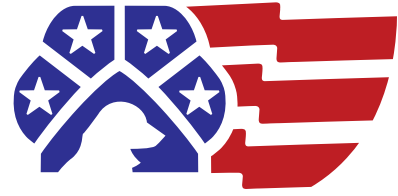


# PATRIOTPAWS

SERVICE DOGS



## PAW PRINTS ON OUR HEARTS

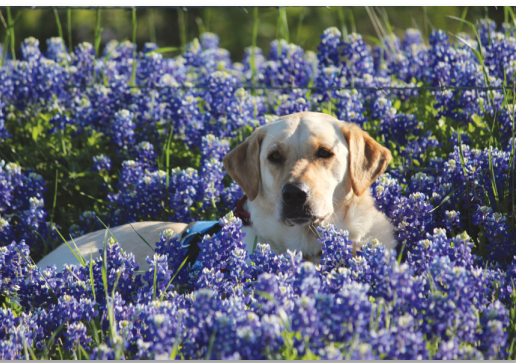
It is with heavy hearts that we report the loss of two of our four-legged staff members: Jazz, retired demo dog, and Eli, feline dog trainer.

**Jazz** became primary demo dog after the retirement of her predecessor, Founding Dog, Beau. During her career, Jazz demonstrated to countless people the many things a Patriot PAWS service dog can do, and along the way, she and her handler, Lori Stevens, also had some adventures.



Most notably, Jazz met former President George W. Bush twice, rode on a float in the Tournament of Roses Parade and even had a photo of Lori and her displayed on an electronic billboard in Times Square after Patriot PAWS was selected as the Hunting Art Prize charity.

After she retired, Jazz still came to work with Lori and new demo dog, Pierce. Ever the canine first lady of Patriot PAWS, she established herself as the official door greeter, welcoming old friends and new to the training center with her signature hula-style tail wag.

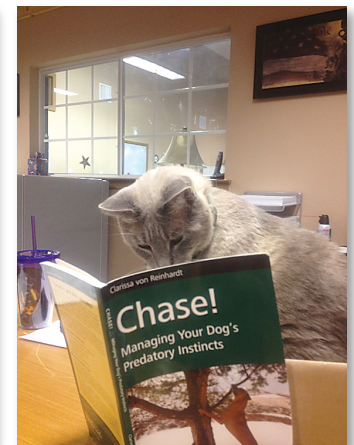


**Eli**, our first feline dog trainer, came to Patriot PAWS in 2010 after being found outside asleep with two dogs. The dogs' owner called Lori and offered her "a cat who thinks he's a dog". Since Lori had just learned that one of our placed service dogs had chased a cat, she took the opportunity to add feline tolerance to the training curriculum.

Eli was indeed no ordinary cat. During his career at Patriot PAWS, he visited our prison program in Gatesville to help with the training, and he rode in the Patriot PAWS vehicle in the Dallas Veterans Day Parade. Plus, he had his own newsletter column, "Eli's Corner".



Eli never met a canine, or a human, he didn't like. And no one, even the most ardent "dog person", could resist his charm. He had an "old soul" way about him, as if he possessed a quiet wisdom that transcended species. Those who knew him through his newsletter persona were amused by a cat living in a dog's world, but the staff and volunteers who knew him personally considered him a friend. Quite simply, to know Eli was to love him.



Many tears have been shed over losing Jazz and Eli, and anyone who has ever loved and lost a four-legged friend will understand that, even though now gone, their paw prints will remain forever on our hearts.

*Rest in peace, Jazz and Eli. Job well done.*



**LETTER FROM LORI**

What can I say about Jazz? To say that she was a special dog or that I loved her very much just isn't enough. And smart? Her ability to learn was outstanding. She even learned to "drive" a tractor at a Jacobsen Tractor demo we did in San Diego, turning the steering wheel both left and right while getting her picture taken by the delighted crowd.

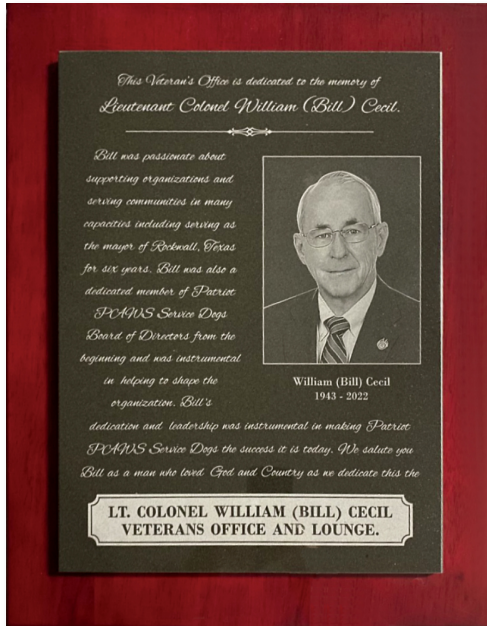
I think the most important thing, though, is not anything that I taught Jazz, but what she taught me. She spoke to me in her own special way, much like our veterans say their dogs speak to them. It's a bond, a sort of soul-to-soul communication that goes beyond words. I don't think I ever truly understood that before Jazz. I can train dogs to perform tasks, but I can't teach that. That's every service dog's gift to their person. And it was Jazz's gift to me, which I will treasure forever.

