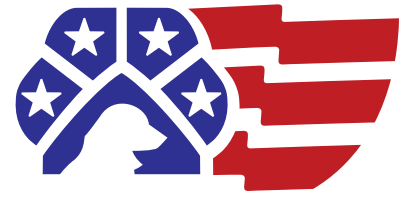


# PATRIOTPAWS

SERVICE DOGS



## NEVER SAY, "I CAN'T"

*"Never say, I can't, say, I'm just figuring out how."* That's the mantra of Adaptive Training Foundation (ATF), a Dallas area non-profit whose mission is to "provide access and inclusion to individuals living with physical or traumatic impairments by empowering them through exercise and community."

Patriot PAWS and ATF are both Continuum of Care partners with Carry The Load (CTL), a Dallas non-profit started in 2011 by two veteran U.S. Navy SEALs to bring awareness to the general public about the true meaning of Memorial Day. Continuum of Care partners work to meet the physical and emotional needs of disabled veterans and first responders.

When Patriot PAWS veteran recipient, Derrick, was offered the chance to go through an ATF class, he took it. There were 10 in his class, ranging from a 17-year-old injured cheerleader to a 63-year-old Army retiree. The grueling nine-week program required each participant to come to the ATF gym three days per week, and any day missed had to be made up. The training is

designed to push participants to their limit, helping them to learn to do things they thought they could never do again.

Derrick, who has a prosthetic leg, learned, among other things, to run, jump rope and ride a mountain bike, things he had not been able to do since his injury. The class culminated in a week-long trip to Idaho where the class went white water rafting, fly fishing and rock climbing, after which they all jumped from the top of the rocks into a freezing cold lake below. The physical and mental training, coupled with healthy cooking classes, helps each participant to become strong and confident and focus on their abilities, not their disabilities.

**"It's incredible to see Carry The Load's Continuum of Care program unite Patriot PAWS and ATF to make a difference in Derrick's life",** says Stephen Holley, co-founder, president and CEO of Carry The Load and veteran U.S. Navy SEAL. **"This type of collaboration and healing is an affirmation of our vision."**

And where was Derrick's service dog, Goose, during his classes? Goose went to the gym with Derrick and made friends with another service dog who was there. The two of them had the run of the facility and had a lot of fun hanging out together and playing with balls.

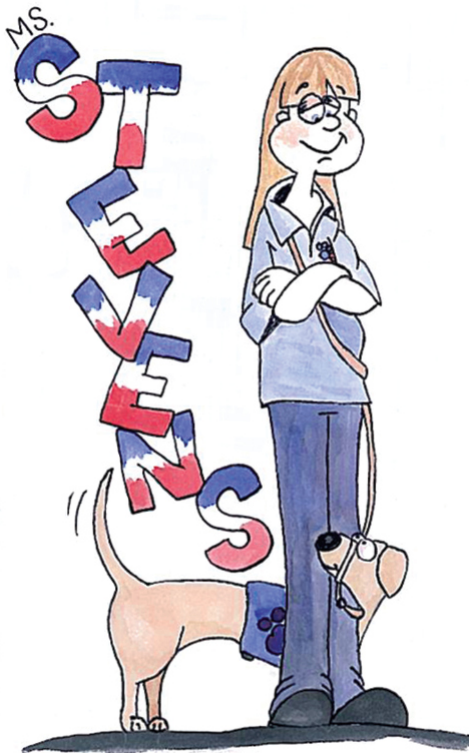
Derrick credits Goose with helping him in his achievements. "Thank God for Goose. He gets me out and about and helps me in ways I didn't even know I needed help in."

**Way to go, Derrick and Goose! Your Patriot PAWS family is proud of you!**



Photos courtesy of Adaptive Training Foundation





**LETTER FROM LORI**

I have never believed that it is a coincidence that GOD spelled backward is DOG. How perfect, considering there is no purer heart on Earth than that of a canine. Their ability to love unconditionally and be utterly devoted to their human their entire life sets them apart from other creatures. That's why a dog is the ideal service animal.

A Patriot PAWS service dog is taught over 60 cues during the course of their training, but time and again, I have seen them go on to do amazing things that they were never taught to do. That love for and devotion to their veteran can inspire them to go beyond the scope of their training to do something extraordinary, including literally saving the life of their veteran or others. And in every case, the dog enables the veteran to accomplish things that he or she would never have been able to do without their dog.

"Man's best friend"? Yes. No question. But also, a gift from God.

**SPOTLIGHT**

**On Second Dogs**

Anyone who has ever had pets knows how heartbreaking it is to lose them, but the loss of a service dog can be downright devastating for the human half of the team.

Patriot PAWS is always willing to provide a second dog if the veteran wants another. Each dog is unique, so the goal is not to "replace" the first dog, rather to provide a new partner. We ask the veterans to give themselves a little time to grieve their loss until they feel ready with an open mind and an open heart to



accept a different partner. Then, when ready, they are included in a Graduation along with first-time recipients where a match is made, and the bonding process begins.

