

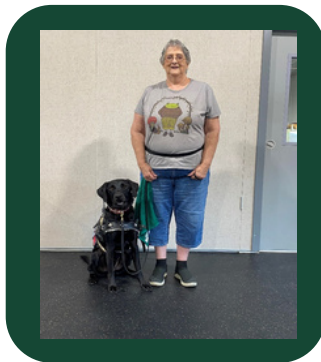
Something to Howl About

OCTOBER 2022

PATRIOT PUPPY PRESS

What's Inside

- More about our new teams
- Night for Patriots
- Volunteer News and Notes
- Kennel News



**Sandra
and
SMSD
Whiskey
9-2-22**

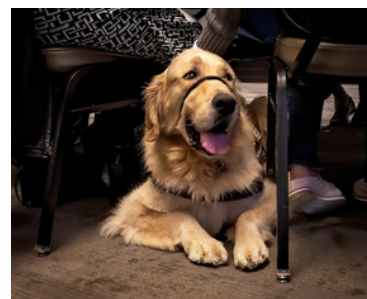


**Ross
and
SMSD
Slate
9-20-22**

*See page 2 to learn more
about our latest teams.*

Night for Patriots

October 1, 2022 marked the return of our annual fundraiser, A Night for Patriots. Held at The Venue in Lenoir City, we had over 400 people in attendance. The night included a chance to bid on many wonderful items in our silent auction, tributes to our military heroes and much, much more. Please plan to attend next year and be a part of this wonderful event.



(Continued on page 6)

Two New Veteran Teams to Celebrate!



US Navy Veteran Sandra and SMSD Whiskey were celebrated September 2, 2022. Double click here to watch their training camp video or cut and paste this into your browser: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVMUq86ynSc>. Catch the whole ceremony on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwfqaRZfP2s>

Ross and SMSD Slate were celebrated September 20, 2022. Training camp video is here (double click to view). To watch the Passing of the Leash ceremony, paste this into your browser: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-pl4Vj7TU4>



With heavy hearts and many tears, we had to say goodbye to one of our own this month.

RIP, Daniel.

You will not be forgotten.

SMSD Stryker will remain with the family as their loyal and much loved companion.

Daniel Joseph Belcher, 49, of Clinton, TN was unexpectedly called to his heavenly home on September 29, 2022. He was born July 21, 1973 to Clarence William (Bill) and Patricia Belcher in Sterling Heights, Michigan. He leaves behind his loving wife of 22 years, his 2 daughters who he adored and his beloved service dog. Daniel never met a stranger and was beloved by everyone he met. He had the biggest heart and would do almost anything to help someone in need. He was a proud disabled veteran of the United States Air Force. Although he struggled every day with pain from injuries during his military service time, he had an amazing spirit and was determined to live each day to the fullest and give his family the best life possible. He was so grateful to be a Smoky Mountain Service Dog recipient, who paired him with his amazing service dog and also became part of his extended family. He was a member of Black Oak Baptist Church and came to think of everyone there as his family. His proudest accomplishments were his two daughters, who he adored and was extremely proud of. He loved his family more than anything in this world and would do anything for them.

He was preceded in death by his grandmothers, Delorce McKinney and Laune Stiltner; sister, Amanda Gross; brother, David and father, Bill. He is survived by loving wife Michelle; daughters, Olivia and Ambre; granddaughters, Amirah and Arwynn; service dog Stryker; father and mother-in-law, Audry and Carolyn Goins; mother, Patricia; special friends, Ralph Scott and Brian Carlton.

