

January 2018 VMF Newsletter



VMF Welcomes Two New Service Dogs in Training (SDiT)!

SDiTs Otis and Grace joined VMF at the end of December and attended their first formal training at the VMF Training Center this month. The eight-week old siblings are yellow Labrador/Golden retriever cross-breeds and were acquired from Guide Dogs of America in Sylmar, California. **SDiT Otis** is named for U.S. Air Force Major Otis Cleveland Morgan, a pilot killed in action in Vietnam. **SDiT Grace** is named for U.S. Army Captain Eleanor Grace who died while serving in Vietnam as a nurse.



SDiT Otis

SDiT Grace is being raised by first-time puppy raiser Amanda, who has worked with VMF as a puppy sitter while preparing to become a puppy raiser. Volunteer puppy raiser Jeanette, who has raised several service dogs for VMF, will provide **SDiT Otis** with his initial training until his permanent puppy raisers, Josh and Jill, take over his training in the spring. Josh and Jill were SDiT Dutch's puppy raisers and are currently raising SDiT Eagle. [Service Dog Dutch just completed his veteran-specific training in Colorado.](#)



SDiT Grace

VMF is very excited to welcome SDiTs Otis and Grace to VMF's service dog in training program!

VMF relies entirely on volunteers to assess, acquire, train, and raise puppies to become service dogs; to match the dogs with veterans whose needs are suited to the dogs' abilities; and to support the veteran-service dog team after placement. **If you are interested in being involved in any aspect of this process, please consider volunteering your time with VMF!**



SDiTs Otis, Grace and Gil with VMF volunteers

In this issue:

[How do service dogs change lives?](#)

[Would you like to have a VMF dog named for a veteran?](#)
[Update on service dog Dutch](#)
[Donor updates](#)
[Attention VMF volunteers](#)

How do VMF service dogs change lives?

Service Dog (SD) Storm and Veteran Jerry have been together since September 2014. Jerry is a Vietnam veteran and relies on Storm for a variety of daily tasks:

"Storm is very intelligent ... he helps with the laundry by taking the clothes out of the dryer and handing them to me. He helps me get dressed by bringing me socks and blue jeans. Storm also helps by turning the house lights on and off.



SD Storm & Veteran Jerry

Above all, Storm has been a great companion to me. He never has a bad day and is always glad to see me. He really likes to go on walks! Storm loves to have free time; he likes to run freely in the field next to my house, and that usually wears him out for the night.

Storm has been a bright spot in my life. He helps to alleviate symptoms of PTSD from my combat days in Vietnam, and helps me sleep at night by making me feel secure.

I have learned a lot from Storm - especially that he has unending, unconditional love."

[Back to the top](#)

Would you like to have a VMF dog named for a veteran?

Each VMF dog is named for a deceased veteran of the armed forces who served honorably. **VMF dogs are named for veterans of all services and all conflicts.** To name just a few: SD Buckles and SD King are named for World War I veterans; SDiTs Otis and Grace for Vietnam veterans; SDiTs Jug and Eagle, and SDs Finn, Dutch, and Prince for World War II veterans; and SDs Josh, Storm, Nathan, and Lori, and SDiT Gil, for veterans of recent conflicts, including Operations Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. **SDiT Doug** is named for a veteran of the U.S. Marines who served from 1998 to 2006.



SDiT Doug

In addition to providing life-changing support to living veterans, these dogs carry the names and legacies of deceased veterans, including many who died young and left behind surviving spouses, children, and parents. Army Captain Gilbert A. Muñoz, for whom SDiT Gil is named, died on February 9, 2005, at the age of 29:

"After seeing photos of Service Dog in Training Gil and thinking back to seeing our son growing up from a 'lil pup' to a grown man, we can see some similarities in personality and traits. Both are, or will be, dependable, loyal, somewhat mischievous, a little spunky, devious in a funny sort of way, but determined to a fault to seeing the job finished regardless of circumstances. The word 'no' wasn't acceptable to Gil when it came to a mission, and we will be honored to watch 'lil pup Gil' follow in our Gil's footsteps as he serves a veteran. Puppy Gil will make us proud." - Gilbert and Mary Muñoz, parents of

CPT Gilbert Anthony Muñoz, 7th SFG (A)

If you would like to have a VMF dog carry a deceased veteran's name, you may provide a naming nomination to VMF at admin@vetsfwd.org. Please specify the following: 1) Proposed puppy name; 2) Full name, rank, and service of the deceased namesake veteran; 3) Contact information for nominator; 4) Contact information for the next of kin, if different from nominator; and 5) Justification for naming/Information about the namesake veteran's military service.