*I will always miss you, my sweet Jazz.*



**SPOTLIGHT**

**On New Veterans Office**



Following the Winter 2023 Graduation ceremony held in January, our new Veterans Office was dedicated to the memory of Lieutenant Colonel William (Bill) Cecil. Bill, who was retired from the USAF, was a long-time member of the Patriot PAWS Board of Directors.

Our new Veterans Office is not only the office of our Veteran Coordinators, it includes a lounge area with comfortable chairs, faux fireplace, large screen TV and, of course, a coffee maker. The area is designed for veterans to spend time with other veterans

who come to visit or volunteer.

On behalf of all of our veterans, we are honored to dedicate the "Lt Colonel William (Bill) Cecil Veterans Office And Lounge".

**Editor's Note**

It has been my pleasure to be Eli's ghost-writer these many years, ever since our first newsletter in 2011. "Eli's Corner" was the purrfect way to give voice to a cat living in a dog's world.

In many ways, Eli was a typical cat, knocking things off your desk and stepping on your keyboard when he decided to help you work, but it was his easy way around dogs that made him invaluable in developing Patriot PAWS' feline tolerance training. He was never frightened by a dog barking at him or chasing him, only patient, and perhaps even a bit amused. He somehow knew that, given enough time, the dog would learn to accept him.

While "Eli's Corner" can no longer continue, we plan to reserve a spot for Leo, Eli's fellow feline dog trainer. Beginning next issue, look for a new column name for Leo's feline perspective on all things Patriot PAWS.

In memory of our beloved Eli, until next time, dear friends.

Teresa Prunty Bass





## DOMINIQUE & CALIBER

**Dominique** comes from a military family and was a student at Texas A&M University when she was a passenger in a rollover auto accident that left her a paraplegic. She went on to earn her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and is a practicing veterinarian. Dominique's courage and determination have been an inspiration to many.

At the Fall 2022 Graduation, Dominique received service dog **Caliber**, a female yellow Lab. Dominique says, "Caliber has been the best thing to happen to me after my accident, even over graduating vet school. She accepts me every day, even when others don't. Thank you, Patriot PAWS, for entrusting me with the greatest dog in the world."



## FRANK & ROXIE

Army CPL **Frank** served for 3 years as a cavalry scout including deployments to Germany and Panama. In 2015, he received his first Patriot PAWS service dog, Ross, who served him faithfully for 7 years.

At the Fall 2022 Graduation, Frank received service dog **Roxie**, a female black Lab. Frank says, "I live alone and was lost without Ross. I am so grateful that Patriot PAWS helped me a second time. Roxie is the joy of my life, and Patriot PAWS is like family to me. Thank you, thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart."



## JAVIER & WINNIE

Army SGT **Javier** served for over 5 years as a cavalry scout, including deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan. He was permanently injured in a car wreck. Javier received his first Patriot PAWS service dog, Cash, in 2010, who sadly passed away after 12 years of faithful service.

At the Fall 2022 Graduation, Javier received service dog **Winnie**, a female chocolate Lab. Javier says, "Since Winnie came into my life, I feel more confident. She's always next to me. She makes me feel so happy that I just want to give her a hug and hold her."



## JEREMY & CHOPPER

Marine Corps Cpl **Jeremy** served for 6 years as a combat engineer, including deployment to Iraq where he was seriously wounded by a suicide bomber.

At the Fall 2022 Graduation, Jeremy received service dog **Chopper**, a male black Lab. Jeremy says, "Before Chopper, I would medicate myself to deal with social activities. I hadn't been to a store in over a year.

Flights were the worst, and travel is basically my entire job. Chopper headbutts me when he knows I'm nervous. I am so much more open with him around, leading to a better work /life balance."



## STEVEN & GYPSY

Army SPC **Steven** served for 3 years as a radio telephone operator, including deployment to Somalia where he was part of one of the "Black Hawk Down" rescue missions in 1993.

At the Fall 2022 Graduation, Steven received service dog **Gypsy**, a female yellow Lab. Steven says, "Gypsy seemed to take one look at me and say, 'OK, you're stuck with me.' She

observes me with clarity and calms me with her beautiful eyes. I never knew how awesome a dog could be. Our bond is amazing. She not only is a blessing from Patriot PAWS, she's a blessing from God. I am so grateful."



**PATRIOTPAWS**  
PRESENTS

## An evening in Emerald City



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Saturday, Oct. 28**

## Rainbow Bridge

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge. When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to the Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor. Those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent. His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together....

*Author unknown...*



### 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

- Jazz — Retired Patriot PAWS demo dog
- Eli — Patriot PAWS feline dog trainer
- Anne — Service dog of Veteran Edwin Montalvo
- Cappuccino — Service dog of Mike McHale
- Gen. Patton — Service dog of Veteran John Clark
- Pebbles — Service dog of Raymond Collins
- Sergeant — Service dog of Veteran David Misner
- Willie — Service dog of Veteran George Parker

**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