The family will receive friends 5:00-7:00 pm, Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at Black Oak Baptist Church. His funeral service will immediately follow at 7pm with Rev. Matthew Thompson. Daniel's graveside will be held 12:00 pm, Wednesday at Black Oak Baptist Church Cemetery with full military honors at graveside. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be made to, Smoky Mountain Service Dogs, 110 Tooweka Circle, Loudon, TN 37774. Holley Gamble Funeral Home in Clinton is in charge of all arrangements.

holleygamble.com

KENNEL NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF OUR CANINE PROGRAM MANAGER

Breeder Spotlight: Dale Hollow Goldens - Breeder Jenny Smith

Dale Hollow Goldens is located in middle Tennessee. They became an approved provider of future service dogs for SMSD in 2018. Breeder Jenny Smith is passionate about Golden Retrievers! She does a tremendous amount of health testing on her breeding stock which increases the likelihood of the puppies she donates to our program graduating. Jenny puts a tremendous amount of effort into ensuring that she maintains excellent breeding stock. She does all that is recommended by the parent club, Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA) and a few more tests to boot. All dogs have certifications for their hips, elbows, patella, heart, eyes, dentition, plus entire genetic panels specific for Golden Retrievers. She performs additional supplemental panels on her studs too. If they don't pass, she won't breed them. Jenny provided me with a quote recently "I hope I am always fortunate enough to have a Golden in my life!". We are grateful to have Jenny Smith and Dale Hollow Goldens as part of our extended SMSD family.



Jenny has donated multiple Golden Retrievers to SMSD including Hondo, Honor, and JoJo. She will be donating another male puppy to the program this fall. For more information about Dale Hollow Goldens please visit their Facebook page and website <http://dalehollowgoldens.com/>

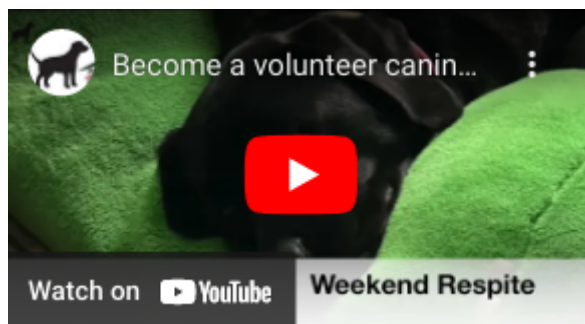
It's been a busy few months here at SMSD. We have graduated a couple of new service dog teams and we will have multiple new teams going into service between now and year end. The new housing project is making great progress and we hope to be able to occupy it soon.

I would like to mention to all of our followers that we are currently in need of a few key volunteer roles to be filled. We have immediate openings for puppy raising, advanced fostering and short term respite care. If you have considered serving SMSD and our veterans in need, these are excellent opportunities to do so now. If you are an existing volunteer, please inquire with our training staff. If you are interested in joining our excellent volunteer team of canine handlers, please submit a preliminary volunteer application using the website.

The future of our success depends heavily on volunteer participation to fulfil our mission. We have been blessed since our inception to have excellent community support and a large base of volunteers. I am and will always be forever indebted to these families who have given so much of their time and love to our dogs in training.

Heather Wilkerson

Meet Mojo - our newest puppy.
He is living his best life with first
time puppy raisers Mike and Marcie!



Would you like to join our team of dedicated volunteers? Double click on the video or paste this address into your browser:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZ_A5qxVv_Y

NEWS FROM YOUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR TEAM

Carla Navas, Volunteer Director

Spotlight on Nancy McDaniel, Event Coordinator

Nancy McDaniel is one of SMSD's many humble volunteers, she considers herself a "behind the scenes" volunteer. Her contribution is "front and center" when you attend a fund-raising event or volunteer picnic. She has a magical way of recruiting volunteers to help with the many aspects of pulling together an event like Night for Patriots. Nancy's touch has been a part of many "behind the scenes" tasks including determining traffic patterns at venues, parking needs, stage requirements and selecting the caterer.

Nancy's tip for future SMSD event organizers is "start early, be organized and have a strong work ethic."

When Nancy is not busy organizing events, she is a valued SMSD Ambassador .

Nancy has known Suzy & Mike Kitchens for over 12 years. This is what Suzy has to say about Nancy:

If you have attended Night for Patriots, you have experienced the event planning skills of Nancy McDaniel. Nancy's involvement with SMSD started with our first fundraiser – a chili dinner 12 years ago. With Nancy's expertise, the event grew requiring us to move locations from 75 people at the Family Life Center to 200 at the Yacht to the current location - the Venue in Lenoir City with over 400 attendees.

