



Dogs For Life

*Training Service Dogs
For Veterans*

Scrapbook

2024-2021

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of light purple paw prints of various sizes and orientations, scattered across a white background.

JANUARY

Puppies Growing Like Weeds



Dyer Subaru's Love Promise



Foster Families with New Pups

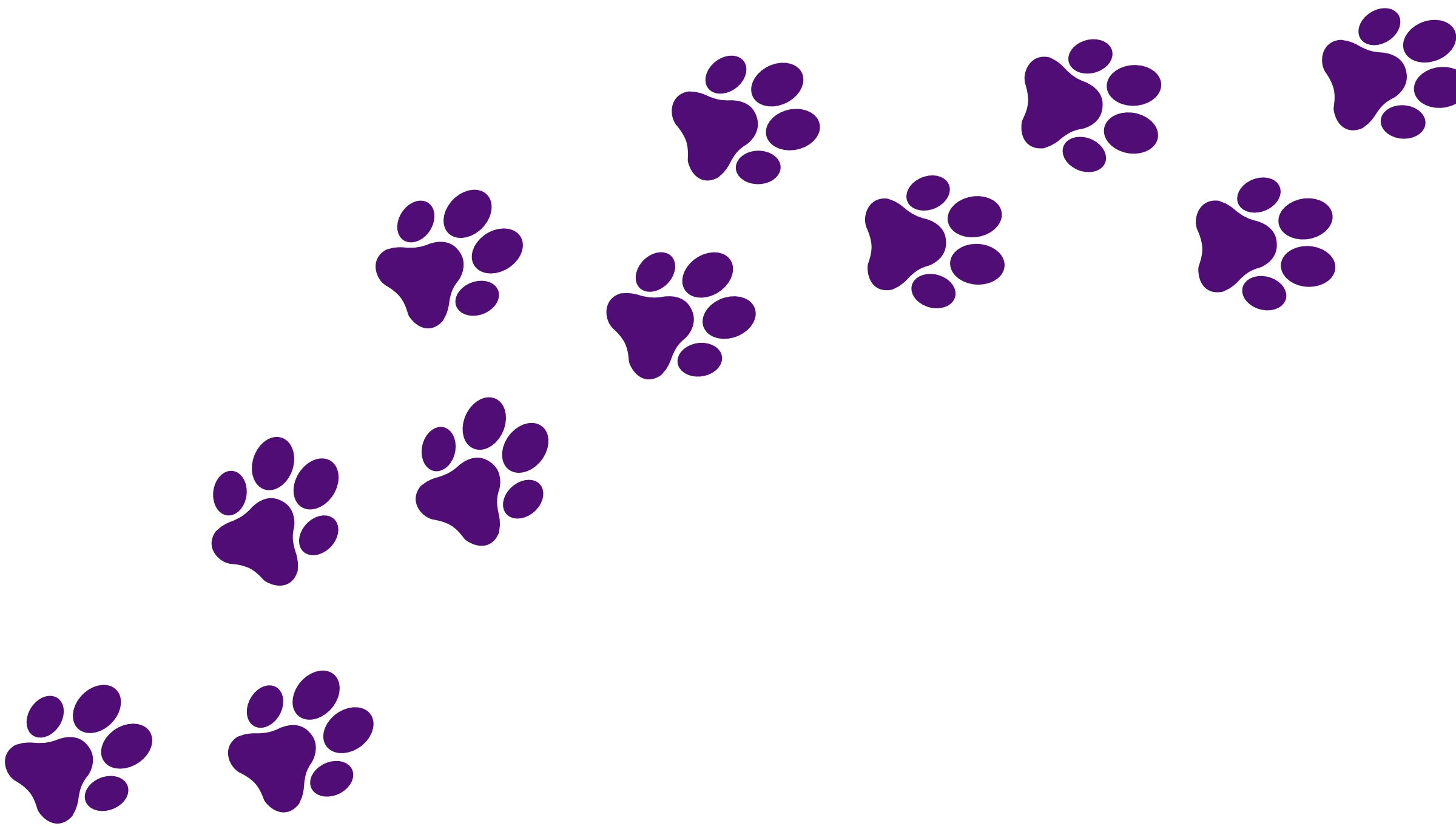


New Puppies on the Way



Scrapbook

2023



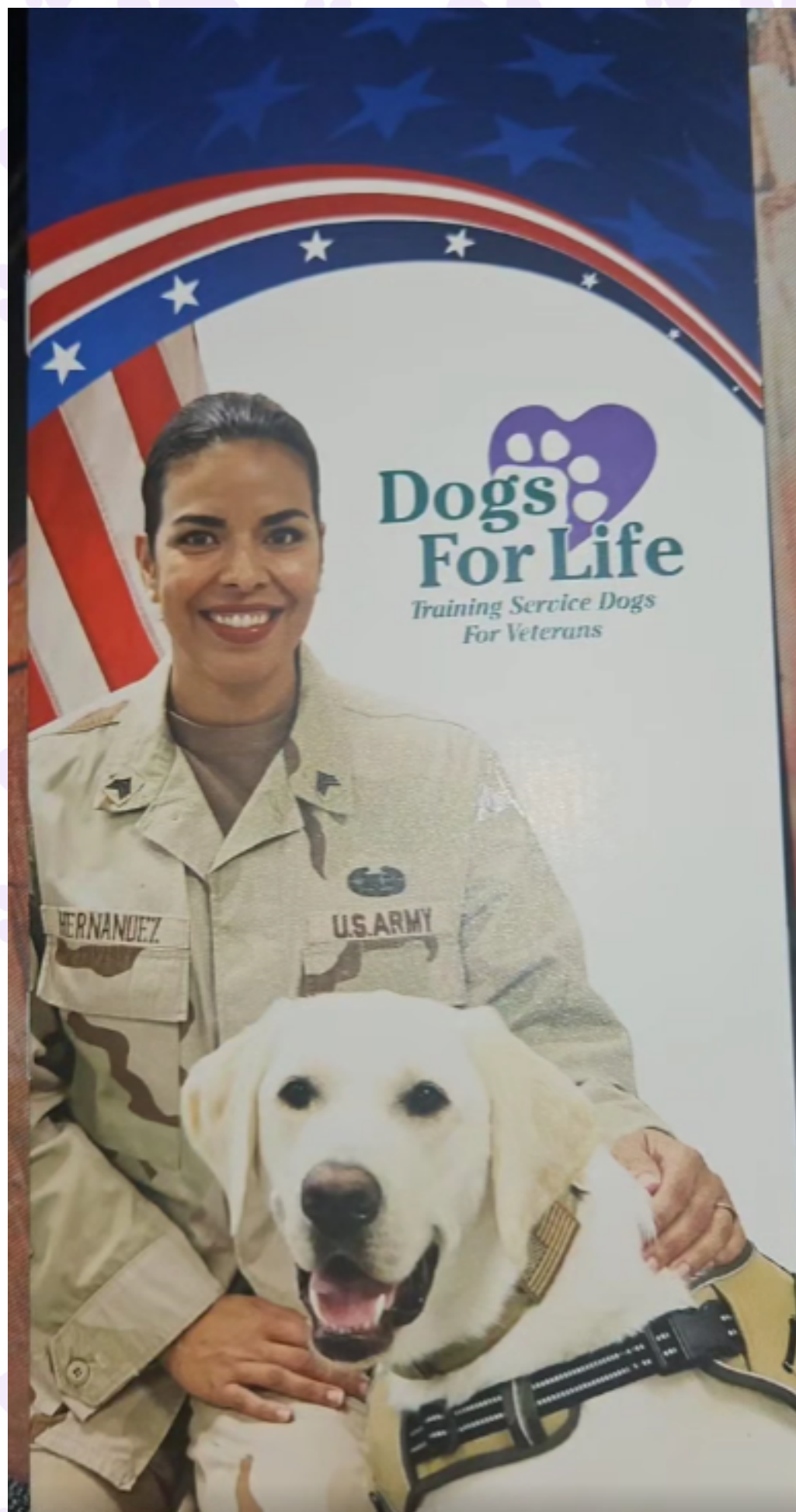


DECEMBER

Santa Paws Ready for New Puppies



Ingrid & Chance on New Brochure



New Water Fountains



The background of the image is a repeating pattern of light purple paw prints of various sizes, scattered across a white background. The paw prints are stylized, with four distinct pads on each foot.

NOVEMBER



**22 A DAY
IS UNACCEPTABLE**
Presented by
American Gold Star Mothers
of Indian River County, Inc.

5th ANNUAL WALK-A-THON

FOR
**MILITARY/VETERAN
SUICIDE AWARENESS**

**Sunday, November 5, 2023
Registration Opens at 9:00am - Walk starts at 10:00am**

2.2 MILE WALK & VETERANS EXPO

Join American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County
for a community walk.

Let's help END Military/Veteran Suicide!

Scan the QR Code to Register Now!



Riverside Park

Registration at the Grand Pavillion - Opens at 9:00am

\$35 / person online

\$40 / person - day of walk

**Coffee & Donuts provided by
The Salvation Army**

DJ • Raffles • 50/50

T-SHIRTS: Available at Registration starting at 9:00am (While supplies last; 400 available)
Early pick up (if you registered online) is Friday 11/3 at Marine Bank & Trust • 1450 US1

Proceeds to Benefit:



 michdaleircgoldstarmoms@gmail.com
 [@ircgoldstarmoms](https://www.facebook.com/ircgoldstarmoms)
 www.ircgoldstarmoms.org
 570-885-2811

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (800-435-7352) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State. Registration #DTN3348471. American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County, Inc. is a non-profit tax-exempt organization as described under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)3. Federal ID #85-0621175.





AUGUST

You are invited
to meet the School Therapy Dogs


**Dogs
For Life**
*Training Service Dogs
For Veterans*



Dog Daze of Summer
Fundraiser





**Chip
School Therapy Dog**

**For more information, contact Dogs For Life
772-567-8969 • www.dogsforlifevb.org
or email office@dogsforlifevb.org**

**Meet the School Therapy Dogs
on
Saturday, August 12, 2023
from
10 am - 12 noon
at the
Dogs For Life
Off-Leash Dog Park
1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach**

**Sergeant Ron Garrison & Ellie Mae
School Resource Deputy Mark Birtel & Chip
School Resource Deputy David Partin & Gracie**

 **Rain or Shine**

 **Tented and Air-Cooled**

 **Doggie Wet T-Shirt Show**

 **Pick the Hot Rubber Duckie for a Prize**

 **Splish and Splash in the Sun**

Donations Accepted

Dogs on Leash Welcome

RSVP by August 7 to

772-567-8969 or office@dogsforlifevb.org





The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of light purple paw prints of various sizes, scattered across a white background. The paw prints are stylized with four distinct pads.

MAY



Vero Beach Veterans in Cooperation
with the Veteran's Council of Indian River County



And
Boozefighters MC
Present

BIKER'S SUPPORTING VETERANS

INFO FAIR AND CHARITY EVENT

11:00 AM UNTIL 6:00 PM

MAY 27TH, 2023-MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

2500 15TH AVENUE

VERO BEACH, FLORIDA 32960

FAMILY FRIENDLY FELLOWSHIP FOOD MUSIC CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT KID'S ACTIVITIES AND FACE PAINTING

SUGGESTED DONATION, \$20 PER PERSON



ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT:

- DOGS FOR LIFE
- NEXT GENERATION VETERANS



FOR INFORMATION CONTACT JERZEY BILL: (214) 763-8133

CORNHOLE \$20.00 PER TEAM





**AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS, INC.
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA - PUERTO RICO**

70TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

May 6, 2023

Welcome - Michelle Dale

Presentation of Colors - Sebastian Area Veterans Honor Guard

Invocation - Pastor Charlie Jones, US Army 82nd Airborne; American Legion Post 181

National Anthem - Delores Mark, Daughter - Navy Veteran; Music Director at St. Helen Church;

Family Services/Pre-Need Councilor at Cox-Gifford Seawinds Funeral Home

Pledge of Allegiance - Annette Kirk

Retire Colors

Introduction of Special Guests - Michelle Dale

USAF (Ret) Brigadier General Randall C. (Arlo) Guthrie

SGT E5 Civil Affairs NCO Ingrid Hernandez

Founder & CEO, Dogs For Life - Shelly Ferger

Narrative of Loved Ones 3 Minutes each (if time permits) or "Say Their Names"

11:30 a.m. Lunch -14 Bones

AGSM BUSINESS MEETING

1:00 p.m. - Call to Order- Michelle Dale

Open Bible & Divine Blessing - Jeanette Nazario

Preamble to the Constitution of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. - Kim Hayes

Mission Statement - Michele Carey

Roll Call of Officers - Kim Hayes

Draping of the Charter - Gold Star Mother, Vera Nickels - Golf Coast Chapter

Department Treasurer Report - Michelle Dale for Sandy Miller

Department Reports: VAVS Report - Toni Gross; Legislative Report - Annette Kirk;

Community Service Reports - Michelle Dale for Valerie Collins

Committee Reports: Compliance - Michele Carey; Georgie Carter Krell Grant - Annette Kirk;

Standing Rules - Kim Hayes; Membership - Michelle Dale

Chapter Reports - Highlights - 5 minutes each Chapter

Unfinished Business

New Business

Nominations and Elections of Department Officers - Annette Kirk, Lorrie Fleming & Kellie Kowall

Installation of Department Officers - Annette Kirk

Announcements for the Good of the Order

Closing



APRIL



772-567-8969

1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, Florida 32960
www.dogsforlifevb.org • office@dogsforlifevb.org



**Service/Hearing & Veteran Dog Graduation
Donor & Volunteer Awards Ceremony**

*Saturday, April 22, 2023
12:00 p.m.*

Event Schedule for Saturday, April 22, 2023

- 12:00 p.m. Lunch & Social
- 12:30 p.m. DFL Donor & Volunteer Awards Ceremony
- 1:00 p.m. Service/Hearing & Veteran Dog Teams Graduation Ceremony
Quilts of Valor Presentation

2022 Award Recipients

- Kathi G. Schumann Award Linda Barberi
- Military Veteran Trainer of the Year..... Don Peterson (US Army, Ret.)
- Volunteer of the Year Cheryl Marshall (US Air Force, Ret.)
Phillip Tettleton
- Individual Philanthropist Award Earl Tindol (US Army)
- Corporate Philanthropist Award..... American Gold Star Mothers of IRC
Dyer Mazda Subaru
Florida Eagles Dog Chain Club
LEB Printing & Design
Live Oak Animal Hospital
- Puppy Sponsor Awards..... Linda & Edgar Duncan
Judith Hansen & Pablo Gonzalez
Kathi G. Schumann

Graduates

- Tim Barnes & Gypsy
- Steve Defren (US Army) & Rosie
- Jim Hyde (US Navy) & Otis
- Nancy Kicherer & Stryker
- Michele Laibe & Lua
- Sarah Lang & Bradley
- Barbara McCoy (US Air Force) & Mercedes
- Howard Teich (US Army) & Tucker
- Charlie Watson (US Army) & Sam
- Gary Wilson (US Army) & Swift

IRCSO School Resource Dogs

- Mark Birtel & Chip
- Ron Garrison & Ellie Mae



GRADUATION

*Service/Hearing & Veteran Dog Team Graduation
Donor & Volunteer Awards Ceremony*

You are cordially invited

Dogs For Life Training Center
“Under The Oaks” at the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park
1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, Florida 32960

Please RSVP by April 17, 2023
by calling: 772-567-8969 or emailing: office@dogsforlifevb.org

Quilts of Valor will be presented to Veterans



The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of various sizes and orientations, scattered across a white background.

MARCH

PETS



Hi Dog Buddies!

