

# PATRIOTPAWS

SERVICE DOGS



## GETTING THE WORD OUT

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, Patriot PAWS is dependent upon donations and makes every effort to make the most of each donated dollar. One way that we s-t-r-e-t-c-h donations is to maintain as small a paid staff as possible by utilizing volunteers whenever we can, including Ambassadors.

To become an Ambassador, a volunteer must attend 6 weekly classes to learn all about Patriot PAWS, including its history, and learn to give demonstrations working alongside a Puppy Raiser and service dog in training. Demonstrations are an important way in which we get the word out to the general public about who we are and what we do.

Ambassadors, teamed with a Puppy Raiser and dog, travel all over the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex, and often to areas well beyond, to attend events of interested groups who want to know more about Patriot PAWS, are featuring our organization at their event or are hosting a fundraiser for us. Groups may also come to us for a campus tour and demonstration. At all of these events, Ambassadors tell those in attendance about Patriot PAWS, from its beginning to the present, and the Puppy Raiser and dog demonstrate a sampling of cues that our dogs are taught explaining how those cues can help a veteran with mobility disabilities and/or post-traumatic stress. Afterwards, the team answers questions and allows the group to meet the dog. Some of these events may simply be a “meet and greet” in which no formal talk or demonstration is given,

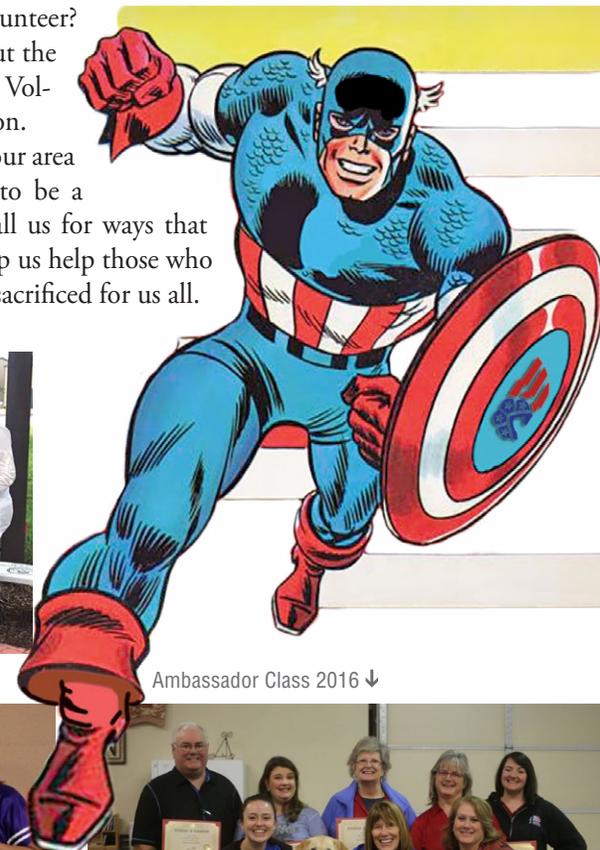
but an Ambassador and Puppy Raiser attend with a dog to meet people, answer questions and distribute promotional materials. Word of mouth can be a very powerful marketing tool, so making a good impression on people can lead to them telling others about us and our mission.

Since Ambassadors and Puppy Raisers enable the paid staff to perform their essential jobs of running the office and training the dogs without the interruption of having to leave to attend an event, we call them our **“Super Heroes”**. We truly appreciate all our wonderful volunteers who so freely give of their time and talents. Quite simply, we couldn’t do it without you!

If your group would like to schedule a demonstration, have us be a part of your event, host a fundraiser for us or tour our campus, please call our training center for more information.

Want to become a Patriot PAWS volunteer? Call us to find out the date of our next Volunteer Orientation.

Don’t live in our area but would love to be a part of it all? Call us for ways that you, too, can help us help those who have served and sacrificed for us all.