Nancy's love for our Mission, her previous business ownership and catering experiences makes her the perfect volunteer to handle this important SMSD fundraising event. Thank you, Nancy, for all you do to make the Night for Patriots an unforgettable experience!



NEWS FROM YOUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR TEAM

Spotlight on Puppy Raiser and Author Haylee Schweibel

Haylee Schweibel, a SMSD puppy raiser since 2018 has taken her many talents and passions – puppy raising, graphic art and painting and written “Cowboy’s Big Dream” to benefit SMSD.

It is a heartwarming story of a puppy growing up as a SMSDiT with the lifelong goal of dedicating himself in service to a hero Veteran. Haylee has raised five SMSD puppies. Although the book was inspired by SMSD Cowboy, when Haylee choose the design for the photos, she put a piece of each puppy she trained in the book. Sitting with Haylee paging through the book looking at the photos you can see the love she has for puppy raising.

This book is currently available at Barnes & Noble, Amazon, and autographed copies at our Kennel.

SMSD Program Manager Heather & trainers Susan, Cassie & Laura have this to say about Haylee: Haylee's commitment to SMSD shines through in so many ways. In addition to training 5 puppies, she has provided excellent post-surgical care to dogs in training. She represents SMSD in such a positive manner and with professionalism. She is smiling, warm and welcoming to be around. Her most recent contribution is the incredibly written and illustrated book Cowboy's Dream. We want to also thank 2 other very important puppy raisers, Haylee's husband, Brad, and their Scottish terrier, "Guinness." Brad and Guinness help shape our SMSDiTs into well-loved and well-socialized dogs.



A MESSAGE FROM CARLA NAVAS, BOARD MEMBER & DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEERS

We want to thank all of the many volunteers that make the work of SMSD possible. You are appreciated more than you know.

When I talk to potential volunteers, I always emphasize how we function with only 5 paid employees. It is a huge draw to join an organization so focused on the desire to simply help.

As we have grown, so has our need for more puppy raisers, weekend respite homes and canine transporters.

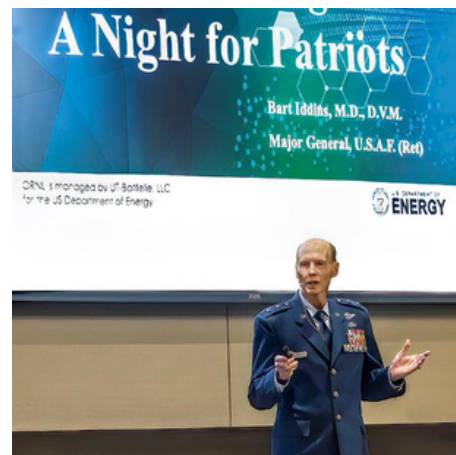
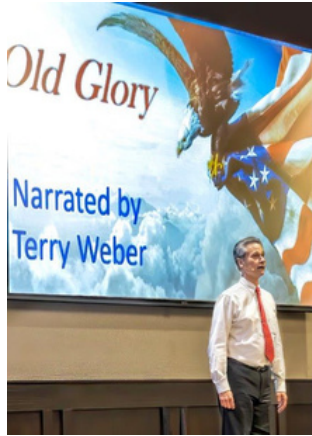
Please be on the lookout for potential volunteers and direct them to our website if interested, or if they would like to speak to someone, please give them my contact information.

Thank you very much!

carla.n@smokymountain servicedogs.org



More Photos from A Night for Patriots



Welcome New Board Member Steve Bartolone

Steve currently resides in Tellico Village, Loudon, TN with his wife Joyce who is an Advanced Foster for SMSDogs in training. Steve received his Bachelors in Business from Northwood University and his Master's Degree in Business from Central Michigan University. In addition, Steve served as an Instructor for Dale Carnegie Public Speaking. He is retired from General Motors Corporation as the Marketing and Product Director for Chevy Trucks and SUVs. Steve's strengths of public speaking, sales and marketing will greatly serve the interests and mission of SMSD.



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