This week I got to go to a gym cuz my innerview-ee's Mom an Dad are TRAY-ners who help humans do Fitness an Boxing, an he – Biggie Smalls Bass – is the Official Gym Dog.

Biggie's a 5-years-old, purebred French Bulldog, fawn color, squishy black face, perpetually earnest expression. He has ears that look like sails. An No Tail. Whatsoever. Zero. Nada. Just a bouncy liddle ca-boose and very good poss-chur. All in all, one super spruce poocheroo!

Soon as me an my assistant walked in the gym door, he trotted right over for the Wag-an-Sniff, wearin' a tidy collar and short gold chain leash.

Since he was of French origin, I decided to employ one of the three French phrases I knew, just in case.

"Bone-SWAW, Mush-sure Bass!"

"Well Bone-SWAW to you, too, Dude! Welcome to our gym. This is my Mom, Sam, an my Dad, Travis. You can call me Biggie. An no need for French. I'm from Sara-SODA."

"Thank Lassie!" I said, relieved. "I appreciate you takin' time out of your busy day for an innerview."

"Happy to, Bonz – er, may I call you Bonz?"

"Absolutely! You have such an intrestin' life. I can't wait to hear all about it, whenever you're ready."

"Born ready!" Biggie said, and I grabbed my pen. "Mom an Dad already had a Husky, Jaxx, an, cuz they're at the gym, like, all the time, they were lookin' for a more portable pooch to be the Gym Dog. An it hadda be a bulldog, but a liddle one. They found a good breeder On The Line with phodos of my litter – 10 of us. We were all irrisis-tubble, squishy-faced fuzzballs but I was the irrisis-tubble-est. So the breeder brought me to Lake Placid where Mom an Dad picked me up. I was

only 10 weeks old, an not only portable as required, but also playful, cuddly an mellow. Basically perfect, if I do say so.

"Me an Jaxx had our first meetin' at Gramma BamBam and Grampa Dave's cuz it's Noo-trull Territory. Got along right away. We'd chase each other. I'd do laps around him, of course. I'm not good at distance cuzza havin' Very Short Legs, but I can Sprint Like Anything for a second.

"I was a pretty well-buh-haved pupper except for one liddle habutt: Chewin' Furniture. Mostly the wooden end tables. When I was alone in the house for what I felt to be Too Long, I'd chew the legs. After a while, they were pretty much chewed up. And that was the end of the end tables. Thank Lassie, I outgrew that. Now I only chew my tennis balls. I love playin' catch, an they're just the right size for my not-large mouth. Dad sometimes Fake Throws, an I go roarin' after it, then I ree-lize he didn't ackshully throw it. Makes me feel like a Total Doof!

"I enjoy ridin' in our car, an our golf cart, which we often take to work, since we live close by. Mom an Dad took me out on their jet skis one time, I had my own life vest an everything, but I was Not A Fan. I'm just not super into water, ya know? 'Cept in my bowl. I do enjoy leash walks, an sunbathin' on the deck. I sorta like the beach. It's great for diggin', but the ackshull water not so much. Diggin' in the yard's way more fun."

"Do you have any speshull human or pooch pals?" I inquired.

"Lemme see, there's my leash walk neighbor Casper an his human, Miss Danielle. He's liddler than me even. Jaxx is way bigger an probly kinda intimidatin', but Casper's not afraid of me. He says we're Fun Size.

"My human gym buddies are Liam, he's 8 in human, an Landon, he's 5. My Mom an Dad offen watch 'em, here at the gym, for their Mom an Dad. They're Cool Kibbles

How to size up Biggie Smalls? He's a fab Frenchie!



Biggie Smalls.
PHOTO BY JOSHUA KODS

liddle human puppers.

"Oh, an I almost for-GOT, we have a bran new Husky pupper at home, Nash, he's jus 5 months old. We're all three gonna go to Training Class together soon as he gets the OK from our vet, after his No Pup-pies Procedure."

"Any favrite foodstuffs?"

"Well, I totally love buh-nanas an peanut budder. Since I have a Sensitive Tummy, I hafta eat speshull food. For a treat I get a chiggen an sweet puh-tado pot pie snack. Majorly Yummy. An if I need to take any medicine, Mom puts it in a liddle piece of buh-nana."

"Humans are clever that way," I observed, then asked, "Where do you sleep?"

"Well, Bonz, I am a Daddy's Boy, so – I sleep with him. I know he totally loves me cuz I snore Really Loud! Ackshully, I don't know if you noticed, but I sorta snort a LOT. Mom says I sound like a liddle piglet. Us French Bulldogs often have that issue cuzza our smushy faces. I guess it's the price we pay for Adorable-ness.

"Anyway, I know it's gettin' close to bedtime when we all settle in together an watch TV. I speshully enjoy 'Pup Academy' on Netflix. When they bark, I bark back. It's the puh-lite thing to do, doncha think?"


"Absolutely," I agreed, then, "Spea-

kin' of TV, I saw on the Nooz a while back that, for the first time ever, a French Bulldog (who looks just like YOU!) won the top award, Best In Show, at last Thanksgiving's National Dog Show. Congrats to you and your breed!"

"Thanks, Bonz," Biggie replied. "I did see that. I just didn't wanna boast but, since you brought it up, I thought it was about fluffin' time us Frenchie received our Just Desserts! We're small but mighty. His name is Winston, by the way. He also won second at Westminster. His success makes me walk a little taller," he grinned.

Headin' home, I was thinkin' about sturdy, bouncy, mellow Biggie Smalls, small in stature but huge in personality and definitely walkin' tall.

Till next time,

The Bonz 

Don't Be Shy

We are always looking for pets with interesting stories.

To set up an interview, email bonzothecolumnist@gmail.com.

DIVINE

Our VIP's Have Paws

PETS



Bonz says time flew with Lulu, a real people pooch

Hi Dog Buddies!

You know an I know – all of us dogs just KNOW – that we have a PUR-pose. Sometimes our humans unnerstand it, sometimes they don't. But WE always do. Am I right?

Anyway, I mention it cuz this week's innerview-ee, Lulu Sandzen, says she knew what her purpose was when she was only a teensy pupper.

Lulu is a bee-ooty-ful Havanese, 8 anna haff pounds, with white an silvery black wavy hair, kuh-waffed Just So. I was astonished to learn she was 10, cuzz she was SO wiggly an energetic an totally loves to give Slurpy Puppy Kisses, which co-in-ci-DENTAL-ee are one of my assistant's Favrite Things.

A nice lady welcomed us an Lulu wiggled right up for the Wag-an-Sniff, then wiggled over to my assistant. "I'm Lulu an this is my Mom, Pam. I know you're Mr. Bonzo cuz my Mom an my fren Oliver's Mom are frens an Oliver was in your collum an he thought I could maybe be too, so he woofmailed you an WAH-LAA! Isn't it SO Cool Kibbles?"

"Totally!" I agreed. "Oliver sent your phodo, too. It's great meetin' you in the fur. I know you have a wonderful tail about how you an your Forever Mom got together, an I'm eager to hear it."

Lulu curled up next to my assistant, dispensed a couple more kisses, an began.

"Mom an her buh-loved hus-bun were together for a long time, then he hadda go to Heaven an she was Sad. Altho the house was the same, it seemed Empty. A fren told Mom she needed a dog to love, so Mom started lookin' around an found a person in Sebastian who hadda litter of Havaneses (which happened to be the one I was in). Even tho I was bran new an didn't know fluff about anything, I

hadda feelin' I had some sorta of Spe-shull Purpose. But I was 6 weeks old and not even 1 pound. It was kinda weird."

As Lulu told her tail, I smiled, because I completely understood what she was saying.

"Well," she continued, "Mom arrived, an all us puppies were bouncin' an squeakin' and bein' adorable, an ex-ooding that New Puppy Smell. She was pickin' us up one by one, an when she picked me up (I was just a tiny lump in her hand), we just stared into each other's faces for the longest time. I wasn't bein' rude or anythin'. It had just dawned on me that She was my Purpose. I knew it. She knew it. The lady who owned us knew it, too. She said to Mom, 'Wow. That's amazin'. I never saw anything like that, before. That's your puppy!'"

"Oh, for Lassie's Sake," I managed. "That's a wonderful story, Lulu! So, what's your life been like?"

"It's just us grrrls, me an Mom. It's perfect! I love travelin' with Mom. We go inna car or in one of those big birds called a plane. I'm a Free-quent Flyer. One time I schooched outta my under-the-seat carrier an sneaked up to the seat in front. The man who was sittin' there put me on his lap an patted me for a while. Then he finally handed me back to Mom. She didn't even know I had wiggled away."

"I love car ridin', too! Me an Mom have driven to, lemme think, umm, Tennis-SEE; TEX-us; South Cara-LINE-uh; Lou-weezie-ANNA; West Ver-GIN-ya; GEORGE-uh."

"Me an Mom go to the Citron Grill for lunch. We sit outside an I am TRAY well-buh-haved. I sit quietly an just gaze around lookin' adorable. Everyone wants to pat me. No offense, but generally speaking, I prefer humans to pooches. When I overhear 'em on the phone tellin' Mom they're comin' over,

I rush to the door to wait.

"I do not enjoy walkin' in the grass or gettin' my paws wet so Mom has an umbrella just in case. I'm also not fond of baths, however, I very, VERY much enjoy Spa Day."

"Do you have any other family members? Any pooch frens?" I inquired.

"Oh, YES! My brother Burnett lives in Austin; an my sister Carolyn lives in Chattanooga. My pooch BFF is Madison, she's a Bichon Frise. We met when she was just a pupper, about 3 months old."

"It was something like 6 years ago an there was this hurry-cane an Madison an her Mom Miss Audry didn't have any electricidy so they stayed with me an Mom for a liddle while. Altho she was just a pupper, Madison was Very Well buh-HAVED in un-fuh-MILL-yer SIR-come-stances, an always used the P-pad! Now we stay at each other's houses when our Moms hafta go someplace without us."

"Where do you sleep? An, do you have any favrite toys?" I inquired.

"Bedtime's my favrite time of all!" Lulu said. "When I'm sleepy, me an Mom get cozy an I drift off while she studies lotsa interstin' stuff for her job at the museum. She's what's called a DOE-sent."

"A what?"
"It's a human who guides other humans around a museum or art gallery or a zoo even, an explains everything that's there!"

"Woof! That's way Crispy Biscuits! So they hafta to know a lotta stuff!"

"Troo! My Mom's a-MAZE-zing! Oliver's Mom's a DOE-sent, too!"

"Any favrite toys?" I wondered.

"Well," she smiled, "I do have quite a number of toys but, to tell the truth,



Lulu. PHOTO BY JOSHUA KOOS

I mostly play with my fluffy dog bed, which I don't sleep in cuz I sleep with Mom, of course."

With that, she ran behind a chair an emerged dragging (an practically hidden behind) a fluffy dog bed about the same size as her. She flung it about. It landed on top of her. She landed on top of it. She was in it. She was half in, haff out. She was rollin' around in it. She was draggin' it. It was hilarious. At last she extricated herself from the fluff an trotted back.

Headin' home, I was thinkin' about charmin', energetic Miss Lulu, filled with joy an wiggles an totally committed to fulfillin' her Purpose as Dog: showerin' her Mom with un conditional love an unending slurpy kisses.

Till next time,

The Bonz

Don't Be Shy
We are always looking for pets with interesting stories.
To set up an interview, email bonzothecolumnist@gmail.com.

DIVINE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

We have Warm Hearts for Cold Noses!

Our Veterinary Family Welcomes New Patients

Dr. Randy Divine • Dr. Patty Shockency
Sandy, Terrie, Patte, Aspen, Jennifer, Helene, Tiffany, Leslie, Sharon



Our VIP's Have Paws

COMPLETE HEALTH CARE

Advanced Ear Disease Diagnostics, Treatment & Technology
Stem Cell Therapy & Pain Management Hospital
Sound Wave Energy Therapy
Class IV Laser Therapy

Early Spay/Neuter • Dentistry • Chemotherapy
Ultra Sound • Orthopedics • Dermatology
Ophthalmology • Acupuncture • Vaccinations
Endoscopy • Digital Radiology • Complete Lab
Telemedicine • Grooming • Science Diet

Multiple Pet Discounts
Emergency Service • We ARE Available 24/7

654 21st St. (Miracle Mile Plaza) • 772-299-3665 (Call or Text) • DivineAnimalHospital.com



The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of light purple paw prints of various sizes, scattered across a white background. The paw prints are stylized with four distinct pads.

FEBRUARY

32963

PEOPLE

Ingrid Hernandez
and Shelly Ferger
with Chance.



'PATRIOTS FOR PUPPIES'

POOCHES GIVE VETS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE P. 24

Vero News > 32963 Features > People > 'Patriots for Puppies': Pooches give vets unconditional love

'Patriots for Puppies': Pooches give vets unconditional love

Written by: *Stephanie LaBaff* March 02 2023



PHOTO BY JOSHUA KODIS

Dogs For Life supporters had a barking good time during the second annual Patriots for Puppies fundraiser at the Pointe West Country Club to finance programs for disabled individuals and veterans.

Before kicking off the celebration, Shelly Ferger, DFL CEO and director of training, announced that they had raised \$95,000 of their \$100,000 goal through sponsorships and ticket sales.

That funding, she said, will enable them to continue to improve the quality of life for veterans and other individuals and help them achieve self-reliance and independence by training hearing and service dogs.

Of course, the real stars of the evening were several of the service dogs that accompanied their human partners, providing the physical and emotional support needed along with unconditional love.

When Ferger founded DFL in 2001, the work primarily focused on training hearing dogs. But in 2015 they were inundated with requests from veterans returning from the Gulf War.

"The older veterans were told to suck it up and not to admit they had PTSD," said Ferger.

However, after seeing so many of their comrades commit suicide, the Next Generation veterans realized that to save themselves, they needed to talk about what they had been through.

"They found that the dogs were the thing they needed. It's the unconditional love a dog gives.

These veterans don't love themselves after having fought a war. They can talk to their dog and tell it everything they've done, and the dog still loves them," said Ferger.

She said that dogs help veterans integrate back into their families and society, explaining that regardless of a person's appearance, most people will look past the individual if they have a dog.

"They might be in a wheelchair, or they might be walking on a cane. They might barely be making it through the grocery store, but people will look past that when they have a dog," said Ferger.

"It's amazing how a dog can not only change your life but save your life and give you back the security and independence that you've lost for so long."

It takes eight months to a year to train adult dogs and two years to train the puppies. DFL currently has three puppies in training and will celebrate the graduation of eight dogs on April 22.

Attendees enjoyed a delicious dinner, live music, and a silent auction at the military-themed golden oldies dance and show that featured Jerry and the Dolls, who took folks down memory lane' with the music of the '50s and '60s.

DFL programs include Service Dog Training, Veteran Service Dog Training, Veterans Training Veterans PAWS program, Veteran PTSD and Support Groups, Puppy Raising, Female Veterans and First Responders Support Group, Pet-Assisted Therapy program with the Vero Beach Police Department, the School Resource Dog program with the Indian River County Sheriff's Office, the Foster Dog Program, and its Off-Leash Dog Park.

For more information, visit DogsForLifeVB.org.