Ambassador Class 2020 ↑



Ambassador Class 2019 ↑



Ambassador Class 2016 ↓





## VETERAN ROD BROWN & HAWK

Army SFC **Rod Brown** of Texas served for 16 years including during the Gulf War and in Iraq as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was a Field Artillery Gunnery Sergeant. Rod has mobility issues with his knees and lower back and has post-traumatic stress issues.

Rod received service dog Hawk, a male yellow Lab, in 2019. According to Rod, "Hawk and I are doing awesome. He has given me so much confidence and freedom in these last months. Thanks to my Patriot PAWS family!"



## VETERAN GUS MORENO & PHOENIX

USMC Sgt **Gus Moreno** of Nebraska served in the Infantry and later in the Army National Guard as an Artillery Officer, retiring as Captain. He spent a total of 27 months in Vietnam and was wounded 3 times. Gus has mobility issues and hearing loss.

Gus received service dog Phoenix, a female yellow Lab, in 2019. According to Gus, "I am so happy to have Phoenix! I had no idea just how much she would mean to me. With every passing day, our bond grows stronger. She has given me a renewed purpose in life."



## VETERAN BILL CONNEL & PEYTON

Army SSG **Bill Connel** of Texas served for 19 years including as a part of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He was a Combat Engineer. Bill has mobility issues due to neurological damage from Gulf War Syndrome and has post-traumatic stress issues.

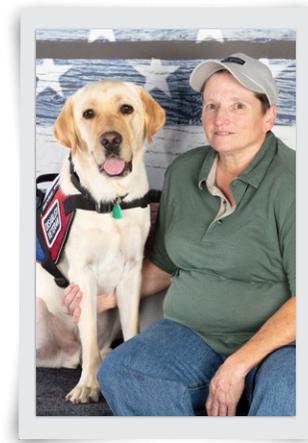
Bill received service dog Peyton, a male chocolate Lab, in 2019. According to Bill, "Peyton has given my wife and me freedom knowing he is there to help me in so many ways. Peyton is so much more than I could have ever expected from a service dog. Thank you so much!"



## VETERAN BRIAN REECE & MAVERICK

USMC Cpl **Brian Reece** of Texas served overseas for 4 years. He was a K-9 Military Policeman. Brian has mobility issues as well as post-traumatic stress issues.

Brian received service dog Maverick, a male English Cream Golden Retriever, in 2019. According to Brian, "Maverick has helped to lessen my stress levels, get me out of the house more and get a better night's sleep. He has also helped me with my back issues by bracing me and retrieving things for me when my back is acting up."



## VETERAN SUE DENDY & FALLIN

Air Force SrA **Sue Dendy** of Texas served for 8 years. She was a Water and Fuel Systems Maintenance Specialist. Sue has service-related mobility issues as well as post-traumatic stress issues.

Sue received service dog Fallin, a male yellow Lab, in 2019. According to Sue, "There are so many things Fallin has done for me. We go somewhere almost every day. I can now shop without stress. I actually sleep 6 to 8 hours soundly. He's my lifeline. And the biggest thing is, everyone says I smile a lot more."



## VETERAN STEPHEN REX & VIVIAN

Navy CPO **Stephen Rex** of Oklahoma was deployed 14 times in 15 years, including to Kosovo and United Arab Emirates, serving a total of 20 years. He was a Damage Controlman. Stephen has mobility issues due to lower back injuries.

Stephen received service dog Vivian, a female yellow Lab, in 2019. According to Stephen, "Since getting Vivian, I have been able to reduce the amount of bending I do which reduces my pain. She is also there to brace me when my balance is off. I can't imagine life without her now."



### VETERAN KENNETH HARVEY & SEBERT

Army 1SG **Kenneth Harvey** of Virginia served for 27 years including as a part of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He was a Topography Manager. Kenneth has mobility issues due to service-related injuries, including a traumatic brain injury, with 80% of his body affected.

