog

*Earth has no sorrow that  
Heaven cannot heal.*

*— Author Unknown*

**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](http://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 Patriot 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](http://www.smile.amazon.com), Amazon will donate .5% of the purchase price to Patriot PAWS at no cost to you.