Presents

Military Themed Golden Oldies Dance & Show

2nd Annual Patriots For Puppies



Saturday, February 4, 2023 ★ 5:30 - 9 PM

Pointe West Country Club ★ 7500 14th Lane, Vero Beach

**Dancing ★ Live Music ★ Food ★ 50/50 Raffle
Military & Golden Oldies Dress is Encouraged**

Sponsorship Opportunities

A Fundraiser To Benefit Dogs For Life Programs

- ★ Service Dog Training
- ★ Veterans Training Veterans PAWS Program
- ★ Veteran Service Dog Training
- ★ Veteran PTSD Recovery & Support Group
- ★ Female Veterans & First Responders Support Group
- ★ Pet Assisted Therapy Program - VBPD
- ★ School Resource Dog Program - IRCSSO
- ★ Puppy Raising - Foster Dog Training
- ★ Off-Leash Dog Park

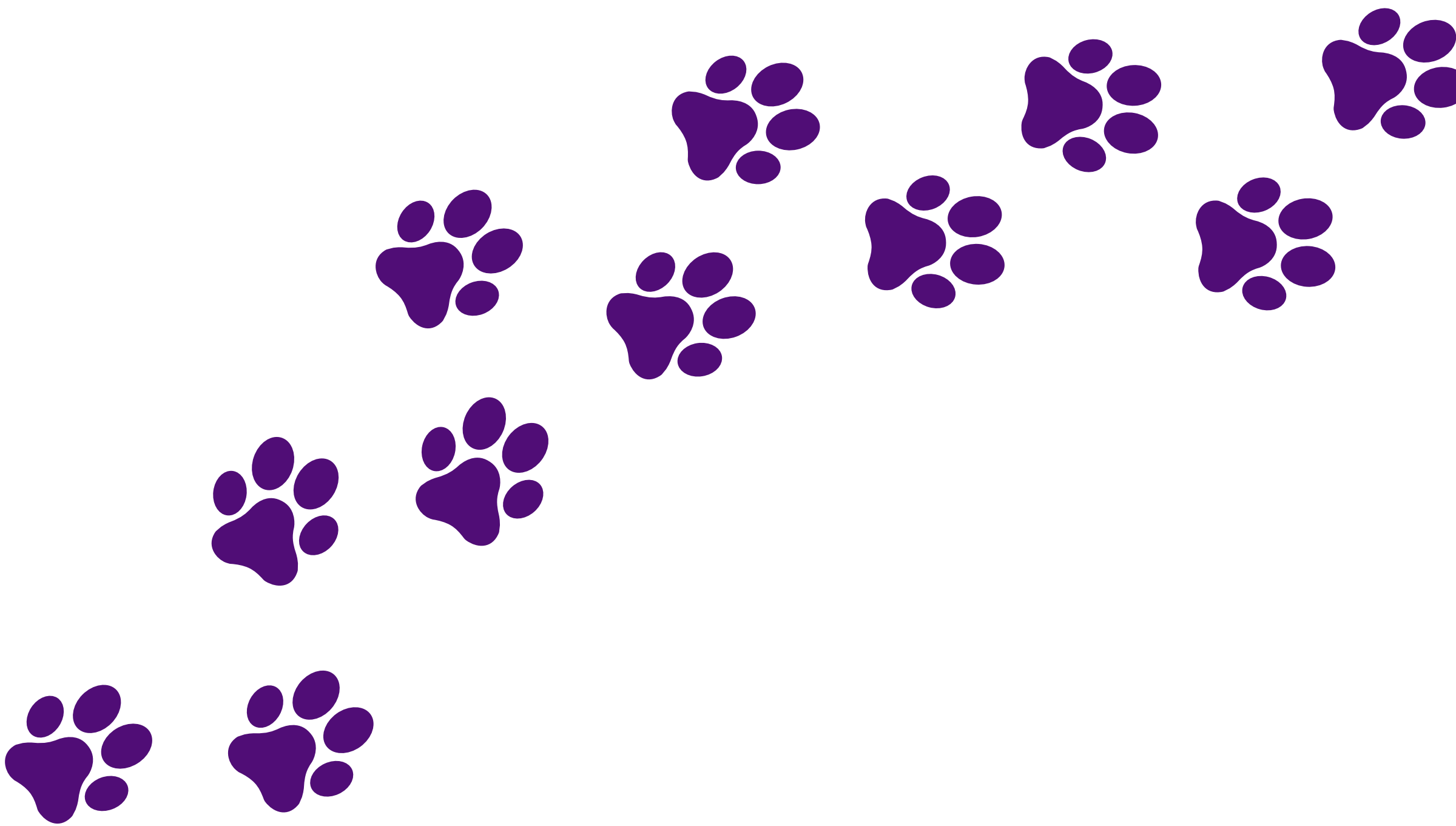
1230 16th Avenue • Vero Beach, FL 32960 • (772) 567-8969 • www.dogsforlifevb.org





Scrapbook

2022





DECEMBER

Annual Christmas Luncheon





Wreaths Across America- Indian River County

Thank you once again for your support!!



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Rick Lewis ·

I was lucky enough today to get to attend the 75th anniversary of Vero Beach Veterans, where I had the pleasure to meet Kathi Schumann. For the second year in a row Kathi Schumann became the largest donor to Wreaths Across America in Indian River County.

Thank you Mrs Schumann for all you do for Wreaths Across America, the Veterans of our county and the community as a whole. With your help we will remember, Honor every veteran and Teach another generation of the sacrifice mabe.

The background of the image is a repeating pattern of light purple paw prints of various sizes, scattered across a white background. The paw prints are stylized with four distinct pads.

NOVEMBER



St. Helen CCW News

November 2022

November 1st Meeting

As you can tell, the star of our meeting was "Rosie!" Shelly Ferger, the founder of this wonderful program, was our speaker and explained how hearing and service dogs can improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. It is only one of five Florida organizations accredited to certify service dogs for veterans.

On February 4th, 2023, [Patriots for Puppies](#) at Pointe West Country Club will benefit the Dogs for Life programs. Dancing, live music featuring "Jerry and the Dolls."

Dogs for Life also maintains the [off-leash dog park at](#) 1230 16th Ave. Applications are available to all dogs that are inoculated, neutered, and social.

Eddie Boatwright, husband of CCW Sister Gail Boatwright, is president of Dogs for Life.



**22 A DAY
IS UNACCEPTABLE**

Presented by
American Gold Star Mothers
of Indian River County, Inc.

4th ANNUAL WALK-A-THON

FOR
**MILITARY/VETERAN
SUICIDE AWARENESS**

Sunday, November 6, 2022
Registration at 9:00am - Walk starts at 10:00am

2.2 MILE WALK & VETERANS EXPO

**Join American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County
for a walk thru Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary**

Register online at www.ircgoldstarmoms.org

\$35 / person online
\$40 / person - day of walk

Riverside Park

Walkers start & finish at the Grand Pavilion

**Coffee & Donuts provided by
The Salvation Army**

DJ • Raffles • 50/50

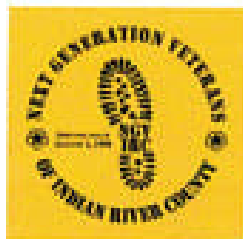
T-SHIRTS: First 300 online registrants
will receive a Walk T-shirt. Early pick up (on Fri. 11/4)
at Marine Bank & Trust • 1450 US1
"Day of" T-shirts: 1st come, 1st serve!



Scan QR Code
to Register



Proceeds to Benefit:



- michdaleircgoldstarmoms@gmail.com
- [@ircgoldstarmoms](https://www.facebook.com/ircgoldstarmoms)
- www.ircgoldstarmoms.org
- 570-885-2811

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (800-435-7352) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State. Registration #DTN3348471. American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County, Inc. is a non-profit tax-exempt organization as described under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)3. Federal ID #85-0621175.

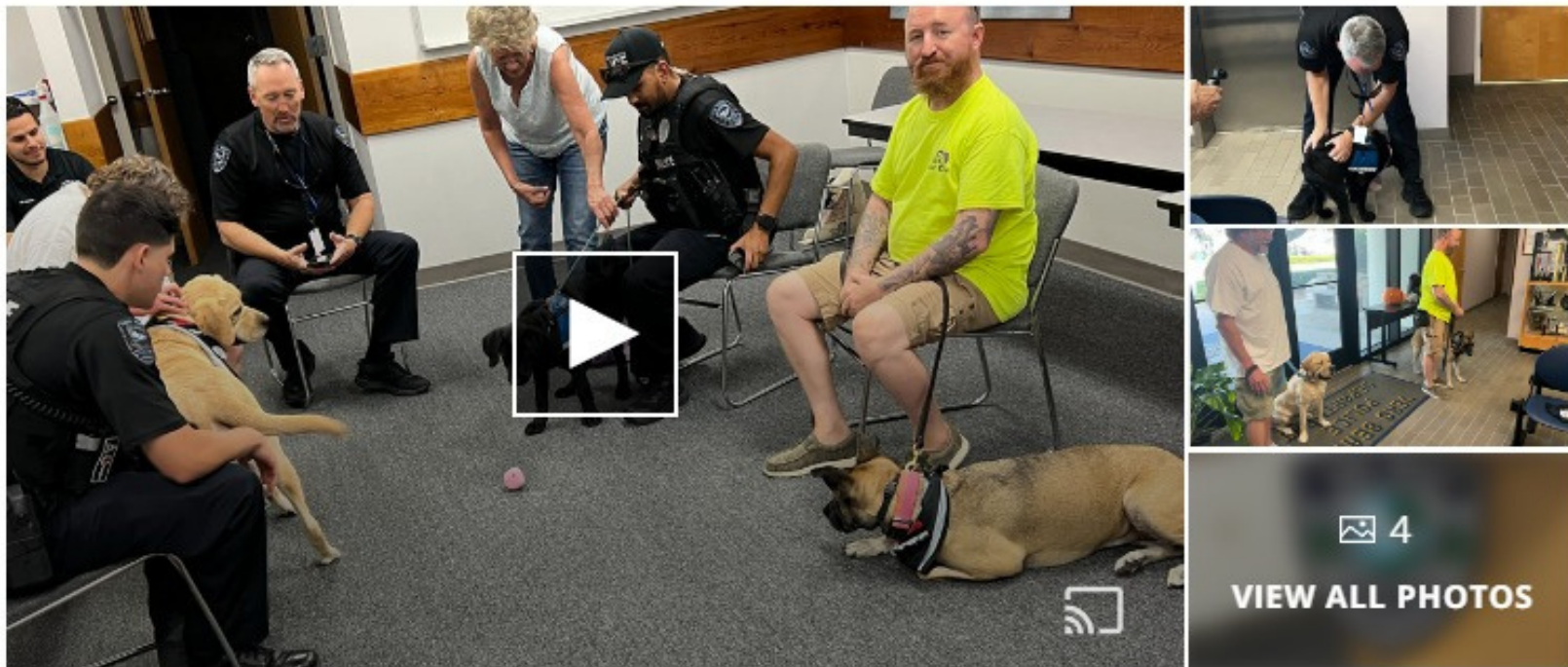




CBS News Coverage

Dogs serving as therapeutic outlet for Vero Beach police officers

by Dylan Huberman | Thu, November 3rd 2022, 6:53 PM EDT



Nonprofit organization Dogs for Life brings therapy dogs to Vero Beach police officers twice each week, Nov. 3, 2022. (WPEC)





OCTOBER

Letter to the **EDITOR**

All invited to hear inspirational PTSD speaker at Dogs For Life

To the Editor:

This is an open invitation to all Veterans, family, friends, supporters and patriots: On Friday, Nov. 4, at 1:30 p.m., Dogs For Life will host Guest Speaker Chris English, at our Training Center, located at 1230 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

An Army Veteran, he served in Bosnia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He retired from military service in June of 2014.

A sufferer of PTSD, Chris was able to heal through the help of Veteran friends and loved ones, but he was discouraged not to be able to find assistance through established health agencies.

In his biography, Chris states: "In 2017 I started my nonprofit Texas Hunters for Heroes West Texas and used many of the same techniques that helped me to heal, and to help other Veterans heal. We take a group of Veterans hunting and fishing, and give them the much-needed camaraderie and a safe place to talk about their traumas of war."

In 2018 he received certification to become a PTSD instructor and peer counselor. He then de-



veloped a relationship with PTSD Foundations of America and can provide much needed help to Veteran who suffer from PTSD, such as the ability to get suffering Veterans into a private facility to gain the much-needed help with the struggles involved with mental health and we are able to do this while keeping the Veteran's dignity and self-esteem.

Thanks, and I hope to see you all.

Sincerely,

Shelly Ferger
Founder/CEO/Director of Training Programs
Dogs For Life

VETERAN VOICE



A weekly newspaper about veterans issues, organizations, events and our military heroes. Veteran Voice is published weekly by Veteran Voice, LLC. 900 SE Ocean Blvd, STE D232, Stuart, FL 34994 (772) 247-0123 Office

LEGAL NOTICE ADVERTISING (Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River & Brevard)
Frankie Agosto or Tori Spoth **407-286-0807**
Legal notices may be emailed to: legal@flalegals.com

Phil Galdys
Publisher

32963

PEOPLE



Bijou.

**COSTUMED CANINES
FRIGHTFULLY CUTE AT
'HOWL-O-WEEN' P. 15**

VBPD Community Partnership





AUGUST

Birthday Tea Party





JULY

Bubbles!





JUNE

Vietnam Veterans Golf Luncheon



Your Online Newsline
Vero Beach FLASH
Anything About Everything

Scene Around
Town

eFLASH
Newsletters

Vero Beach, FL - Ed. 06.30.2022

Community Foundation Awards \$100,000 to Four Local Nonprofits



Indian River Community Foundation awarded grants totaling \$100,000 to four nonprofit charitable organizations serving Indian River County. The grants were awarded from the Community Enrichment Fund, and two of the organizations receiving funds were: \$25,000 to Dogs for Life for Veteran Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Recovery and Support Group Meetings; and 10,000 to Bike Walk Indian River County for The Bike Rehab Project. Indian River Community Foundation was established in 2008 with a mission of building a better community through donor-driven philanthropy. Visit www.ircommunityfoundation.org to learn more.

Pictured above:

Dogs for Life: Larry Salustro, IRCF Board Member with Rosie; Cynthia Ryan, Executive Director of Dogs for Life; Brooke Sauserman, IRCF Foundation Assistant with Chance; Chiaka Nwosu, IRCF Foundation Coordinator with Swift; Toni Hamner, IRCF Board Member; and Shelley Ferger, CEO of Dogs for Life, with Rufus.

Bike Walk Indian River County: IRCF Board Member Larry Salustro; John Crosby, Amy Banov, Bob Auwaerter, and Paul Morris all of Bike Walk; IRCF Board Member Toni Hamner; Dave Hunter, David Cerchie, John Sansburn, Barry Barker, and Larry Luedtke all of Bike Walk.

Visit www.ircommunityfoundation.org to learn more.

Boozefighters Motorcycle Club Fundraiser



The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of various sizes, scattered across a white background. The paw prints are stylized with four distinct pads.

MAY

Graduation & Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony



Lee Orre
Action Ph



APRIL

John's Island Grant

NEWS

John's Island grants

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

cil has worked with them for years," added Price.

"It does help that it is a public-private partnership. That's the big part," said Wheeler. She added that because of past relationships, they trusted that Price and Hubbard would be good stewards of the funds provided to them.

Among the other 25 agency grants provided this year, the Arc of Indian River County received a larger than usual \$75,000 grant to construct a pavilion at its west campus for its day program.

"I realize it's not housing per se, but COVID exposed all the incredible weaknesses that agencies here have been trying to tread carefully," said Cramb, noting that the pandemic revealed that many agencies had cramped quarters. "Now having an outside pavilion is like a house."

A new agency funded this year was the Economic Opportunities Council, which received a grant to build a playground at its Douglas Head Start Center in Wabasso. After the site team visited, members were so impressed, said Wheeler, that they wanted to give them the full amount requested.

Dogs for Life received a grant for the

first time in a long time, to cover a generator for the building.

