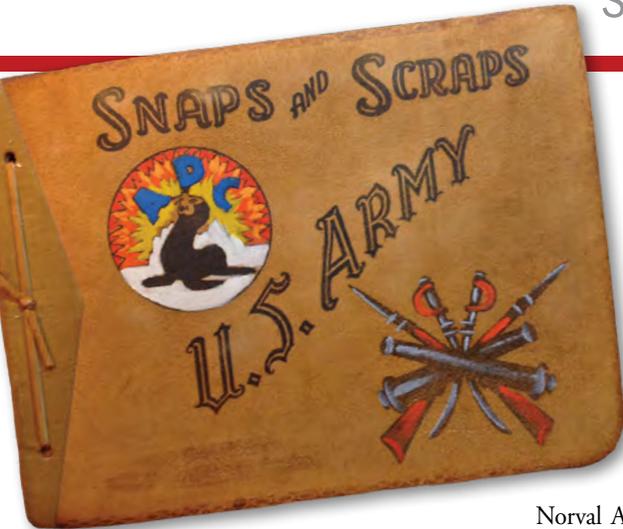


PATRIOTPAWS

SERVICE DOGS



NEVER GIVE UP

According to statistics released by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, only about 855,000 of the more than 16 million who served in WWII are left, and they are passing away at the rate of approximately 492 per day. Earlier this year, Patriot PAWS had the honor and privilege of meeting a WWII veteran, and we would like to share his story with you to honor both his service and the service of all of our WWII veterans.

Army SGT
Norval A. (Nick) Nichols was born March 20, 1917 in Spadra, Arkansas. In late December 1940, Nick joined the Arkansas National Guard which the government federalized into regular Army, the 206th Coast Artillery, on January 6, 1941. They were sent to boot camp at Ft. Bliss after which a coin toss between the Arkansas and New Mexico regiments determined where they would be deployed. The New Mexico regiment was deployed to the South Pacific, and the Arkansas regiment was deployed to Ft. Mears in Dutch Harbor on Amaknak Island in what is now the state of Alaska. They took a train to Seattle where they boarded converted commercial ships to transport them across the rough, brutally cold seas. The trip was harrowing, but having heard the report that their New Mexico comrades-in-arms had been lost, these young men from Arkansas, most of whom had never even seen an ocean, didn't complain.

At Ft. Mears, Nick worked and quartered at the PX managing the island's inventories. Around 5:00 A.M. on June 3, 1942, Japanese Zeros swooped over Amaknak Island dropping bombs and spraying bullets. A warehouse next to the PX took a direct hit knocking Nick out of his bed and slamming him against the wall. He didn't realize it at the time, but his hearing was permanently damaged from that blast. Dodging strafing (bullets shot from above), everyone ran to their gun positions in the hills where the planes came so close that Nick was able to see the pilots' faces. The Japanese left but returned the very next day late in the afternoon for a second assault on the island. The two raids resulted in loss of life and heavy damage to the base, but the 206th managed to shoot down a Zero intact which

provided valuable information when the Army reverse-engineered it to gain insight into Japanese air power.

A book has been written about the 206th: *The Williwaw War: The Arkansas National Guard in the Aleutians in World War II* by Donald M. Goldstein and Katherine V. Dillon. Williwaw is a native word

referring to the harsh weather in that region. The 206th's motto was "Never Give Up" which Nick adopted as his motto for life.

When the 206th returned Stateside to El Paso, Nick met the love of his life, Charlotte Cole, at a church social. They were married in September 1944 and had three children, David, Jim and Cheryl. After being honorably discharged from the Army, Nick went to business school on the GI Bill and worked as an accountant for Ford Motor Company for 35 years. Charlotte was a teacher and a pioneering advocate for the

education of special needs children. Nick called her "Angel Charlotte." Charlotte passed away in 1997 after 52 years of marriage.

Nick has a remarkable memory and recalls that as a small boy, someone at a family reunion asked him what he wanted to do when he grew up, to which he replied, "I want to live to be 100!" Shortly before his 99th birthday this past March, Nick and his daughter Cheryl attended a middle school USO Show tribute where Patriot PAWS was also in attendance. Nick was so impressed by the organization that he requested donations to Patriot PAWS in lieu of birthday gifts for himself.

