

PATRIOTPAWS

SERVICE DOGS



S P O T L I G H T S

Valerie Fry



In May, Patriot PAWS hired a second paroled inmate trainer, Valerie Fry, to work at the Rockwall training center. Valerie gained over four years of service dog training experience working in the Patriot PAWS prison program. She also earned an Associate Degree in General Studies while serving her sentence. Her classes were geared toward Business Administration, and she graduated with a 4.0 GPA. Valerie had previously earned a degree in Information Technology Support and Network Administration and is a certified PC Technician and Network Administrator. And, most recently, she has partnered with fellow trainer Rhonda Lee to start their own pet training business.

According to Valerie, "I feel like I have come home to my family. Like I have always had a place here. It is awesome to feel so accepted and welcome. I know that is how our veterans feel when they become part of the Patriot PAWS family. I am just honored to be part of something that literally restores lives. I know Patriot PAWS has played a huge part in restoring mine. For that I am forever grateful and blessed."

From everyone in the Patriot PAWS family: Welcome Valerie!

HOMETOWN HERO DOG

Rockwall has its very own hero dog, and she's one of ours! Pebbles, a female yellow Lab, belongs to Patriot PAWS volunteer and veteran Raymond Collins of Rockwall. Pebbles was in training to be a service dog but was



questionable because she was finding it hard to bond with people, so when it came time to discuss her placement, Raymond had someone in mind. Raymond and his wife, Barbara, had known Pebbles since she first came to Patriot PAWS as a puppy, and they even helped name her. There was something special about Pebbles, and Raymond had told Lori Stevens at the beginning that if Pebbles didn't make it in the program, he would like to have her. So when the question of whom to give Pebbles to came up, Raymond asked if it could be him. Lori was happy to oblige, and Raymond and Pebbles now serve as one of Patriot PAWS' demonstration teams.

In June, only six weeks after receiving her, Raymond went out of town to visit his sick brother leaving Pebbles at home with Barbara. Barbara arose early one morning around 4:00 and went outside to check the sprinklers. Fortunately for Barbara, she took Pebbles with her. Out of the darkness came two large dogs that rushed at Barbara and knocked her down breaking her leg in eight places. Pebbles sprang to Barbara's defense barking and growling at the two attacking dogs and kept them at bay. They backed off, but Barbara was unable to get up. When Pebbles saw that, she laid down over Barbara, carefully avoiding her injured leg, protecting her from further attack. The dogs did indeed come back but were again held off by Pebbles' barking and growling. Barbara's niece, Mary Jo, had gotten up to get ready for work and went looking for her aunt. She decided to take out their other dog, Libby, and that is when she saw Barbara with Pebbles still laying on her protecting her.

Fortunately, Pebbles was unhurt, but Barbara had to have surgery on her broken leg and is recovering well. To say that Barbara and Raymond are grateful to Pebbles is an understatement. And to say that Patriot PAWS is proud of her is another because when it came down to helping as she was trained to do, Pebbles more than did her job perfectly. Like all of our dogs, Pebbles ended up exactly where she was meant to be. Another Patriot PAWS happy ending!



LETTER FROM LORI

I have seen firsthand again and again the many ways in which a service dog is beneficial to a disabled veteran. Some are tangible, and some are intangible, but did you know that there can also be financial benefits derived from having a service dog? Often, having a service dog reduces or even does away with the need for the care of a family member or a home health care provider which can cost \$50,000 per year or more. Medications may also be reduced as a result of the positive psychological effects of the partnership between service dog and disabled veteran, a fact to which some of our recipients can attest. And one of our recipients is now completely off medication and doing well and credits that fact to having a service dog. Our cost to train a service dog is approximately \$30,000 which breaks down to an investment cost of \$2,500 per year or \$48 per week in an ideal service dog/veteran partnership of up to 12 years. Of course, we provide these dogs at no cost to the veteran, so the return on our investment is getting to see the way these dogs change, and sometimes even save, lives. Wall Street might not agree, but I think it's money well spent.

