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Department President's Special Project **PAWS FOR VETERANS**



CHAMPIONS FOR VETERANS



Veterans From Florida



John Pangborn (USMC) Service Dog 'Ruth' Lakeland, FL

Six years in the USMC with deployments to Yugoslavia Persian Gulf, and Afghanistan affected John's mental health. He was isolating, and night terrors were persistent, so his wife suggested a Service Dog. Now, he is thrilled with his new buddy, "Ruth!" "Any kind of bad thoughts that I may have, day or night, she just knows and brings me happiness."



Ed Burton (USN) Guide Dog 'Sully' Bradenton, FL

While Ed served as a Navy diver and an operating engineer mechanic in Vietnam, an unidentified eye infection caused optic nerve damage and vision loss. Ed was able to complete 28 years of service, but his condition worsened. He was hit by a car in 2003 while crossing a street, prompting him to get his first guide dog in 2006. Ed fell instantly in love with Sully, a match that was emotionally and physically ideal! Ed notes, calling this petite yet powerful girl his, "Alfa Romeo sports car."



Steve (USA) Service Dog "Milton" Florida

Steve served in the Army for 22 years, including weighty responsibilities and multiple deployments. Post-traumatic stress kept Steve isolated, rarely leaving the house. Now, he been matched with an easygoing dog named Milton. "It's been a great experience." Steve says Milton is a pretty calm, relaxed, and a quiet dog.



**REMEMBER:
REPORT!
REPORT!
REPORT!**

Did You Know?:

- ◆ It takes two years of intense training to prepare a dog for its "fur"ever home
- ◆ Dogs, training, and maintenance for veterans are free of charge for life
- ◆ Southeastern Guide Dogs has over 1,200 active dogs in all 50 states

VFW Auxiliaries Who Raise and Donate will Receive the Following Awards:

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY AWARDS

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Paw of Courage Award | Up to \$599 |
| Champion Award | \$600-\$999 |
| Best in Show Award | \$1000 or more |