Nick and his fellow WWII veterans are a part of what has been dubbed "The Greatest Generation." They are living national treasures and deserve to have their stories told. They never gave up. **May we never forget.**





LETTER FROM LORI

Any time someone donates to Patriot PAWS, I am grateful for their support, and as the Founder, I take it personally that their donation indicates their trust in us to use their hard-earned money to help our nation's disabled veterans. Therefore, it is humbling indeed when people designate Patriot PAWS as a beneficiary of their estate, either with a lump sum donation, or with ongoing donations from a trust fund. Mere words cannot express what it means to me to have someone's belief in our mission be strong enough to inspire them to plan for their support to continue even after their death. All I can say is thank you from the bottom of my heart on behalf of all the disabled veterans who ultimately benefit from the trust you have placed in Patriot PAWS.

SPOTLIGHT

IN APRIL 2016, TWO MEMBERS OF THE PATRIOT PAWS FAMILY WERE RECOGNIZED WITH AWARDS.

Puppy raiser **Karen Kerekes** received the Outstanding Achievement Award from Patriot PAWS for her dedication to dog-in-training Hunter. Under Karen's direction, Hunter achieved his Canine Good Citizenship and Advanced Canine Good Citizenship and was certified as a therapy dog at Baylor Scott & White and as a demo dog for Patriot PAWS.

Bell, service dog of veteran Brian Weber, both of whom were featured on the cover of our Summer 2015 newsletter, received the 2015 Texas Animal Hall of Fame Award from the Texas Veterinary Medical Foundation "for devotion to mankind through unselfish and courageous service."

Congratulations Karen and Bell!



ELI'S CORNER

All cats possess a keen sense of observation, and I am no exception, but I think I have a rather unique view of the world from my little corner of Patriot PAWS.

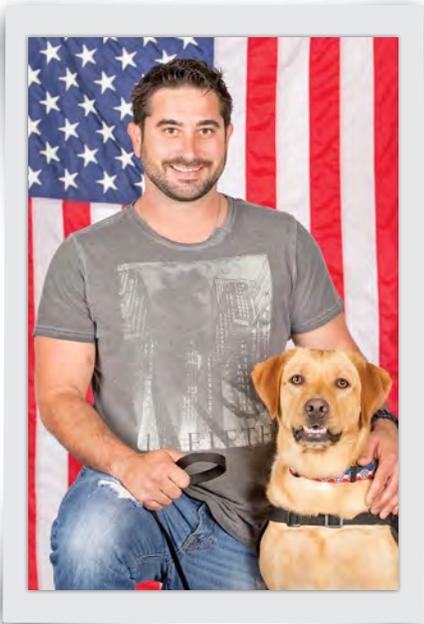
I've observed that humans have a great many things that can divide them...politics, religion, culture...the list is seemingly endless. But I've also observed something that serves as a great unifier...patriotism. I see it every day in our staff and volunteers. These are people from all different walks of life with varying beliefs and sometimes opposing opinions, but the one thing that unites them all is their respect and gratitude for those who have served our country. We're all Americans, but it is only because of our veterans that we enjoy the freedom to be individuals as well.

It's my job here at Patriot PAWS to teach that different is OK, that dogs can like cats, that we can all get along together if we just try. After all, life's too short to let anything get in the way of nap time.

Until next time, dear friends.



Eli



VETERAN CHRIS PLEIS AND DIXIE

Marines LCpl **Christopher (Chris) Pleis** is from Texas. He was in the Infantry and served two tours in Iraq. Chris suffers from problems with his ankles, knees, back and shoulders. He has also been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress including anxiety issues and difficulty being in crowds.

At the April 2016 graduation held at the training center, Chris received service dog Dixie, a female yellow Lab. In the short time that he has had Dixie, Chris has come to realize that he is now better able to deal with his post-traumatic stress. "Because of Dixie, I don't really feel uncomfortable going places I normally would have been uncomfortable going."



VETERAN ARLIE MATTHEWS AND CAMO

Army MAJ **Arlie Matthews** of California also served in the Marine Corps before retiring from the Army. He served in Vietnam where he was a Huey helicopter pilot. Arlie has mobility issues, cardiac issues and a number of health problems caused by his exposure to Agent Orange.