"These service dogs help veterans and women first responders suffering from PTSD. This has turned into a real critical need," said Cramb. "They have weekly meetings for veterans with PTSD and weekly meetings for the female first responders. I had not appreciated all the different benefits these dogs can provide. So, we're learning a lot."

Youth Sailing Foundation received a first-time grant to fund catamarans for special needs sailors, ages 16 to 60, as well as beginner elementary sailors.

"This is certainly a very varied list; we're trying to work on all sorts of needs in Indian River County. We are trying harder to make sure that people are aware of the Johns Island Foundation," said Cramb. "We are a more quiet group, but that's part of who we are. And people are very generous."

The John's Island Foundation, which has provided more than \$14 million in grants pertaining to capital projects and improvements since 1999, solicits donations from residents through a seasonal campaign letter. Wheeler credits Emily Sherwood for establishing a Foundation Leadership Circle, whose members donate \$5,000 or more, and who now account for well over half the money they raise. ■

COVID-19 infections rising sharply again here, but hospitalizations remain relatively low

BY LISA ZAHNER
Staff Writer

New COVID-19 infections here reported to the Florida Department of Health more than doubled over the past week, going from 90 cases to 186 cases, and the countywide case positivity rate rose 61 percent in a single week, with 7.9 percent of people being tested now being found positive.

In the past four weeks, the average number of new daily infections reported here has more than tripled from 8.5 to 26.5 cases, thanks to the spread of the BA.2 or "stealth Omicron" variant that's taken hold in the Northeastern United States and is spreading to Florida.

Statewide, Florida is still in the green zone for low community transmission, according to the CDC's criteria, but cases rose 32 percent in a single week, from 15,623 to 20,680 as of Friday's report. In mid-March, the whole state reported between 8,000 and 9,000 new cases per week.

Increasingly popular in-home rapid

tests are the big unknown factor in the official case numbers, as people who test positive on DIY test kits typically do not report these results to the Florida Department of Health. These cases go unrecorded unless the individuals seek medical attention, or must report the illness due to their job or school attendance.

In-home tests kits can be obtained free of charge through a U.S. Postal Service website, plus most private insurance carriers cover or reimburse members for the purchase of these kits.

The CDC reports four hospitalizations of COVID-positive patients here over the past week, and eight COVID-positive people were hospitalized at Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital as of Monday, up from seven.

The School District of Indian River County reported 13 new COVID-19 infections last week, all of among public school students. Private and charter school case data is no longer available to the general public.

With the snowbird migration north

A BUILDER FOR YOUR
EXCEPTIONAL

Life Style

TOUR ONE OF OUR
VERO BEACH
MODEL HOMES TODAY.



BENT PINE PRESERVE
(772) 360-4991

PINE VALLEY AT INDIAN RIVER CLUB
(772) 205-3980

SINCE 1984
Life Style
A solar-powered
HOMES

BuildingALifeStyle.com

Cause & Effect

FUNDRAISERS & CULTURAL EVENTS ADVANCE THE WORK OF LOCAL NONPROFITS

GOLD STAR WALK-A-THON

AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS OF IRC

The American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County held their third annual Walk-A-Thon for Military Suicide Awareness at Riverside Park in November. The 2.2-mile event, which passes through Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary, calls to mind the heartbreaking statistic of 22 veterans and active service members who die by suicide each day. Proceeds from the Walk-A-Thon help fund PTSD groups at Dogs for Life and the Mental Health Association in Indian River County and support the work of Next Generation Veterans of Indian River County.



Roma Anderson, Tammy Thurber, Michelle Dale, Kathi Schumann, and Diana D'Angelo



LEE ORRE

Michael Wright, a veteran facilitator at Dogs for Life and MHAIRC, addresses the assembly.



LEE ORRE

The walk gets underway.



LEE ORRE

The Wall of Valor represents local Gold Star Mothers' sons and daughters who died while serving in the U.S. armed forces.



Doug Klock, Chuck Gerrald, Amy Wagner, Angela Guzenski, Michelle Dale, Shelly Ferger, and Cynthia Ryan attend the check presentation.

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of light purple paw prints of various sizes, scattered across a white background. The paw prints are stylized with four distinct pads.

MARCH

PETS



Oh 'MyMy,' is Bonz ever a fan of this Malti-Poo

Hi Dog Buddies!

It's always fun doin' an innerview at the Dogs for Life dog park – kinda brings me back to my puppyhood, you know? Miss Maya Sussman and her Mom, Susan, were already hangin' out in the Little Dog Section when me an my assistant arrived.

Maya – a Malti-Poo – was busy flyin' back an forth along the fenceline between the Liddle Dog an the Big Dog Sections: a puh-teet, black, 7.8-pound tornado totally keepin' up with a pooch running along the fence on the other side – Scout – who was at least 4 times her size.

As my assistant and Maya's Mom got comftubtle under the shady tree canopy, Maya, not the teeniest bit shy or aapree-HEN-sive, trotted up for the Wag-an-Sniff. She was perky an frenly, with a confident, bouncy prance. An she wasn't even out of breath, far as I could tell.

"Ah, youth," I thought to myself, a liddle wistfully. "Good morning, Miss Maya. You we're sure givin' that big pooch a run for his Pupperoni!"

She laughed. "Hello, Mr. Bonzo! I LOVE runnin' with the Big Dogs! Keeps me on my game. One time I squiggled through the gate into the Big Dog section. So they hadda make the gap smaller. Oh, an you can call me MyMy like Mommy does. An I'll call you Bonz, if that's OK."

"Totally," I replied. "Absolutely! We can sit here in the shade while you tell me your tail, how 'bout?"

She jumped onto her Mom's lap. "Per-

ZERVED, if you can buh-leeve it. I didn't bark for the longest time. I mean, I didn't have anything to bark about. Everything was grrreat. Mommy was grrreat. I was just checkin' stuff out. I was so teeny, Mommy fed me By Hand. I slept with her right away, of course, an she was always afraid she was gonna smush me or step on me.

"I learned about Doing my Duty very quickly. Mommy got me those PP pads. (But sometimes at first, I used a spot that only looked like one but wasn't.) PLUS, I'm very fass-TIDDY-us so now, when I hafta do No. 1, I stand on my front paws only, so I don't get my back paws all, you know, damp. It's like what humans call a handstand, Mommy says."

I was speechless.

"Anyway, one morning, I was snuggled under the covers still, dreamin' about bunnies or something, an there was this Big Noise. It startled me. Then I ree-lized it was ME. I had barked. I tried it a few more times. I'm not barky like some of those annoyin' liddle pooches who yap from dawn to dust. I only perform on request. So, wanna hear me sing?"

"Sure," I replied. "Whaddya sing?"

"Happy Birthday, mostly. Ready? Here goes."

MyMy's Mommy stood in front of her like a cun-DUCK-ter and MyMy began. It was uh-MAY-zing. All the humans in the Dog Park turned to look. Some of the other dogs joined in on the high notes. MyMy had a Very Big Voice, with a truly memorable "ahhh-ROOOOO!"

"Woof. MyMy, that was Totally Crispy

Lucy an Haus at Sunshine Fur-nuh-chur. Hey, there's Muffin now! HI, MUFFIN!!!"

"Hi, Maya! 'Sup?"

A black-an-white Australian Shepherd ran over for a Wag-N-Sniff; MyMy introduced us, then Muffin zipped off to play, an MyMy hopped back onto her Mommy's lap.

"I did meet a cat once," she mused. "ME-uh. She buh-longs to my stepdad Daryl. Since my name's MY-uh, it got liddle confusing. I was just liddle, an ME-uh was bigger than me, PLUS she had claws. I was scared of her. I guess you could call us Fren-uh-meets."

Suddenly she jumped down again, all alert. "Ooooh. Look!" she pointed across the field. A gold-colored poo-mix-lookin' pooch had grabbed a hat from one of the humans an was racin' all over the place, leapin' around, shakin' the hat, havin' a grrreat time. The humans were mostly laffin', even the hatless man. Finally, the hat was retrieved, the excitement subsided, an MyMy returned to her Mommy's lap to continue her tail.

"Where was I? Oh, yes, I love playin' with my frens! Dogs AN humans. 'Specially human kids. My human Besties are Gracyn an Grady; an Callie an Parker. Mommy's their Nanny. An guess what? Me an Gracyn have the Same Birthday – Dec. 6! Isn't that SO Cool Kibbles? I




him and one for me one time an, I woo you not, it was the most duh-LISHU! thing I EVER put in my mouth. Nov Mommy cooks for me. All in all, I hav The Best Life! Just us grrrls. I'm a luck poocheroo."

The hour had zipped by. I closed m notebook.

"Come back when you're not workin' an we can play!" she called, flyin' off into the field to run with the Big Dogs.

Heading home I was thinkin' abou MyMy, the fearless social budderfly. An about fil-LAY min-YON. I wonder wh my chances would be ...

Till next time,

The Dog 7 

32963

PEOPLE

Carly Hasenauer, Mandy Espinal and Nicole Stork.



PATRIOTS FOR PUPPIES

SWINGING SALUTE TO SERVICE DOGS

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of light purple paw prints of various sizes, scattered across a white background. The paw prints are stylized with four distinct pads.

FEBRUARY



Presents

A 1940's USO Themed Dance & Show

1st Annual Patriots For Puppies



Saturday, February 26, 2022 ★ 6 - 9 PM

The Heritage Center ★ Historic Downtown Vero Beach

Dancing ★ Live Music ★ Food ★ Raffles

1940's & Military Dress is Encouraged





PETS



Hi Dog Buddies!

Occasionally, I haff to sternly remind myself that I'm a Totally Happy Batchler. This was one of those times. This week's innerviewee, Maggie Firth, is a statue-ESK, purebred café latte-colored Standard Poo with legs up to here, a close-cropped haircut which shows off her stellar con-for-MAY-shun, cocoa-colored fluffy top-not, ears and tail-pom; the rest, little curls of cream and cocoa. Even though Miss Maggie's a fancy purebred, she's no snobnose.

So, when I learned her Furever Home was her fourth (an she's not even one anna haff), I was like "Wha-at?"

She trotted up with her Mom to greet me an my assistant. Actually, it was a graceful prance, like those white, dancing horses.

"It is SUCH a PLEH-zure to make your uh-QUAIN-tunce, Mr. Bonzo!" she said, gazing at me with her big brown eyes. "I've heard So Much about you. Please, DO come in. Warm your paws. We can sit here by the fireplace."

My paws, as a matter of fact, felt like they were glued to the floor. "I, ummm, errr ..." I mumbled suavely, forcing my gaze away from her long, graceful snout and cocoa-colored nose.

I finally got my paws to move, shook the fluff out of my head, and retrieved my notebook, which had somehow fallen to the floor.

"It's totally my pleasure. Lovely place you have."

"Why thank you," she said sweetly. "This is my Furever Mom, Kerry. Just make yourselves comf-tubble, an let me know when to begin."

"Ready whenever you are, Miss Maggie," I said in my Serious Professional Voice.

After daintily accepting a snack from the depths of my assistant's satchel,

she sat gracefully and began.

"Not long ago, Mom lost her beloved 16-year-old Maltese, Meeka. At the time, Mom's daughter Sheana and her dog Bear were living here with Mom, which helped fill the Loneliness Void. But when they moved elsewhere, Mom began to think about acquiring another dog. She was pic-shuring a pooch that was middle size; not a puppy; didn't shed; an a rescue cuz that's what she's always had. So, as Mom put it, she threw the idea out into the Universe. (I'm not certain, but I think that's a huge, big, gi-GAN-tic space that can hold everything else in it, like pillows an water an thots, an it's not even crowded. It's a human thing, so ...)"

Note to Self: Google Universe. Maggie continued.

"As a just-weaned puppy, I was purchased by a lady on the other side of the state who thought she wanted to raise poodles but, when I was about 9 months old, changed her mind. So she put my pickshur an bio on a Poo Rehoming Website.

"THEN, Mom's Very Good Frens an Nay-bors, Marc an Sue (who already had two Standard Pooos: Bo an Sissy), saw my irresistible pickshur an decided to buy me for Marc's Mom, who'd always udd-MY-erred Bo an Sissy.

"It WUDDA been Totally Swell except for one teensy little thing: I am a puppy with Tons of Energy an I LOVE playing outside, speshully where there's lotsa DIRT an, cuzza our pond an stuff, lotsa MUD, which I'd track all over when I came in from playin'. Which was A LOT TO KEEP UP WITH. So, long tail short, I ended up back with Marc, Sue, Bo an Sissy.

"We got along Grrreat! However, THREE big inner-JED-ick, playful poo-



dles was ONE TOO MANY POODLES. Next time Mom saw Marc, Sue, Bo an Sissy out walkin', she realized there was an extra poo: ME!

"Here's the Crispy Biscuits part: Altho I'd never seen her before, I was like, 'THAT'S MY FUREVER MOM!' I stuck my nose out so she could pat me. An she DID. We Totally Had A Moment. The very next morning, Marc said to Mom, 'Ummm, I wonder whether you'd like to adopt Maggie?' An Mom said, 'YESSS! Muddy Paws an all!' An just like that I hadda Furever Home."

"What a Wonderful Tail, Miss Maggie!"

"I KNOW! Mom says it's a WinWin-Win: She got a bew-dee-ful new compan-yun (ME); Marc, Sue an my Besties Bo an Sissy can visit any time; an I got my Furever Mom. Full disclosure, I love bein' a (slightly) Spoiled Only Dog.

"An about that Muddy Paws Thing: It still happens, of course, but Mom found this uh-MAY-zing Muddy Dog Feet Cleaner thingy that looks like a toilet bowl brush inna plastic can with water in it.

"Now, whenever I get Muddy Paws, I go right to Mom on the PADio; she holds the thingy an helps me stick one paw

atta time in it an whoosh it around. It only tickles a liddle bit an WAAAA-LAAA, no more Muddy Paws. Here, I'll show you!"

She demonstrated. It worked! An it totally did look like a toilet bowl brush.

"Tell me about your pooch pals. An what you do for fun," I suggested.

"Paws Down, my fave thing's chasin' ducks. I never catch 'em, tho. An playin' ball! An chewin' my stuffy chipmunk an my pink rubber squeaky pig. I have tons of pooch pals at the Dog Park. An I love takin' classes at Elite Training. Even though it's school, it's WAY FUN.

"Bo, Sissy an Bear are my Besties, but, over at Bo an Sissy's house there's also Pickles an Stella. Before them, I didn't know there were pets who weren't dogs. Did you? Pickles is a Cockatoo; that's a fancy bird with feathers instead of fur. Stella's a big cat. First cat I ever knew. Have you ever met a cat? They're miss-TEERY-us. I think she likes me but I'm not totally sure.

"At night, I snuggle in Mom's nice big cozy bed. Mom has a liddle corner an I stretch out in the rest cuzza my long legs. I'm such a fortunate grrrrl, Mr. Bonzo."

The hour had raced by. Headin' home, I was thinkin' how Muddy Paws had led Maggie to her Furever Mom. I guess The Universe has a sense of Humor.

Till next time,

The Bonz

Don't Be Shy

We are always looking for pets with interesting stories.

To set up an interview, email bonzothecolumnist@gmail.com.

DIVINE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

We have Warm Hearts for Cold Noses!