VETERAN DAVID SCOTT AND CAPTAIN

U.S. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class David Scott served as an Engineman in the Submarine Service from 1962-1965. After suffering a brain hemorrhage and subsequent stroke, he had to have part of the left side of his brain removed leaving him partially paralyzed on his right side. He spent a year in a VA hospital learning to walk and talk again. A second stroke erased all progress, and David had to start over once again. "I didn't think I could go through that again, but I did," David said. "I guess I have a never-give-up attitude."

After David's longtime pet dog died, David's son found Patriot PAWS and helped his father apply for a service dog. In March, 2012, David received Captain, a male yellow Lab. Among the many things that Captain does for David is help keep him from falling and help him get up when he does fall. David says, "When I look in Captain's eyes, they're smiling. It makes me feel on top of the world. With Captain, life is good."

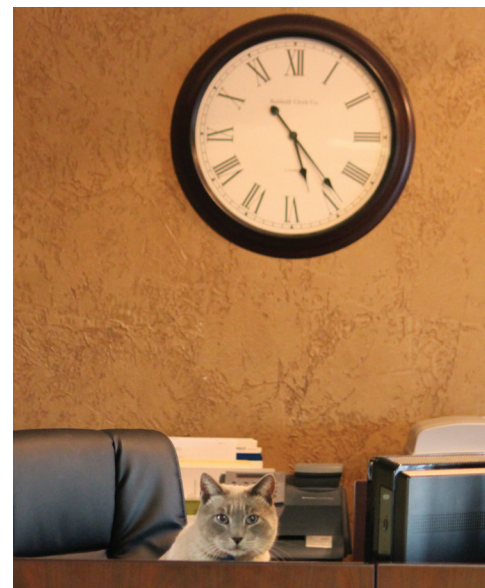


ELI'S CORNER

Did you know that Patriot PAWS is an "eleemosynary" institution? No? Well neither did I, but I am always striving to build my vocabulary, and that's just a fancy word I came across recently meaning charity or non-profit. And did you know that a non-profit is a business much like any other, just (you guessed it) not for profit?

Patriot PAWS' headquarters, the training center in Rockwall, maintains regular business hours of 8:00 – 5:00, Monday – Friday. Like any business, we have operating expenses and paperwork, always paperwork! But what Patriot PAWS does isn't contained within the walls of the training center or limited to a Monday-Friday schedule...far from it.

With the inmate trainer program in Gatesville and the homes of our puppy raisers in numerous cities all over this part of Texas, Patriot PAWS as an entity stretches far beyond Rockwall. And as for any kind of regular schedule, with evening and weekend demonstrations and fundraisers as well as travel to the prison and to recipients' homes all over the country, our staff and puppy raisers and other volunteers must often give up their otherwise free time. The commitment and dedication of everyone involved is truly inspirational.



My particular trainer's duties don't demand that I travel very much, although I have been down to the prison and was in the Veterans Day parade in downtown Dallas last year. I mainly oversee things at the training center while the other trainers are out. But "workin' nine to five" is a thing of the past, I'm afraid. When 5:00 rolls around, there are usually still messages to return or reports to write. Thank goodness I have workday nap times written into my contract!

Until next time, dear friends.

Eli



VETERAN HARRY GOAD AND LILY

Harry was a Marine Corps Machine Gunner in Vietnam. On Halloween night in 1968, four of his fellow Marines were killed while the squad was on an all-night patrol. Harry still remembers their names and thinks about them every day. After being discharged, he went to college, got married and had a daughter.

Harry's mobility issues are the result of multiple surgeries on his knees and back due to injuries he sustained while riding a motorcycle. He also suffers from PTSD stemming from events that took place both in combat in Vietnam and in his personal life as well.

In September, 2012 at a graduation held at the prison in Gatesville, Harry received Lily, a female yellow Lab. Harry believes that Lily will help him to deal with his sleep issues of sleep apnea, nightmares and getting up at night. He used to resist getting up in the morning and facing the day but now has Lily as a reason to do so. According to Harry, "I can already tell this dog is going to be a life saver for me. I don't think I'll have a day in my life that I don't smile because I have this dog. (She's) a blessing."



VETERAN HAL GOLDMAN AND BELL

Hal enlisted in the US Navy and worked his way up the ranks to Lt. Commander. He served in the Korean War, visited over 100 ports, participated in three 18-month world tours and attended submarine school. He retired from active duty in 1966. Hal then earned degrees from USC and Waseda University in Japan and worked at various jobs in Japan and the US including reporter, radio commentator, student counselor, journalist and Japanese translator. He eventually retired from Anheuser Busch.