At the April 2016 graduation held at the training center, Arlie received service dog Camo, a male charcoal Lab. Arlie calls Camo his "stick buddy" referring to two aviators who fly together. "Camo and I are stick buddies for life, and we can depend on each other to get us home safely. His happy personality and desire to please are contagious. I am so lucky for this opportunity at this time in my life."



VETERAN GREG JAJO AND BOMBER

Army MSG **Gregory (Greg) Jajo** of Michigan also served in the Navy and Coast Guard before retiring from the Army. Greg was wounded by a roadside bomb in 2007 while serving in Iraq. He has a traumatic brain injury resulting in mobility issues and has also been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress.

At the April 2016 graduation held at the training center, Greg received service dog Bomber, a male yellow Lab mix. Bomber was a rescue dog, and Greg was in the foster care system as a child, so Greg believes that he and Bomber are kindred spirits. "Bomber helps me to slow down my mind, to live less in the past. I pay more attention to life. I can talk to him and get things off my chest. He loves me, and because of that, I am learning to love again."

VETERAN CHRIS TARANTA AND TYLER

Air Force MSgt **Christian (Chris) Taranta** of Texas also served in the Army before retiring from the Air Force. He served in Security Forces and was deployed to the First Gulf War, the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan. Chris suffers from back and leg problems and has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress.

At the April 2016 graduation held at the training center, Chris received service dog Tyler, a male black Lab. Tyler was named after the late son of Patriot PAWS Veteran Coordinator Jay Springstead. Tyler wakes

Chris up from nightmares by licking his face, and according to Chris, "Even though it's been such a short time, I can't begin to count the number of times I've been able to avoid very painful but simple tasks like picking up a dropped item. Tyler has been a blessing."





PATRIOTPAWS
SERVICE DOGS

254 Ranch Trail
Rockwall, TX 75032

**SCAN THIS QR CODE TO
GO DIRECTLY TO OUR
DONATION PAGE**

**HELP US SERVE THOSE
WHO HAVE SERVED US ALL**



THROUGH THE EYES OF A VETERAN

When Vietnam veteran Arlie Matthews traveled to Rockwall, TX from his home in California to realize his dream of receiving a service dog, he had been on the Patriot PAWS waiting list for over 2 years and didn't quite know what to expect when he arrived. Following is Arlie's observation in his own words after his first few days at Patriot PAWS:

"I am so humbled... Assistance, guidance and encouragement (are) offered by all of the employees, trainers and volunteers that are here with me and the other 3 veterans every day to help us along the path we are on until 'graduation'... The atmosphere here is unreal and reinforces the fact of how great it is to be an American veteran!!

What is really amazing is how the commitment of Patriot PAWS never ends. They are here forever for each veteran who receives one of their great animals if he/she ever (has) any questions or problems and needs more assistance... after you go back home. What an honor to become a member of the Patriot PAWS Family!"



PARDON OUR MESS!

Construction has begun on the Patriot PAWS expansion/improvement project, although heavy Spring rains have delayed progress. We're not missing a beat, though, as our facility remains fully-operational during this time. We won't let a little (or a whole lot) of mud stop us!

Consider today what you can do to help us help them...



"The atmosphere here is unreal and reinforces the fact of how great it is to be an American veteran! What is really amazing is how the commitment of Patriot PAWS never ends. They are here forever for each veteran who receives one of their great animals..." – Arlie Matthews, April Graduate

PLEASE DONATE TODAY

- We accept all major credit cards on our website at www.patriotpaws.org
- Cash, checks and money orders by mail or in person. **Address:**
254 Ranch Trail
Rockwall, TX 75032

ALSO CONSIDER:

- Setting up a recurring donation
- Honoring or memorializing someone
- Matching your employee's donation
- Pledging for a 3-year period
- Becoming a PAWS ambassador

- Conducting a fundraiser
- Volunteering or becoming a puppy raiser
- If you are a Federal employee, you may make donations using our CFC# 35710
- Every time you shop at www.smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate .5% of the purchase price to Patriot PAWS at no cost to you.