Dr. Randy Divine • Dr. Patty Shockency
Dr. Alexandra (Lexi) Naylor



654 21st St. (Miracle Mile Plaza) • 772-299-3665 (Call or Text) • DivineAnimalHospital.com

Our VIP's Have Paws

COMPLETE HEALTH CARE

Advanced Ear Disease Diagnostics, Treatment & Technology
Stem Cell Therapy & Pain Management Hospital
Sound Wave Energy Therapy
Class IV Laser Therapy

Early Spay/Neuter • Dentistry • Chemotherapy
Ultra Sound • Orthopedics • Dermatology
Ophthalmology • Acupuncture • Vaccinations
Endoscopy • Digital Radiology • Complete Lab
Telemedicine • Grooming • Science Diet

Multiple Pet Discounts

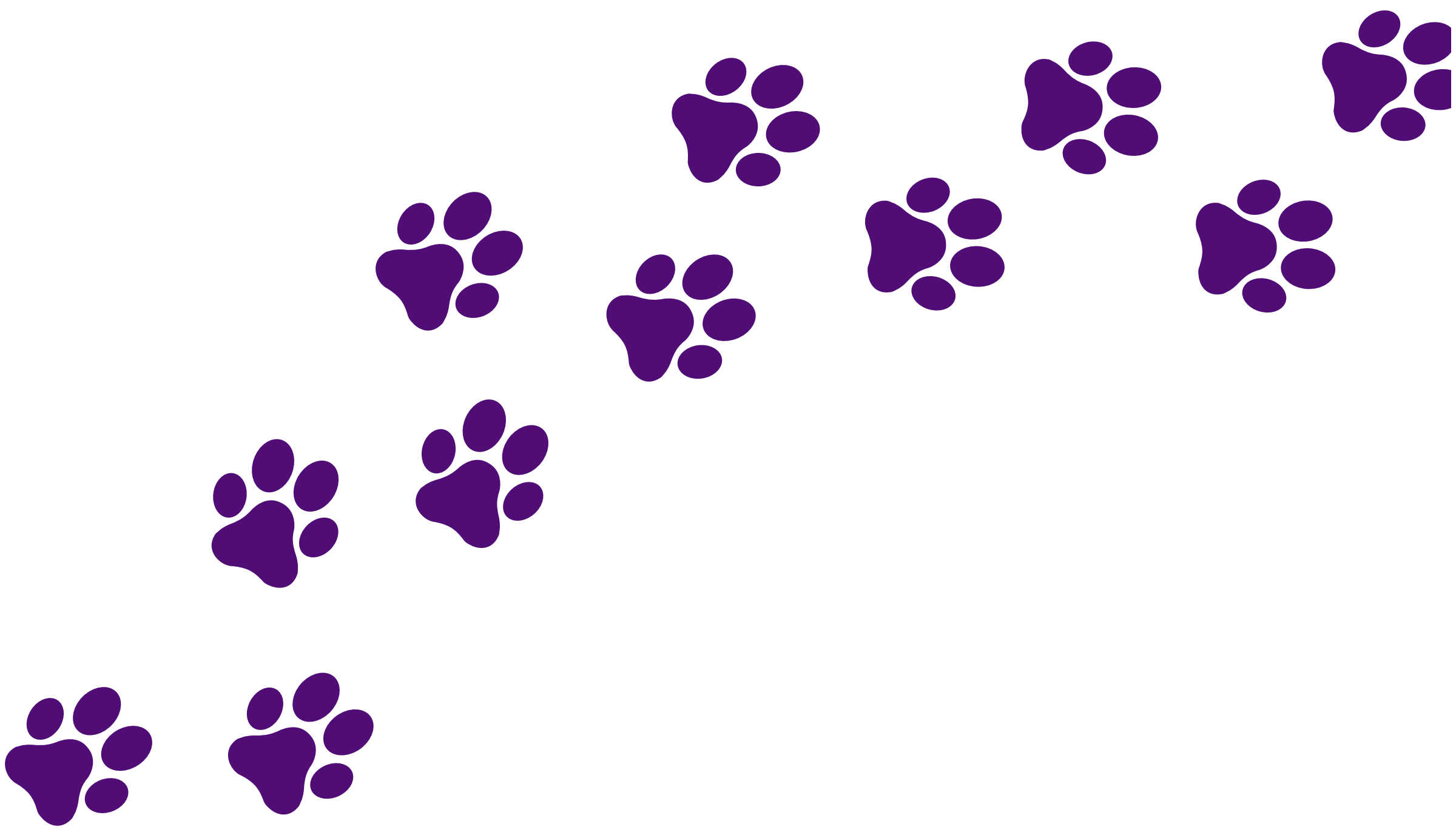
Emergency Service • We ARE Available 24/7

We Welcome New Patients



Scrapbook

2021





DECEMBER

Annual Christmas Luncheon



Patriots for Puppies

December Delights

LOCAL NONPROFITS HELP KEEP US ACTIVE, ENTERTAINED AND INFORMED

AS EVENT PLANNERS CONTINUE TO MAKE SAFETY A PRIORITY, WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU CALL AHEAD OR CHECK WEBSITES BEFORE FINALIZING YOUR PLANS.



10TH ANNIVERSARY

DECEMBER 5

Indian River Animal Advocates, a nonprofit offshoot of Dr. Dan's Animal Hospital, will receive all proceeds from the veterinary clinic's 10th anniversary celebration. The event will be full of fun, with a "dunk the doctor" tank, bounce house, face painting, raffles, free goodies, and Santa Claus photo opportunities. Hot dogs, snow cones, cotton candy and popcorn will also be available. IRAA provides low-cost medical care and other services for needy animals. It is also heavily involved in local spay and neuter efforts, including the TNVR (trap, neuter, vaccinate and return) program to reduce the feral cat population.

INDIAN RIVER ANIMAL ADVOCATES

at Dr. Dan's Animal Hospital
1624 14th Ave.
11 a.m.-4 p.m., free to attend
772-567-8468
ddahvero.com

PREVIEWS



PATRIOTS FOR PUPPIES

FEBRUARY 26

In support of its work training service dogs for veterans, Dogs for Life will hold its inaugural Patriots for Puppies event, a 1940s USO-themed dance and show. Guests will enjoy live music by a big band orchestra and the Almost Andrews Sisters, swing dancing with the Swingsations, and food catered by Wild Thyme—all in a venue that hosted similar events for personnel stationed at Naval Air Station Vero Beach during World War II.

DOGS FOR LIFE
at Heritage Center
2140 14th Ave.
6-9 p.m., \$135
772-567-8969
dogsforlifevb.org

Veteran Don Peterson with Rosie, who is in training



NOVEMBER

Veterans Island Memorial Sanctuary







Presented by
American Gold Star Mothers
of Indian River County, Inc.

3rd ANNUAL WALK-A-THON

FOR
**MILITARY SUICIDE
AWARENESS**

Sunday, November 7, 2021

Registration at 9:00am • Walk starts at 10:00am



OCTOBER

News Coverage

6Y | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021 | YOUR NEW



Service dog puppies take two years to be fully trained as a public access, task trained dog at Dogs For Life in Vero Beach. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO PROVIDED BY DOGS FOR LIFE

Dogs

Continued from Page 1Y

By training hearing and service dogs, Dogs for Life is devoted to improving the quality of life for veterans and other individuals with disabilities.

Part of the organization's training complex on 12th Street is an off-leash dog park where canines and their member companions can enjoy the outdoors.

Ryan comes to Dogs for Life from the Veterans Council of Indian River County, where she served as development director. Before working for non-profit agencies, Ryan spent 20 years as a designer, project manager and collaborator for local and national interior design firms.

"While working at the Veterans Council, I got to see first-hand the needs of veterans in this community," said Ryan. "What Dogs for Life does is match the needs of our veterans with a trained service dog."

There are about 50 teams of canines and their companions that have been through the Dogs for Life training program. About half of those are veterans, Ryan said.

Dogs For Life's trained service dogs enrich people's lives - providing ears that hear smoke alarms, paws that tap a 911 button to call for emergency assistance, legs that provide added mobility, and pressure to calm anxiety attacks.

Many of the dogs are trained by former military members through a program called Veterans Helping Veterans.

The six-week training classes provide instruction in basic dog obedience and behavior; service and hearing dog tasks; public access laws; dog temperament evaluation; and continuing education in service dog training and foster care.

For more information on Service Dog Training, call 772-567-8969 or send an email to office@dogsforlifevb.org.

VERO BEACH | INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Newsweekly

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021
TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS • TCPALM.COM

Program matches service dogs with veterans, disabled people

Janet Begley

Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

VERO BEACH - Indian River County resident Kris Hasenauer served his country as a Special Forces medic and Physician's Assistant in the U.S. Army.

When he learned about the Dogs for Life program that provides canine companions to veterans, he jumped at the chance and was matched with a yellow

Labrador retriever named Jasper.

"I'm super grateful for everything Dogs for Life has done for us," said Hasenauer, in a video posted to the Dogs for Life website. "Jasper is an amazing companion and he has absolutely changed my life."

Jasper was about a year old when he was matched with Hasenauer, and he continued to train with him over the last year. The 2-year-old Labrador retriever accompanies Hasenauer on his daily

rounds for his own business, Emerald Health in Fort Pierce, where he serves the medical needs of as many veterans as possible. Dogs for Life was founded in 2001 by Shelly Ferger, who serves as chief executive officer. She is also transitioning into the position of director of training programs with the addition of Cynthia Ryan as the organization's new executive director.

See DOGS, Page 6Y

00-73-21

Dogs for Life matches service dogs with veterans, the disabled

Janet Begley

Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

VERO BEACH - Indian River County resident Kris Hasenauer served his country as a Special Forces medic and physician's assistant in the U.S. Army.

When he learned about the Dogs for Life program that provides canine companions to veterans, he jumped at the chance and was matched with a yellow Labrador retriever named Jasper.

"I'm super grateful for everything Dogs for Life has done for us," said Hasenauer, in a video posted to the Dogs for Life website. "Jasper is an amazing companion and he has absolutely changed my life."

Jasper was about a year old when he was matched with Hasenauer, and he continued to train with him over the last year. The 2-year-old Labrador retriever accompanies Hasenauer on his daily rounds for his own business, Emerald Health in Fort Pierce, where he serves the medical needs of as many veterans as possible.

Dogs for Life was founded in 2001 by Shelly Perger, who serves as chief executive officer. She is also transitioning into the position of director of training programs with the addition of Cynthia Ryan as the organization's new executive director.

By training hearing and service dogs, Dogs for Life is devoted to improving the quality of life for veterans and other individuals with disabilities.

Part of the organization's training complex on 12th Street is an off-leash dog park where canines and their member companions can enjoy the outdoors.

Ryan comes to Dogs for Life from the Veterans Council of Indian River County, where she served as development director. Before working for non-profit agencies, Ryan spent

Dogs

Continued from Page 1A

20 years as a designer, project manager and collaborator for local and national interior design firms.

"While working at the Veterans Council, I got to see first-hand the needs of veterans in this community," said Ryan. "What Dogs for Life does is match the needs of our veterans with a trained service dog."

There are about 50 teams of canines and their companions that have been through the Dogs for Life training program. About half of those are veterans, Ryan said.

Dogs For Life's trained service dogs enrich people's lives - providing ears that hear smoke alarms, paws that tap a 911 button to call for emergency assistance, legs that provide added mobility, and pressure to calm anxiety attacks.

Many of the dogs are trained by former military members through a program called Veterans Helping Veterans.

The six-week training classes provide instruction in basic dog obedience and behavior; service and hearing dog tasks; public access laws; dog temper-



Indian River County resident Kris Hasenauer served his country as a Special Forces medic and physician's assistant in the U.S. Army. The Dogs for Life program that provides canine companions to veterans matched him with Jasper, a yellow Labrador retriever. PROVIDED BY DOGS FOR LIFE

ament evaluation; and continuing education in service dog training and foster care.

Dogs For Life fundraiser

What: Patriots for Puppies

When: Feb. 26, 2022

Where: Heritage Center, 2140 14th Ave., Vero Beach.

This 1940's USO-themed dance and show will feature dancing, 12-piece Big Band, performance by the "Almost" Andrews Sisters, dinner and raffles, echoing back to World War II when the

Heritage Center was used by local service members as the Officers' Club.

For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, contact Cynthia Ryan at 772-567-8969 or by email at cynthia.ryan@dogsforlifevb.org. Details also are available online at www.dogsforlifevb.org

For more information on Service Dog Training, call 772-567-8969 or send an email to office@dogsforlifevb.org.

TCPalm Article

MARKETPLACE

Search For & Place Classifieds

TCPalm.

[News] Indian River Martin St. Lucie Sports Advertise Obits eNewspaper Legals



63°F



"I'm super grateful for everything Dogs for Life has done for us," said Hasenauer, in a video posted to the [Dogs for Life website](#). "Jasper is an amazing companion and he has absolutely changed my life."

Jasper was about a year old when he was matched with Hasenauer, and he continued to train with him over the last year. The 2-year-old Labrador retriever accompanies Hasenauer on his daily rounds for his own business, Emerald Health in Fort Pierce, where he serves the medical needs of as many veterans as possible.

Dogs for Life was founded in 2001 by Shelly Ferger, who serves as chief executive officer. She is also transitioning into the position of director of training programs with the addition of Cynthia Ryan as the organization's new executive director.

By training hearing and service dogs, Dogs for Life is devoted to improving the quality of life for veterans and other individuals with disabilities.

Part of the organization's training complex on 12th Street is an off-leash dog park where canines and their member companions can enjoy the outdoors.

Ryan comes to Dogs for Life from the Veterans Council of Indian River County, where she served as development director. Before working for non-profit agencies, Ryan spent 20 years as a designer, project manager and collaborator for local and national interior design



Indian River County resident Kris Hasenauer served his country as a Special Forces medic and physician's assistant in the U.S. Army. The Dogs for Life program that provides canine companions to veterans matched him with Jasper, a yellow Labrador retriever. *Contributed From Dogs For Life*

Believe in the Mission Gala

2R | MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2021 | LUMINARIES | TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

DDS4Vets to host 'Believe in the Mission Gala' at Hutchinson Island Marriott

Courtesy of Linda Kloorfain
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

STUART - DDS4Vets is working to help local veterans get the help they need.

The organization's "Believe in the Mission Gala" fundraiser will take place 6-11 p.m. Oct. 16 at the Hutchinson Island Marriott Island Marriott, 555 N.E. Ocean Blvd.

Proceeds are earmarked to help raise funds for service dog costs.

Retired U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Donald Bolduc will be the keynote guest speaker. Bolduc served eight combat tours during his 32 years in the Armed Forces

and received many medals including five Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts.

Special guests to attend will include Coach Tom Mullins, David Webb, news commentator, Michael Gier, director/producer; Maureen Shea, two-time world boxing champion; and Congressman Brian Mast.