A second placement is just as special as a first placement in that each represents a new beginning for both the veteran and the dog. And new beginnings are what Patriot PAWS is all about.

*Photo by Donna Dicksson's Photography*

**Eli's Corner**

I can hardly believe that I've been on staff here at Patriot PAWS since 2010 and that we've been putting out quarterly newsletters since 2011. In case some of you who are new to our newsletters have wondered about my position here, please allow me to explain.

I teach Feline Tolerance to our service dogs in training. Or I should say, Leo and I do. Leo came on board in 2014 as my apprentice, and together, we teach the pups that cats are not to be chased or otherwise viewed as prey, and that we can all get along together



and even be friends. Enlightening our canine students is sometimes challenging, but always rewarding, and Leo and I are happy to do it.

Until next time, dear friends.

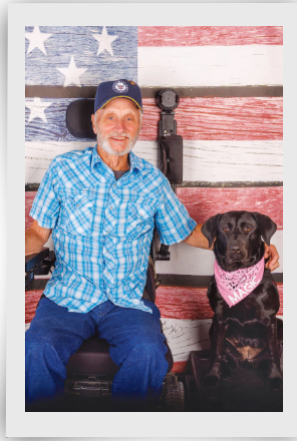
*Eli*



### CODY AND RAY

Navy PO3 **Cody** served for 6 years as a hospital corpsman in Australia and Syria. He has neuropathy in his hand and mobility issues due to back and knee problems.

At the Spring 2022 Graduation, Cody received service dog **Ray**, a male yellow Lab. Cody reports, "This dog has been such a huge lifesaver. Ray always has my back. I leave his kennel door open at night in case I sleepwalk so he can help me out. Whenever he senses something is up, he locks his eyes onto mine and demands I pet him so I can feel comfort. I don't know where I would be without him by my side."



### PETE AND MAGIC

Navy PO3 **Pete** served stateside as a damage control instructor. He was injured in a catastrophic fall which left him confined to a wheelchair.

At the Spring 2022 Graduation, Pete received service dog **Magic**, a female black Lab. Pete recalls, "The first time Magic looked into my eyes, I felt as if she saw my whole soul. I knew she was going to be my dog, even before she was placed with me. She takes care of me, and my outlook on life is so much better now. People tell me that I have a sparkle in my eye. Magic's a bed hog, but I don't mind. She's an amazing dog."



### RJ AND HERO

Army Specialist **RJ** served for 4 years as a 15 Tango Black Hawk mechanic in Germany and Poland. After 4 surgeries on his foot, he was medically retired.

At the Spring 2022 Graduation, RJ received service dog **Hero**, a male black Lab. RJ reports, "Having Hero in my life has been such a blessing to me, my wife and my family. He adapted quickly to our home and life. It's like we are in sync. We have been going out and doing things together as a family. We could never repay the gift you have given us. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart!"



### TOM AND DONOVAN

Army 1SG **Tom** served for over 20 years as a cavalry scout. While deployed to Iraq in 2008, he was seriously injured in an IED explosion. In 2011, he received his first Patriot PAWS service dog, Hope. Sadly, Hope passed away after faithfully serving Tom for 10 years.

At the Spring 2022 Graduation, Tom received service dog **Donovan**, a male yellow Lab. Tom reports, "When Donovan is working, he's all business, and when he's not working, he loves to play and cuddle. I feel as if I have two dogs in one. I know it's only been a couple of months, but it feels like we've been together a lot longer. I got lucky with Donovan."

**WE'RE GOING TO BE SERVICE DOGS WHEN WE GROW UP!**



## GIVE WITH PURPOSE

NorthTexasGivingDay.org #NTXGivingDay2022



**PATRIOTPAWS**  
SERVICE DOGS

COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS

## — NTX — GIVING DAY

9.22.22 presented by **amazon**



## ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, September 30, 2022



Hosted by  
The Brotherhood of St. Andrew and  
Benefitting Patriot PAWS Service Dogs  
At **FireWheel Golf Club**

Featuring exclusive raffle items  
Hole-in-One prize  
A new Ford F-150 pickup from Rockwall Ford

**Registration: 11:30 a.m.**  
**Shotgun start: 1:00 p.m.**

<https://brothersandrewdallas.org>

Lunch and dinner will be provided  
courtesy of our friends at:

**IN-N-OUT BURGER** and  
**RAISING CANE'S CHICKEN**

Want to read the Graduation story about Derrick and Goose (Spring 2021)? All of our past newsletters are archived on our website [www.patriotpaws.org](http://www.patriotpaws.org). Just click on News/Newsletters.



### IN MEMORIAM

Our hearts go out to three Patriot PAWS Family members who have lost their service dogs:  
Cash, service dog of veteran Javier Negrete  
Harley, service dog of veteran Clay Rankin  
Ross, service dog of veteran Frank DeFronzo

*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.