Hal received a back injury while in the Navy that caused sporadic pain over the years. He was eventually diagnosed with spinal stenosis and in 1977 moved to Flower Mound, Texas in order to receive a new treatment from the VA Hospital in Dallas. He underwent 5 operations in 7 years. Hal is now in a wheelchair and lives in Waco, Texas.

Hal received Liberty Bell (Bell), a female Labradoodle, in a graduation held at the prison in Gatesville in September, 2012. Bell will help Hal with many things including getting out of bed in the morning, picking up dropped things that he cannot reach from his wheelchair and, most importantly, being his companion.

VETERAN JUAN AMARIS AND SANDY

Army Staff Sergeant Juan Amaris was featured in our Summer, 2011 newsletter (found on our website) after receiving service dog Maverick earlier that year. Sadly, Maverick was killed in a tragic accident in June, 2011. In September, 2012, Juan received service dog Sandy, a female yellow Lab, at a graduation held at the Gatesville prison. Everyone in the Patriot PAWS family wishes them well.



VETERAN WILLIAM BRADSHAW AND ROMEO

William Bradshaw was a Boatswain's Mate in the US Navy. The ship he was on stood off the coast of Vietnam for a time and also played games with Russian trawlers and submarines. After he was discharged, William went to college, earned three degrees and worked as a counselor for abused children in a residential treatment center. During college and his career, William's PTSD was in a remissive state because his mind was occupied with all that he had to do, but after he retired, the thoughts, nightmares, depression and anxiety related to his military experiences surfaced. William participates in a PTSD support group in his hometown of Kerrville, Texas in order to cope with everyday life.

William received Romeo, a male yellow Lab, in a Patriot PAWS graduation held at the Gatesville prison in September, 2012. Romeo's companionship will help calm William's nerves in general, but Romeo will also be able to wake him from nightmares and shield him from strangers who approach or invade William's personal space. William feels that Romeo will be able to help ground him.

When asked to describe his experience at the prison in receiving his dog, William replied, "Awesome!"



SPOT NAMED "MOST PATRIOTIC PET" IN HEATH 4TH OF JULY PARADE!

WHO IS PATRIOT PAWS SERVICE DOGS?

Patriot PAWS Service Dogs is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. We provide service dogs to disabled veterans at no cost to the veteran. Caring for one of our dogs-in-training can cost up to \$30,000. Only through tax-deductible donations are we able to provide these service dogs to disabled veterans.

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE AT: WWW.PATRIOTPAWS.ORG

We accept all major credit cards (online or over the phone), cash, checks and money orders. A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

ALSO CONSIDER:

- Setting up a recurring donation
- Honoring or memorializing someone with a donation (remember to send us information so that an acknowledgement can be sent)
- Matching your employee's donation
- Pledging for a 3-year period
- Becoming an Ambassador
- Conducting a fundraiser
- Volunteering/Becoming a Puppy Raiser



THE HOLIDAYS ARE UPON US!

Let us help you with your Holiday gift list! Simply make a tax-deductible donation to Patriot PAWS in honor or memory of someone, and we'll send a notification to the person or family you designate. Just include the name(s) and mailing address along with your donation, and we'll do the rest! Patriot PAWS has an anonymous donor who is willing to match donated funds up to \$15,000, so every donation you make gets doubled: \$20 becomes \$40, \$50 becomes \$100 and so on. Your generous donation helps us to help our disabled veterans who have given so much for us all.

Businesses, don't forget that you, too, can do the same! Also consider making a 3-year donation pledge to help Patriot PAWS plan for the future (contact us for details).

And remember, any donations made by December 31, 2012, are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law on your 2012 income tax return.

Happy Holidays from everyone at Patriot PAWS!



PATRIOT PAWS SERVICE DOGS IS LOCATED AT 254 RANCH TRAIL ROCKWALL, TEXAS 75032
FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT PATRIOTPAWS.ORG
OR CALL 972.772.3282



WWW.PATRIOTPAWS.ORG