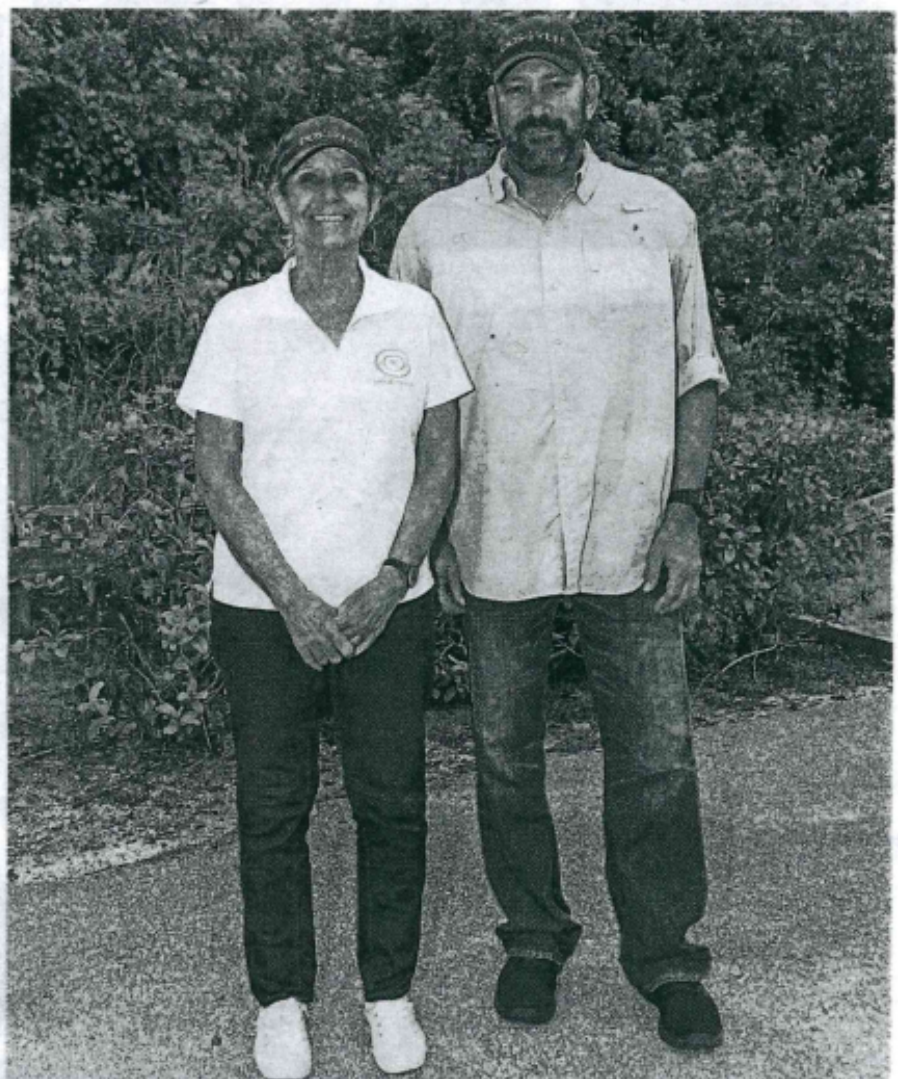
Karen Vaughn, a Gold Star mom, and Dr. Brian Moriarty, of Loving Care Chiropractic, will serve as emcees.

Vaughn is the mother of the late Aaron Vaughn from Seal Team VI and founder of Operation 300, an organization that provides mentorship to children of the fallen.

See GALA, Page 6R

On the cover

Deb Doherty, CEO of DDS4Vets, surrounded by members of DoYouGiveARuck before their Thursday evening 3.2-mile ruck. DoYouGiveARuck is a loyal supporter of DDS4Vets, recently raised \$15,000 at a 9/11 event. Contributed by Linda Kloorfain.



Deb Doherty, CEO of DDS4Vets, and Michael Colton, DDS4Vets senior K9 advisor.
CONTRIBUTED BY LINDA KLOORFAIN



SEPTEMBER

PTSD Recovery and Support

2 • SEPTEMBER 2, 2021 • VETERAN VOICE

BREVARD COUNTY

DATED EVENTS

Saturday, Sept. 11

Space Coast Honor Flight returns to operations with 2021 Honor Flights. Check their website at SpaceCoastHonorFlight.org for updated information. Luncheons for SCHF have resumed at several county restaurants (see below).

Rockledge Remembering 9/11 Ceremony, 10:30 a.m., at Rockledge City Hub — The 20th Anniversary of the Events on 11 September 2001.

Twentieth Anniversary Tribute to Sacrifice, 9/11 and Aftermath, Patriots Day and 9/11 Commemoration at the VMC. Sponsored by Club 1013 Ret NYPD and the VMC. This event marks the 20th anniversary of the attacks on America and almost two decades since America took the fight to enemies in Afghanistan and around the world. It will be a special Patriots Day Remembrance (11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. — 5:30-7 p.m.) and Tribute Ceremony (4-5:30 p.m.). Food trucks, vendors and special events in Veterans Memorial Park; Ceremony in the Center and Memorial Plaza area.

ONGOING EVENTS

Space Coast Honor Flight lun-

CALENDAR



Please visit www.VeteranVoiceWeekly.com to submit Calendar events at least 2 weeks in advance, so that we may ensure your events receive timely publication.

is free with paid admission to the Warbird Air Museum. Please RSVP by phone or email. The phone number is (321) 268-1941 and the email address is Warbirds@valiantaircommand.com.

VFW Post 8191 monthly work day, first Saturday of the month, 9 a.m.-noon. This is a reminder to post members and an invitation to Auxiliary members to join us. We will do whatever tasks the House Committee Chairman/Canteen Manager/Commander/President have in mind that don't require extensive skills. Tasks can include cleaning the kitchen and deep fat fryer, replacing the electrical cord on the bingo machine, replacing some baseboard black plastic pieces, placing a few more signs in our storage lot, etc. on an as-necessary basis. For more info, visit vfw8191.org.

Monthly meeting, Brevard Veterans Council, second Wednesday of

month, **Victory Center Military Store in the Vero Mall.** For more information email vva1038@yahoo.com or www.vvachapter1038.org or call 772-562-8794.

Monthly meeting, American Legion Post 39, second Monday of the month, 1535 Old Dixie Highway, Vero Beach. E-board meeting begins at 6 p.m., followed by general membership meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Monthly meeting, Veterans Council of Indian River County, first Wednesday of the month, 1 p.m., County Administration Complex, Building B.

Monthly meeting, Indian River Detachment of Marine Corps League, fourth Thursday of the month, 7 p.m., at the Victory Center in Indian River Mall.

PTSD Support And Recovery meetings, every Monday, 7 p.m., Dogs For Life Administration Building, 1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach. Military licensed health professionals are facilitators. For more information, contact Dogs For Life Service Dog Training Center at (772) 567-8969 or visit www.dogsforlifevb.org.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

ONGOING EVENTS

*** IMPORTANT NOTICE ***

The USN Armed Guard/Merchant Marine Veterans of WWII Museum has temporarily closed due to COVID-19; however, the expenses are ongoing. We would greatly appreciate a donation from you and/or someone that you know who might be interested in helping to keep the Museum open



AUGUST

Letter to the EDITOR

ing is

l

rocery store this
in your tank? If
ve you booked
?
ced that your
an usual. To-

have on those they are supposed to represent. They are more concerned with expanding the federal government and restricting your rights than with supporting hardworking families to ensure that they can afford a trip to the grocery store.

I will continue fighting against this reckless tax-and-spend proposal, and I'll keep you updated on what happens next!

Please visit mast.house.gov for more information.

It is an honor to serve you.

Sincerely,



Brian Mast

BRIAN MAST
U.S. Representative
FL-18

Double the puppies, double the help for Vets

atching pennies,
1, D.C. are plan-
1,000,000.
eleven zeros.
e is just going to
er.
ress are de-
r-left wish list,
impacts it will

To the Editor:

Dogs For Life, Vero Beach, has added two new additions to their mission of aiding Veterans that need canine assistance! "Chocolate" and "Vanilla," two Labrador puppies, will soon begin training in as-

Dogs For Life

Training Assistance Dogs
For Veterans

sisting Veterans in their daily lives. This training can involve "de-stressing" from PTSD, to hearing-related tasks, to dialing 9-1-1 if necessary. It is extremely finely organized training, to match the needs of Veterans.

Dogs For Life has matched many Veterans with service dogs at no cost to the Veteran. Dogs For Life is nationally accredited, and in addition to its mission of serving Veterans, also operates a regular training facility and off-leash Dog Park at its premises at 1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach.

Helping to match Veterans with service dogs does not happen for free. Dogs For Life depends on donors to help with its mission to make Veterans' lives better.

To learn more, please visit dogsforlife-ub.org, or call (772) 567-8969.

Sincerely,

DOGS FOR LIFE
Vero Beach

AN VOICE

is issues, organizations, events and our military heroes.

ublished weekly by Veteran Voice, LLC.

1 Blvd, STE D232, Stuart, FL 34994

(772) 247-0123 Office

10th, St. Lucie, Indian River & Strevord)
286-0807
evral@flaleads.com

Phil Galdys
Publisher

*Veteran Voice would like
to give a special thanks to*

JOHN FAULKNER

of HOLLY HILL, FL

Meet-up for Female Veterans and First Responders

Meet-Up for

Female Veterans
and
First Responders

4 AUG 1730 - 1930

A catered event at
Dogs For Life
1230 16th Ave, Vero Beach
(772) 567-8969

Sponsored by:



The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of light purple paw prints of various sizes, scattered across a white background. The paw prints are stylized with four distinct pads.

JULY

PETS



Hi Dog Buddies!

This week's innerviewee has The Perfect Name! Smiley Taylor is a rescue, purebred Staffordshire Terrier. Her short black-an-brindle coat an Cool Kibbles black spots on pretty pink skin are SO On Trend. But the coolest thing is her Huge, Frenly, LIT-trully Ear-to-Ear Smile. The only smile I've ever seen that was bigger was onna Cow. If there were Smile Olympics, she'd grab the gold, paws down.

Anyway, Smiley an her big sis Gabby (a longtime pooch pal of mine), an their Mom Debra met me an my assistant at the door. Following Wag-an-Sniffs and greetings, we got settled on the pool padio. Smiley explained their PopPop Scott was at work.

"A pleasure meeting you, Miss Smiley, an seeing you again, Miss Gabby!" I said, remembering the liddle bit of a crush I had on Gabby back in The Day. Sigh.

I opened my notebook. "I'm ready to hear how you joined your Forever Famly," I told Smiley, who flashed her big happy smile an began.

"First off, our Mom is a Big Ol' Softy when it comes to pooches, 'speshully Pooches In Need, an 'speshully Bullys, which is what dogs like us are sometimes called. So Mom was On The Line, casually browsin' through pickshurs from the rescue place, Furever Bully Love, which is in that Mouse Town and where she found Gabby. Well, guess what? There was a vidy-o of ME. I'd been dumped on a street in My-Ammy, and I was huddled under a car, totally terrified, an two humans from The Pound were draggin' me out. They were bein' careful, but I was still scared out of my fur. Here, look!"

I watched the vidy-o on Smiley's Mom's CELL-you-ler. I was uh-GASSED! There Smiley was, being dragged out from under this car. The humans weren't bein' rough or anything, but poor liddle Smiley.

"Oh, Woof! Smiley!"

"I KNOW. I thought I was DOOMED. But I WASN'T. The Furever Bully Love humans rescued me from The Pound, an that's how Mom found me. So Mom and PopPop an Gabby drove to Mouse Town to see me.

They wanted to be sure me an Gabby would get along an, evenshully, we did. It didn't take me long to ree-lize I was Safe an Suh-CURE."

Gabby spoke up. "We kinda ignored each other for a while, till I ree-lized it was Cool Kibbles havin' a Liddle Sis, AN bein' a Big Sis, which means I'm In Charge. So then I was, 'Oh. OK!' I must say, she was under my paws all the time, sometimes still is. Like, she always wants what I have. Sometimes I hafta set her straight." Gabby gave Smiley a sisterly nose-bump an Smiley responded with a Huge Smile.

"I have The Best Life, Mr. Bonzo! I love snugglin' with my famly. I might possibly be just a teeny bit needy, but Mom says it's cuzza my scary puppy days, and she loves cuddlin,' too. When Mom takes a bath, I sit right there on the mat with my paws an chin on the side of the tub just to be sure she's OkeyDokey. Mom says I don't get the concept of Personal Space. I'm pretty sure that's a human thing."

"Then, about a year-anna-haff ago, Mom found out she has that scary human duh-sees she calls Big C. She goes back an forth to a hoss-piddle



called Muffin or something, an sayin' goodbye so offen is Dismal Dog Biscuits. Gabby agrees. When Mom's home, I wanna be right next to her. Plus, she gives me The Best Tummy Rubs Ever. I always go into The Zone."

In between talkin', Smiley had been playin' with a Green Ball with holes in it. It was way too big for most pooches, includin' me, to wrap our mouths around, but Miss Smiley had no problem whatsoever. All I could see above the ball were her eyes.

"Is that your favrite toy?"

"Yeb! I habba lobba toiz, bud thiff id by FABLE!"

"Do you swim? Any BFFs? Whaddya do for fun. An exercise?"

She peetooid the ball out and replied. "Swim? No! I don't like the water. At. All. My Kong's cool. So are my stuffies, but they don't last that long. I love hangin' with my human brother Brad, 'specially at mealtime cuz he drops stuff on the floor for us. Then there's Miss Debbie. She takes care of Brad. She's sorta like a sister. An Granny Janette, an our neece an neff-yew Haley an Jarrod. We love their visits.

"We don't do the dog park cuz Mom knows some humans are nervous

around 'Dogs Like Us,' whatever that ackshully means, but me an Gabby do lotsa other fun stuff. Like the beach, An goin' to Home Depot. An leash walks, when we greet our neighbors."

"Well, you an Miss Gabby are very stylish an FEM-uh-nun," I replied. "I couldn't help noticin' your bright red toenails."

Full disclosure: I had noticed them when we arrived but, being an occasionally dorky guy, I decided not to risk a fox paw and mention it right then.

"Why thank you, Mr. Bonzo!" Smiley smiled sweetly. An largely. "We started getting mani-pedis last year. We try to be Fashion Forward."

"Where do you sleep?"

"We have beds in Mom an PopPop's room. But I sneak onto their bed a lot. Just for comfort. I'm still scared sometimes. Of sharp noises. An brooms. I don't think they'd even notice me if I didn't snore. Real Loud, Gabby says. I just wanna be close to my Mom, you know?"

Heading home, I was thinking about how sweet Smiley just wants to be near her Mom as much as possible. I always felt the very same about my Mom, and I'm pretty sure most of you Fellow Poocheroos can say the same thing about your human BFF. It's in our DogNA.

Till next time,

The Bonz

Don't Be Shy

We are always looking for pets with interesting stories.

To set up an interview, email bonzothecolumnist@gmail.com.

DIVINE



Our VIP's Have Paws
COMPLETE HEALTH CARE

Words from War

Sculpture

PEOPLE

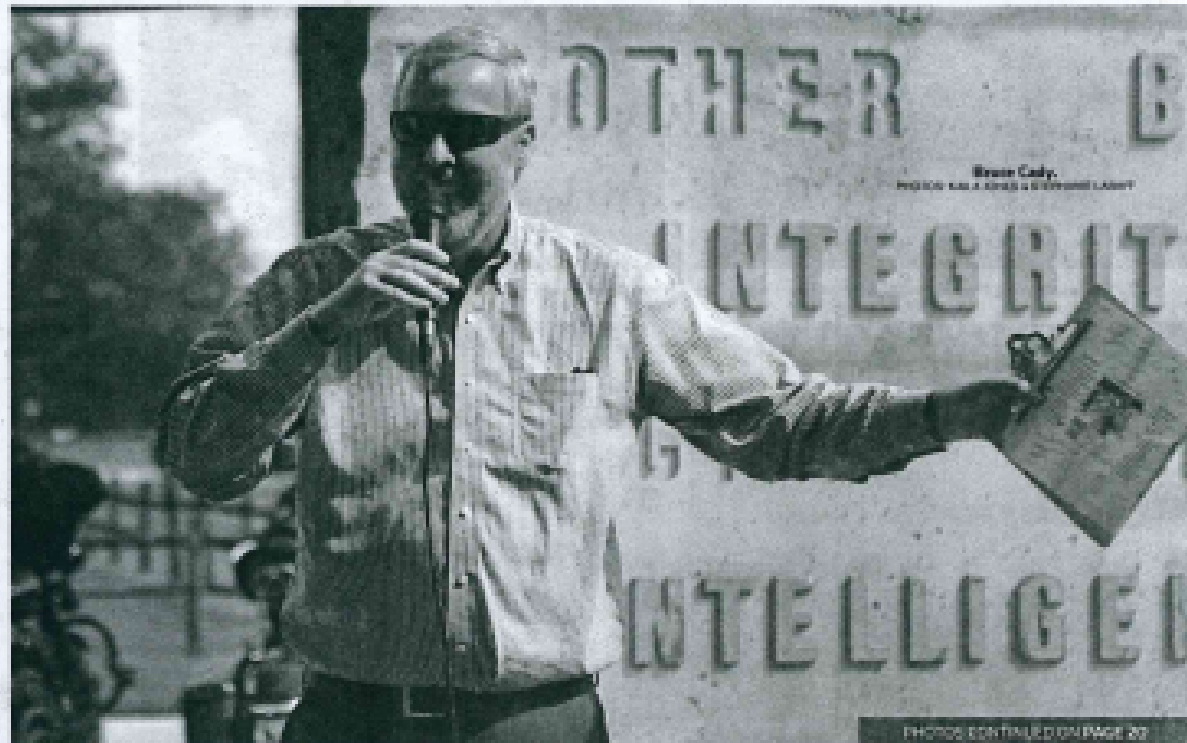
Words from War Sculpture ‘speaks to’ those who served

BY STEPHANE LABAFF
Staff Writer

Next Generation Veterans of Indian River County recently unveiled its Words from War Monumental Sculpture at Riverside Park, near the entrance to Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary. The group had commissioned artist Ross Power to create the massive sculpture nearly five years ago.