[Back to the top](#)

Update on Service Dog Dutch

Service Dog Dutch completed his final veteran-specific training and was placed with his veteran, Dale, on January 15, in Colorado.

The first six months of a VMF service dog's placement with a veteran are a probationary period, during which time the service dog and the veteran prepare for the public access test, which they take together. SD Dutch and Veteran Dale will continue weekly training with Dutch's current trainer in Colorado during the probationary period and are on track to take the public access test this spring. **We are very excited about this next chapter in Dutch's service dog journey!**



SD Dutch & Veteran Dale

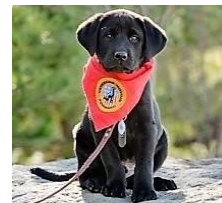
[Back to the top](#)

Donor Updates

VMF extends a heart-felt thank you to our **PLATINUM SPONSOR, Kappa Sigma Fraternity**, for its continued generous support to VMF through its Military Heroes Campaign. Thank you, Kappa Sigma!



There are many ways to support Veterans Moving Forward. **We rely heavily on [volunteers](#) and gratefully accept [donations](#).** Please consider shopping our [Amazon Wish List](#) or providing a financial donation to support our mission of providing service dogs and canine therapy services to our nation's veterans.



SDiT Gil

[Donate](#)

VMF is pleased to announce that **Robin Rohrback**, an outreach volunteer and puppy sitter with VMF for the past four years, is now serving as **VMF Director of Administration and Human Resources!** Robin retired recently from her work as a human resources and administration professional and views her new role with VMF as a "great fit," as veterans and dogs have always been a meaningful part of her life.



Robin and Veteran Support Dog Mac

A self-described "Air Force brat," Robin moved from place to place as a child, which she realized later was fascinating and exciting. Robin's father, U.S. Air

Force Lieutenant General John B. "Mac" McPherson, is Veteran Support Dog Mac's namesake. Robin and husband John both had dogs growing up and shared the joy of a golden retriever as a family dog. **VMF welcomes Robin into her new role and is extremely grateful for her continued commitment to serving veterans!**

[Back to the top](#)

Attention VMF Volunteers (past and present)!

VMF's new Volunteer Coordinator, **Sue Dietrich**, is updating VMF's volunteer database to determine current volunteer interests/skills and contact information. Please email Sue (sdietrich@vetsfwd.org) if you are a VMF volunteer and have not received an email asking you to confirm your volunteer interests and skills; or **if you would like to volunteer with VMF**; or if you have any comments or questions about volunteering with VMF.



Veteran Phil and Veteran Support Dog Mac send greetings from Idaho!

VMF has the following **immediate volunteer needs**:

- **Database Expertise (Donor Program)** - requires familiarity with ACCESS (or similar software) to build a database to track donors; maintain VMF's Constant Contact database
- **Fundraiser Coordinator** - provides support to businesses, schools, and individuals who would like to hold fundraising events to benefit VMF
- **Donor Support** - assists with tracking and acknowledging donations on a regular basis
- **Media Relations** - requires media experience to write media advisories and press releases; develop and maintain relationships with local media; answer media questions; and assist with media interviews of VMF staff and veterans. Please email Sue at sdietrich@vetsfwd.org if you are interested or would like to know more about any of these volunteer positions!

Veterans Moving Forward is also looking for a responsible part-time Office Manager at its Dulles/Sterling, Virginia office. Hours are typically 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Duties include providing support to our staff and donors, assisting in daily office needs and managing our general administrative activities, including phone calls and emails. Previous office experience required as well as excellent communication and computer skills including Microsoft Office. High School graduation at a minimum, required. Wage commensurate with experience. Interested applicants please send a cover letter with resume to admin@vetsfwd.org.



[Back to the top](#)

Veterans Moving Forward (VMF) is a veteran-centric non-profit and 501(c)(3) charity dedicated to providing trained service dogs and canine therapy services to veterans with physical and mental health challenges across the full spectrum of needs. Your tax-deductible donation to VMF will help us with this mission.



44225 Mercure Circle
Suite 130
Dulles, VA 20166
866-375-1209
www.vetsfwd.org



VMF is proud to have earned the GuideStar Exchange Gold Logo as a symbol of our commitment to transparency and accountability. We encourage you to visit our [GuideStar profile](#).

WATCH OUR DOGS GROW ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Donate dog supplies on our [Amazon Wish List](#).
Shop [Amazon Smile](#) to benefit Veterans Moving Forward, Inc.

[Make a tax-deductible donation.](#)

Veterans Moving Forward, 44225 Mercure Circle, Suite 130, Dulles, VA 20166

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward This Email to a Friend](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by admin@vetsfwd.org in collaboration with

Constant Contact

Try it free today