Kenneth received service dog Sebert, a male yellow Lab, in 2019. Kenneth says, “Our daily walks have strengthened my posture and attitude about the future. I feel reassured. Sebert’s watchful eyes are there to make sure he is of service to me everywhere I go. Thank you!”



### VETERAN DON WEINTRAUB & AXLE

Army SGT **Don Weintraub** of Texas served for 3 years in the Infantry and Signal Corps during the Vietnam Era, including 20 months in the Korean DMZ. He has mobility issues.

Don received service dog Axle, a male Double Doodle, in 2019. According to Don, “Axle has enhanced my mobility and quality of life. He is always by my side with constant eye contact looking to help me. Axle helps keep my mind active with everyday activities. He is my best friend. I can’t imagine life without him.”



### VETERAN BILL HENSLEY & COACH P

Navy PO3 **Bill Hensley** of Texas served 1989–1993 and was deployed to Kuwait and Iraq. He was an Operations Specialist/JTAC. Bill has mobility issues due to a head injury and has post-traumatic stress issues.

Bill received service dog Coach P, a male yellow Lab, in 2019. According to Bill, “Coach has been a huge blessing to my life. He helps me sleep better, waking me from flashback nightmares, and his daily walks force me to get out of the house, not to mention getting me back in shape! Words can’t express my thanks.”



### VETERAN RUSSELL ZELMAN & BANNER

Army COL **Russell Zelman**, M.D. of New York served for 25 years including deployments to Panama and Iraq. He was a Flight Surgeon who saw extensive combat. Russell has mobility issues due to a spinal fracture and has post-traumatic stress issues.

Russell received service dog Banner, a male yellow Lab, in 2019. According to Russell, “Since Banner came into my life, I have felt a calming, much needed. He is an endless worker, helps me keep a straight line, picks up everything and is smarter than I.”



### VETERAN SONQUA LECROIX & GINGER

Army 1SG **Sonqua LeCroix** of Texas served for 31 years. She was a Combat Medic and, after 9/11, trained other combat medics who were getting ready to deploy. Sonqua has mobility issues as well as post-traumatic stress issues.

Sonqua received service dog Ginger, a female Goldendoodle, in 2019. According to Sonqua, “Ginger is the best thing to happen in my life at a time I truly needed help. After five years of being in my house, I am getting my freedom back. Thanks to everyone at Patriot PAWS.”



### From “I AM A SERVICE DOG”

I am a service dog, and you are my person. I promise to help you in every way that I can and never leave your side. As long as there is breath in my body, I will serve you. I promise to take care of you and love you, and all that I ask is that you take care of me and love me in return. I know that your life has been difficult, but now you have me, and I will do everything that I can to make your life better.

## IN MEMORIAM

The Patriot PAWS Family's hearts go out to Veteran **Chris Pleis** for the loss of his service dog, **Dixie**.

*Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal.*  
— Author Unknown

## SAVE-THE-DATE!

### 10.17.2020

### ROCKWALL HILTON – 6:30 PM

# SAVE THE DATE



**PATRIOTPAWS**  
SERVICE DOGS



1st Annual Post Graduation Celebration

# IT WILL BE A TLE BLAST!

## ELI'S CORNER

2020 marks my 10-year anniversary as a dog trainer with Patriot PAWS. Lori hired me just after moving the training center to our present location where we were renting a warehouse, a huge step up from the tiny storefront where we began. That move turned out to be the catalyst (I love that word, CATalyst!) to such rapid growth that we were soon once again in need of more space. Fortunately, the generosity of our many wonderful supporters enabled us to purchase not only the warehouse we were in, but also the one next to it, plus the 3.5 acres that they sit on. We have since added a state-of-the-art kennels facility and a wheelchair-accessible Veterans House complete with a garden area appropriately named Patriot Garden.

The last ten years have seen a lot of changes, but one thing has remained the same...our mission to train the highest-quality service dogs for disabled American veterans. I am very proud to have been a part of it and look forward to continuing our work in 2020 and beyond.

Until next time, dear friends.

*Eli*

• 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 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.