A large crowd of veterans, military families and local dignitaries stood alongside civilian members of the community, all united in their belief that it is as important to assist members of the Armed Forces once they return home as it is to support them while they are on active duty.

The monument was constructed to represent the sacrifices made by the men and women of our military services, a concrete representation of the community’s support of veterans from all conflicts. Power said he designed the monument to resemble a T-Wall, symbolizing the concrete walls used as



Bruce Cady, Project Lead, stands in front of the sculpture.

PHOTOS CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

blast protection for soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The sculpture is an imposing structure, built to last. Power used more than 40,000 pounds of cast concrete and epoxy-coated rebar to construct the 9-foot-high by 18-foot-wide monument.

During a private Thank You Reception for donors on the eve of the Saturday morning unveiling, Bruce Cady, project lead, commented that it had been a collaborative effort, supported by more than 250 individual donors, the City of Vero Beach, various veterans organizations and community partners.

“The community has touched this project,” said Cady. “The words, the sentiment, the art that Ross created, speaks to everyone that’s wearing a uniform.”

“Words are important,” said Power, who had interviewed veterans and extrapolated their words to convey their experiences, memories and thoughts. Among the 48 words etched or written in relief are duty, honor, protect and courage.

He explained that the bullet-riddled metal hangings under a dome connected to the walls are meant to represent the ugliness of war and the total destruction that our veterans encounter.

“How can you expect a veteran to come back from war and ever be the same?” asked Power. “We need to not only love and support and honor our

veterans, but we must realize that it is the mental health of the world that creates war. And it is the mental health that we need to focus on to help our veterans to stop the ridiculous and painful amount of suicide and constant returning from service with PTSD that lasts forever.”

As a voting member of the Veterans Council of Indian River County, the mission of Next Generation Veterans is “to create a network of next generation of veterans, provide a venue for social support, combat misconception about returning veterans and represent our generation by positively engaging the community.”

In addition to connecting veterans with services and social gatherings, the group runs a PTSD support group in partnership with Dogs for Life and Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County. Through Operation React and Recovery, they provide shelter assistance to veterans in need and are working to create an extreme weather bunker of emergency supplies and recovery equipment.

Membership is open to veterans in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces who served honorably from 1950 to the present. They meet at 6:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month at the Felix Poppell American Legion Post or via Zoom. For more information, visit ng-vet.org. ■

— TIRED OF ZOOM MEETINGS? SO ARE WE. —

Clients are ALWAYS welcome in our office.
Covid-19 has driven most investment firms to an online-only service model. We're NOT most firms. We're a boutique practice with decades of experience in offering customized portfolio management.

Besides, how can you build a meaningful relationship on Zoom?

Investment Management • Trust & Estate Services • Financial Strategies

Barbara E. Magee, Alexander S. Bell, Charlene Fulgett Tucker, Thomas J. Rollands and Sue M. Tompkins

WARREN
CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

WELLS FARGO ADVISORS FINANCIAL NETWORK

772.494.7660 | 3066 Cardinal Dr, Suite 306, Vero Beach, FL 32963
www.warrencapitalmanagement.com

Investment products and services are offered through Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network, LLC (WFANF), Member SIPC. Warren Capital Management is a separate entity from WFANF.

PEOPLE



Bruce Coffy and Ross Powers.



Tammy Grant, Patrick Williams, Chris Clement, Caroline Clement and Gracie.



The background of the image is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of various sizes, scattered across a white background. The paw prints are stylized with four distinct pads.

JUNE

Veterans of IRC Golf Tournament





32963

PEOPLE

Gold Star Mother
Michelle Dale.

**'LEST WE FORGET':
POIGNANCY PERMEATES
MEMORIAL DAY EVENT P. 18**



PEOPLE

'Lest we forget': Poignancy permeates Memorial Day event



Marine Corps Color Guard participants Frank Bando and Joshua Bryant.



Salvation Army Color Guard presented a rifle salute.



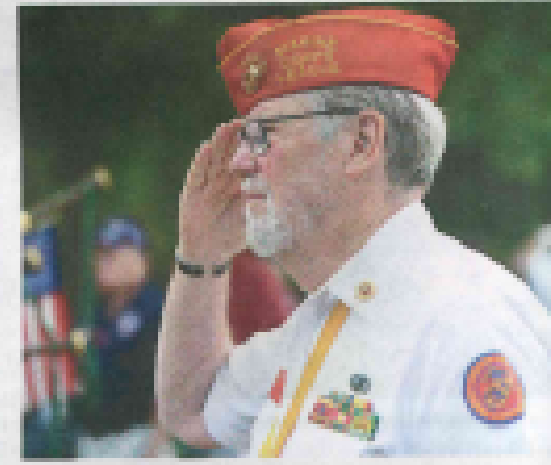
Master of Ceremonies Col. Marty Zickert, USAF, Ret.



Members of the Indian River County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard.



Alex MacWilliam IV reads "In Flanders Fields." PHOTOS: BRONCA ANDRZEJ



John Michael Matthews.

BY STEPHANIE LABAREE
Staff Writer

The Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary was a patriotic sea of red, white and blue during the Memorial Day Ceremony, organized by the Veterans Council of Indian River County, whose veterans and families commemorated wars and conflicts dating back to World War I. The day's overcast skies added to the somber mood that permeated the crowd, who were there to honor the sacrifices of fallen military service members.

"This year, we are going to do something a little different," said Ret. Col. Martin Zickert to the crowd. "We're going to focus on the time period of World War I. The guest speaker is going to talk about the creation of this magnificent sanctuary and the thought, 'Lest we forget.'" Zickert, current Veterans Council chairman, noted that Americans gather around the world on Memorial Day to "honor America's finest men and women who gave their lives for our freedom. Because of them, we live in a free society that even our

most desperate enemies admire. For us, this is a day of remembrance as we honor our friends and fellow warriors who made the ultimate sacrifice." Over the course of the morning, a patriotic medley played by the Vero Beach High School Band, the Boots on the Ground display, and the ritual placing of the wreath among the cenotaphs, accompanied by the haunting sound of bagpipes, added to the solemnity of the ceremony. "We gather here today to remember those who have fought against tyranny and oppression and maintained

our freedom that we have today," said Rev. David Newhart, in his invocation. "We come from all walks of life, all different faiths. We come because we honor those who have kept us safe, who have defended our freedoms in this United States of America. We will continue to remember them, 'Lest we forget.'" Vero Beach pioneer Alex MacWilliam, a WWI veteran, was instrumental in the creation of Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary, and in his honor, his great grandson, Alex MacWilliam IV, read the war poem.



In PA Col. to Zick or Col who as Cpl. I action 2010. "Ev Moth of his and a ten," a port v ers w and o She the ce turn o port '1 in Mo 5,389, perist Antae "In lost ti return comir has to en, th of the Dal Ameri in 192 had p She the li

PEOPLE



Ashlan Parikh-Parke, Le Ross and Logan Sussan of Boy Scout Pack 502.



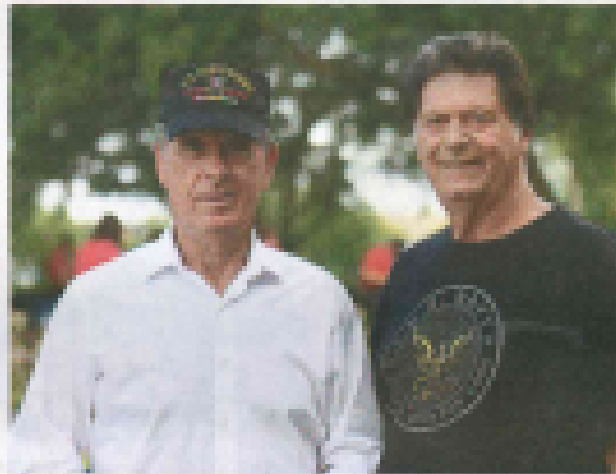
Ron Dale and Staff Sgt. Eldon Petersen.



Michael Hyde and Jim Romanek.



Barbara Ruby and City Councilwoman Honey Minnes.



Rick Bowman and Larry Messeri.



Rev. Dave Newhart and Michael Fitzgerald.

"In Flanders' Fields," written by Lt. Col. John McCrae in 1915.

Zickert introduced keynote speaker Gold Star Mother Michelle Dale, who spoke movingly of her son, Army Cpl. Dale Kridlo, who was killed in action in Kamar Province on Nov. 7, 2010.

"Everything I do as a Gold Star Mother is in honor and remembrance of his ultimate sacrifice to our nation and so that he will never be forgotten," said Dale of her mission to support veterans and the families of others who lost their loved ones in wars and conflicts.

She said that this year also marked the centennial anniversary of the return of the United States Army Transport *Wheaton* to New York Harbor in May 1921, carrying the caskets of 5,189 American servicemen who had perished in Cherbourg, France, and Antwerp, Belgium.

"In the end, 43,909 Americans who lost their lives in World War I were returned home," said Dale. "Homecoming 2021 engages our communities to remember the World War I fallen, their families, and the sacrifices of the World War I generation."

Dale gave a brief history of the American Gold Star Mothers, formed in 1928 by mothers whose loved ones had perished during World War I.

She shared that as she researched the lives of the eight WWI service-

men remembered with cenotaphs on Memorial Island – Melvin G. Dilla, Lonnie E. Hamilton, Aaron Wilson Kemp, Love Lavender Lane, John Morris, Felix G. Poppell, Fay Roscoe Taylor and Fred Evans Woodward – she felt that she grew to know them.

"I reflect upon their lives and their eagerness to leave this paradise in order to join the armed forces to serve their country," said Dale. She referred to them as "men of courage who stood up and made the decision to fight for a cause they may not have fully understood, but who realized it was a cause necessary for their country."

"We will not let their glory fade if we remember to honor them every opportunity we have," said Dale. "Say their names. Remember their ultimate sacrifice to our country. God bless America, land of the free because of the brave."

In parting, Rev. Newhart asked the crowd to take a look at the flag flying above the island as they were leaving.

"The flag does not wave because of the wind," he said. "The flag waves because of the last breath of our veterans who have fought for our freedom. Let us always remember those who gave our freedom. Those who bought our freedom with their lives."

At 10 a.m. Saturday, June 26, the Next Generation Veterans will unveil its Words from War Monumental Sculpture. ■

RESTYLE, REDESIGN, REJUVENATE.



Rings Resized / Gems Reset / Prongs Rebuilt / Stones Tightened
Chains Soldered / Clasps Replaced / Battery Replacement
Pearl Restringing / Custom Jewelry Design

We do it all right here!

LEIGH
Jewelers

WWW.LEIGHJEWELERS.COM
2801 OCEAN DRIVE
VERO BEACH • 772.204.0088



GRADUATE GEMOLOGISTS
CUSTOM DESIGN • JEWELRY & WATCH REPAIR

Press Journal

HONORING SACRIFICE



"I said each of their names, thanked them and honored and remembered their ultimate sacrifice for this country," said Michelle Dale, who stopped at each cenotaph for the Indian River County fallen in World War I, after a Memorial Day ceremony on Monday at Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary near Riverside Park in Vero Beach. Dale, a Gold Star Mother, gave the keynote address which honored and remembered those who died in World War I. Dale's son, Spc. Dale J. Kridlo, who died in Afghanistan in 2010, has a cenotaph in the sanctuary. PHOTOS BY MOLLY BARTELS/SPECIAL TO TOPALM



"I think it's important for the active duty community to help and support the veteran community. I try to volunteer as much as I can. It's an honor to honor the fallen," said Staff Sgt. Eldon Peterson, of Vero Beach, who placed the wreath during the Memorial Day observation ceremony on Monday at Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary near Riverside Park in Vero Beach.

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of various sizes, scattered across a white background. The paw prints are stylized with four distinct pads.

MAY

Memorial Day Ceremony



News Prints

Spring Issue



Mission Statement: A non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of life for veterans and other individuals with disabilities through training hearing and service dogs, and owning an off-leash dog park.

News PRINTS

Vol. 21 / Issue 1 / Spring 2021



| | | |
|---------------|-----------|---|
| VETERANS | 6 | United We Stand |
| MENTAL HEALTH | 7 | Military Suicide Awareness Walk-A-Thon |
| SPONSORSHIP | 14 | Legacy Ladies Golf Association Tournament |
| EDUCATION | 16 | Programs Go on Virtual Platforms |

PTSD Support Group

May Moments

ENJOY COOL EVENTS AS THE WEATHER WARMS UP

AS EVENT PLANNERS CONTINUE TO MAKE SAFETY A PRIORITY, WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU CALL AHEAD OR CHECK WEBSITES BEFORE FINALIZING YOUR PLANS.

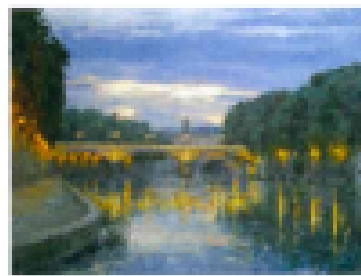
MAY 1
Saturday



FARMERS MARKET OCEANSIDE

The Oceanside Business Association holds the Farmers Market Oceanside every Saturday on Ocean Drive across from Humiston Park. Participating vendors offer a variety of products, including fresh produce and gourmet food items. Every Saturday 8 a.m.–noon

**OCEANSIDE BUSINESS
ASSOCIATION**
2901 Ocean Drive
verobeachoba.com



THE JOURNEY CONTINUES
The exquisite and captivating art of J.M. Stringer Gallery's April exhibition was such a hit that

"Summer Sojourns – at Home and Abroad" is now "Summer Sojourns at Home and Abroad: The Journey Continues." For May, the featured artists are John Phillip Osborne and Kyle Stuckey. May 1–31, Tuesday–Saturday 11 a.m.–6 p.m. and by appointment

**J.M. STRINGER GALLERY
OF FINE ART**
3465 Ocean Drive
772-251-3900
jstringergallery.com

COMEDY ZONE

Riverside Theatre invites you to its Comedy Zone and Live in the Loop performances. Starting at 6 p.m., Joe Reid and Heartland will take the outdoor stage as guests enjoy food and beverages from the grill and bar. At 7 and again at 9, comedians Peter Fogle and Roy Haber will bring the humor on Riverside's Waalax Stage. Comedy performances are recommended for ages 18 and up. May 1, Live in the Loop 6 p.m., free; Comedy Zone 7 and 9 p.m., \$20

RIVERSIDE THEATRE
3250 Riverside Park Drive
772-251-6990
riversidetheatre.com

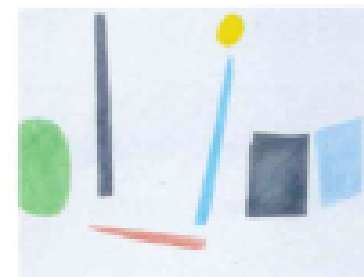
MAY 3
Monday

GOLF-A-THON

Thirteen local golf pros will take to the fairways at Bent Pine Golf Club, designed by prolific

course architect Joe Lee, for the VNA & Hospice Foundation's 31st annual fundraising Golf-A-Thon. While the foundation has had to make the difficult decision to dispense with the usual platoon of volunteers as well as the customary cocktail reception, donors are still invited to support their favorite pros.

VNA & HOSPICE FOUNDATION
at Bent Pine Golf Club
6001 Clubhouse Drive
772-978-5568
vnao.org



CHROMATICS

Findlay Galleries is pleased to present "Chromatics," an exhibition of works from Ukrainian-born American abstract painter Simeon Braguin. Distinguished by an elegant yet playful use of line, his works are both whimsical and sophisticated. Monday–Saturday 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

FINDLAY GALLERIES
165 Worth Ave., Palm Beach
561-655-2090
findlaygalleries.com

VETERANS' PTSD SUPPORT GROUP

In conjunction with Next Generation Veterans of Indian River County, Dogs for Life hosts a weekly support meeting for veterans experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder. Every Monday 7 p.m.

DOGS FOR LIFE
1230 16th Ave.
772-567-8969
dogsforlifefvb.org

MAY 4
Tuesday

FINGER PAINTER PALMER

Gallery 14 presents "Finger Painter Palmer: Digital Art by Rhett Palmer" as its featured May exhibition. Palmer, a local radio host, says his art is inspired by "a profound appreciation for life and gratitude for the now." A meet and greet will take place during the May 7 Gallery Stroll, 5–8 p.m. The May show also includes works by Gallery 14's eight artist-owners and eight represented artists. May 4–28, Tuesday–Friday 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

GALLERY 14
1911 14th Ave.
772-562-5525
gallery14verobeach.com

*** IMPORTANT NOTICE ***

Space Coast Honor Flight luncheons are scheduled to resume in June 2021. Everyone buys his or her own lunch, and enjoy the camaraderie. All Veterans and Veteran guests welcome at the following locations:

Melbourne — First Tuesday of each month, 11 a.m., Smoky Bones restaurant, 1510 West New Haven.

Merritt Island — First Thursday of each month, 11 a.m., Red Lobster restaurant, 215 East Merritt Island Causeway.

Sebastian — Third Tuesday of each month, 11 a.m., Capt. Hiram's restaurant, 1606 N. Indian River.

Titusville — Third Thursday of each month, 11 a.m., Dixie Crossroads, 1475 Garden St.

BREVARD COUNTY

*** IMPORTANT NOTICES ***

All **Space Coast Honor Flight luncheons** are cancelled until further notice due to the coronavirus.

February - May

Continued in Echoes of Brevard

CALENDAR



Please visit www.VeteranVoiceWeekly.com to submit Calendar events at least 2 weeks in advance, so that we may ensure your events receive timely publication.

ONGOING EVENTS

Warbird Air Museum Fly-in Breakfast, second Saturday of the month, 8-10:30 a.m., Warbird Air Museum, 6600 Tico Road, Titusville. NEW Drive-in GUEST Costs:
Between 8-10 a.m., fly-in and drive-in traffic can pay \$12 per person (no additional discounts) at the gift shop and they can enjoy both the breakfast, which includes delicious pastries, fresh fruit, breakfast meats, made to order omelets, and more — and tour the museum. For children (ages 5-12) not eating breakfast, \$5 to enter and tour the museum. Wrist bands will be issued to indicate who can participate in the breakfast. The breakfast is also open to the public as Museum visitors can also attend. Breakfast for visitors is free with paid admission to the Warbird Air Museum. Please RSVP by

Jobs available in Brevard County, via Jobs: www.careersourcebrevard.com — for local locations, visit www.employflorida.com for job listings.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

ONGOING EVENTS

BookWorm Podcast and Radio Show, hosted by Ralph Nathan Oko, airs Saturday evenings at 9 p.m. EST on REAL Radio 101.7 FM and Sunday mornings at 6:30 a.m. EST on WAXE Radio 107.9 FM and 1370 AM. Podcasts will be available on iHeart Radio. Interview guests will include authors, publishers, editors, readers, booksellers and store owners, scholars and bibliophiles. Ralph Nathan Oko is currently booking interviews. To secure a guest spot, suggest a book to review, an author to interview or for sponsorship.

work was accomplished over the summer at the USNAG & MM Museum.

Come and enjoy the camaraderie of your old buddies and meet some new ones. Everyone is welcome at our meetings, so please bring a friend. For anybody that needs a ride to the meetings, please call Korky at (772) 571-0230.

Please note: Meetings are held September through May. There are no meetings June through August.

Korean War Veterans Association, Chapter 318, meets first Thursday of the month, 11 a.m.-noon, at Vero Beach Veterans, Inc. 2500 15th Avenue, Vero Beach.

Monthly meeting, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1038, 6 p.m., second Wednesday of the month, Victory Center Military Store in the Vero Mall. For more information email vva1038@yahoo.com or www.vvachapter1038.org or call 772-562-8794.

Monthly meeting, American Legion Post 39, second Monday of the month, 1535 Old Dixie Highway, Vero Beach. E-board meeting begins at 6 p.m., followed by general membership meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Monthly meeting, Veterans Council of Indian River County, first Wednesday of the month, 1 p.m., County Administration Complex,

Thunder FL-1 home-based at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center, began a program to present POW/MIA Flags and hold Ceremonies at all 83 Brevard Public Elementary, Middle and High Schools from Feb - May. Supported by Military Officers Association of America Cape Canaveral, VFW and American Legion Posts, this project is open for Veterans to observe and assist. Contact VMC/RTFL POCs Mike Schulze or Donn Weaver at 321-453-1776 for more information if you would like to volunteer. Schedules are developed at least one week ahead with FIVE RTFL-1 Team leaders covering all geographic areas from Mims to Palm Bay.

Friday, April 23

Fund-Raising "Holes for Heroes" Golf Tournament, sponsored by Florida Prep USAF JROTC Program to support their program and Veterans in need via Down The Road Thrift. Held at Duran Golf Club in Viera with shotgun start at 1 p.m. Sign up and get more information at app.event-caddy.com/events/third-annual-heroes-hole-in-one-golf.

phone or email. The phone number is (321) 268-1941 and the email address is Warbirds@valiantaircommand.com.

VFW Post 8191 monthly work day, first Saturday of the month, 9 a.m.-noon. This is a reminder to post members and an invitation to Auxiliary members to join us. We will do whatever tasks the House Committee Chairman/Canteen Manager/Commander/President have in mind that don't require extensive skills. Tasks can include cleaning the kitchen and deep fat fryer, replacing the electrical cord on the bingo machine, replacing some baseboard black plastic pieces, placing a few more signs in our storage lot, etc. on an as-necessary basis. For more info, visit vfw8191.org.

Monthly meeting, Brevard Veterans Council, second Wednesday of the month, 9 a.m., Brevard Veterans Memorial Center, 400 Sykes Creek Parkway, Merritt Island.

Every Wednesday, second drink free, VFW Post 8191, noon to 2 p.m., 4120 N. Harbor City Blvd., Melbourne, for those who wear a

Nathan Oko at (954) 557-6226 or RalphOk0@hotmail.com.

Monthly meeting, Vietnam Veterans of Indian River County, first Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m. at VVIRC Office, 696 8th Court, Vero Beach. For more information email VVIRC@comcast.net, or at our website VVIRC.org. You can also call us at (772) 794-0005.

*** IMPORTANT NOTICE ***

The USN Armed Guard/Merchant Marine Veterans of WWII Museum has temporarily closed due to COVID-19; however, the expenses are ongoing. We would greatly appreciate a donation from you and/or someone that you know who might be interested in helping to keep the Museum open and the story of the USN AG/MM alive. Donor names will be listed on the Museum Honor Roll for all to see. To receive a donation form, please contact C.F. "Korky" Korker, President, phone: 772-571-0230, or E-mail: korkykorker@gmail.com

U.S. Navy Armed Guard World War II Veterans monthly breakfast

Monthly meeting, Indian River Detachment of Marine Corps League, fourth Thursday of the month, 7 p.m., at the Victory Center in Indian River Mall.

PTSD Support And Recovery meetings, every Monday, 7 p.m., Dogs For Life Administration Building, 1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach. Military licensed health professionals are facilitators. For more information, contact Dogs For Life Service Dog Training Center at (772) 567-8969 or visit www.dogsforlifefvb.org.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

ONGOING EVENTS

Monthly Meeting, Military Officer's Association of Port Lucie County, all officers from all branches of service are invited to meet fellow officers and learn latest military news. For information call Col. Martin Rosen at 772-233-0691.

Air Force Sergeants Association, Elmer Andrews Chapter 564, meets on the first Tuesday of January



April

Republican Veterans Club Luncheon



REPUBLICAN VETERANS CLUB Of Indian River County

**Cordially Invites You to Attend
The Republican Veterans Club Meeting**

**Monday, April 5th, 2021
11:30am (Social/Gathering)
12:00 Noon to 1pm Lunch/Meeting**

**C. J. Cannon's Restaurant at Vero Beach Airport
3400 Cherokee Drive, Vero Beach 32960**

**IMPORTANT: Out of courtesy to C.J. Cannon's Restaurant and Staff,
please e-mail mysandybeach2015@gmail.com or call
Missy at 703-403-2308 to leave message for a luncheon reservation.**

**Your luncheon Menu can be chosen at the Restaurant.
Hot Plate (meat, potatoes, vegetable), or Soup & Sandwich,
or Luncheon Salad, Includes Dessert/Water/Tea/Coffee
(\$20.00 - Cash or Check made to Republicans Veterans Club)**

This month's speaker is Vero Beach native, Shelly Ferger, Founder/CEO & Director of Training Programs for Dogs for Life, Inc. serving veterans in our community. She previously owned/operated a dog training center named Shelly's Canine Community Center between 1995 and 2002. Prior to being self-employed she held positions at the Environmental Learning Center; State Attorney's office, Vero Beach Police Department and IRC Sheriff's Department. She founded the Off-Leash Dog Park in 1997 and Dogs For Life, Inc. in 2002. She will be bringing Kris Hasenauer and his service dog, Jasper.

Kris is a former Special Forces A-Team Member Medical Specialist, who served in the U.S. Army Special Forces Command for over 16 years. He is a board-certified physician assistant and graduate of the Army's Interservice Physician Assistant Program in 2014 and holds a teaching degree from Florida State University. He had deployments throughout the Middle East and trained various agency and Embassy personnel of tactical combat casualty and travel safety.

Please pay your 2021 dues, if you haven't already done so!

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of various sizes, scattered across a white background. The paw prints are stylized with four distinct pads.

MARCH

Head, Heart & Hands Club Grant



The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of light purple paw prints of various sizes, scattered across a white background. The paw prints are stylized with four distinct pads.

FEBRUARY

Memorial Garden Dedication



Veterans Voice Coverage

4 • FEBRUARY 11, 2021 • VETERAN VOICE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Letter to the EDITOR

Dogs For Life thankful for generous donation

To the Editor:

Here's what Dogs For Life, Vero Beach, was up to in January:

Generous Gold Star donation

Thanks to the generous support of their sponsors, donors and participants, the American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County's 2nd Annual Walk-a-Thon for Military/Veteran Suicide Awareness was able to donate proceeds of \$37,000 to Dogs For Life "Veterans PTSD Recovery and Support Group"; the Mental Health Association of IRC "Veteran's Meet Up"; and the Next Generation Veterans of IRC to continue their programs to help our veterans struggling with PTSD. The



checks were presented at the January Veterans Council of Indian River County meeting.

PTSD Support

Dogs For Life continues to host next-generation Veterans' PTSD Support Group for Veterans each Monday at 7

p.m., at the DFL Administrative Complex at 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach.

It's important for us to provide a venue for our Veterans to meet and support one another.

How you can help

DFL relies on corporate and other sponsors, and donations to keep our mission going forward to match needful Veterans with service dogs, all training free of charge to the Veteran. Please visit our website at dogsforlifevb.org, call us at (772) 567-8969, or email office@dogsforlifevb.org.

Thank you,
DOGS FOR LIFE

The background of the image is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of various sizes, scattered across a white background. The paw prints are stylized, with four distinct pads on each foot.

JANUARY

Veterans Voice

Suicide Awareness

Gold Star 2nd Annual Walk-A-Thon proceeds aid Dogs For Life, other initiatives combating PTSD

Michelle Dale
PRESIDENT
AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Proceeds from the American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County, Inc. 2nd Annual Walk-A-Thon for Military/Veteran Suicide Awareness have been donated to the Dogs For Life "Veteran PTSD Recovery and Support Group"; the Mental Health Association's "Veteran's Meet Up"; and the Next Generation Veterans of Indian River County to help support these organizations with their programs for our veterans struggling with PTSD.

The generosity of our sponsors, donors and participants to our 2nd Annual Walk-A-Thon for Military/Veteran Suicide Awareness enabled the Gold Star Mothers of IRC to donate the \$37,000 proceeds from the walk among these groups. We are grateful for their support to our cause and their love of our struggling Veterans.

Recipients' efforts toward mental health

The Dogs For Life "Veteran PTSD Recovery and Support Group" in collaboration with the Next Generation Veterans of Indian River County's meetings held on Monday nights at 7 p.m. continued virtually throughout Covid until the DFL center was allowed to reopen.

Those who attend are opening up and sharing with others and understanding that they are not alone with their struggles. These sessions are expected to expand — first, to a women's only group and then, to add an additional night of



Photo courtesy of American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County

At the presentation of the proceeds from the 2nd Annual Walk-A-Thon of the American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County to recipient organizations combating the effects of PTSD and military suicide are: Pictured from left to right are: **BOTTOM:** James Mann, Next Generation Veterans of IRC, Treasurer; Amy Wagner, Mental Health Association of IRC, Events Coordinator; Angela Guzenski, Mental Health Association of IRC, Chief Operating Officer; Diana D'Angelo, American Gold Star Mothers of IRC, Secretary/Treasurer; Michelle Dale, American Gold Star Mothers of IRC, President; Shelly Ferger, Dogs For Life, CEO & Director of Programs. **TOP:** Veterans Council of Indian River County Board of Directors, Samantha Brackett; Curtis Holden, Vice Chairman; Martin Zickert, Chairman; Carroll Oates, and Sam Kouns.

number of Veterans who are attending is increasing. The meetings give attendees additional support because they are facilitated by licensed Veteran Therapists.

The Mental Health Association of Indian River County's "Veteran's Meet Up", which started at the Vero Beach Drop-In Center in September, will continue Wednesday nights from 6-8 p.m. with a Veteran Social Worker on staff.

The "Veteran PTSD Recovery and Support Group" and the "Veteran's Meet Up" hope to coordinate efforts to help our Veterans. MHA will also continue to provide same-day free screenings and follow-up treatment to Veterans in Indian River County at their main office.

Combating military suicide

There are 22 Military/Veteran deaths by suicide every day in the United States, and these numbers are rising due to Covid and the unrest in America. One suicide a day is a TRAGEDY; 22 is UNACCEPTABLE.

Our American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County, Inc. will continue to do everything we can to help our struggling Veterans. They gave up so much for us. They need, no, they DESERVE our help.

The check presentation was held at the January Veterans Council of Indian River County meeting.