

The Patriot Gala 10th Anniversary



Victoria Huggins, Miss Greater Southeastern, sang the National Anthem, and the Presentation of the Colors was performed by the North Carolina Color Guard.



Dana Bradley, president of The Patriot Charities and Rich Brewer, founder of One Warrior Won



The Patriot Gala 2015, The Patriot Charities annual black tie fundraiser was held Saturday, November 7 at Quail Hollow Club. This year marked the 10th anniversary of The Patriot Charities and was a moving, memorable evening – complete with a 4-course dinner, the finest wines and a silent and live auction. The emotion that flows through The Patriot Gala is intense. It promotes patriotism, it recognizes and values what our men and women give to our country with their selfless sacrifice, and it ultimately inspires all in attendance to do and to share themselves in support of our military. It is an evening filled with laughter, tears and warmth.

The evening always shines with honored military speakers and guests. This year, Dr. David Calloway, LCDR, US Navy (RET), an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at Carolinas Medical Center, was the keynote speaker. He shared with the group the important achievements and contributions veterans make in our community when they return from giving of themselves to serve and protect our country. That giving nature extends into their new civilian lives, and he advised that we as a community need to assist these veterans with making the transition and actively cultivate the experience and leadership these young men and women have to share. The Patriot Gala was honored to have many men and women of our armed services in attendance. Among those are some of their beneficiaries.

The Patriot Gala always includes a tribute to our

men and women from the Carolinas who have fallen in the line of duty in the past year, and United States Congressman Robert Pittenger had the honor of sharing those names which were followed with the Firing of the Volleys and the playing of Taps.

In addition to the 10th anniversary of The Patriot Charities, another milestone was celebrated as four service dogs were awarded to local veterans suffering from PTSD. These dogs make a total of thirteen dogs provided to veterans in need in our local community in the past three years by The Patriot Charities. The Patriot Gala also marked the celebration of the upcoming completion of the 2nd home in Denver, NC as part of the 555charity.org project, with additional homes to be built over the coming years. This home is the 4th home that The Patriot Charities has provided to a local veteran.

The evening was a stunning success and was topped off with dancing to the soulful sounds of Peace & Love. Mark your calendars for next year's Gala on Saturday, November 5, 2016.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, The Patriot Charities has moved mountains with the help of dedicated supporters, building homes and awarding service dogs and supporting veterans' programs that might have fallen through the cracks. In the 10 years of the charity, over \$1.5 million dollars has been donated in the Carolinas to support groups such as USO of North Carolina Charlotte Center, Military Family Lifestyle Charitable Foundation, NC Heroes Fund, Warrior Wellness Solutions, Purple Heart Homes, One Warrior Won and Charlotte Bridge Home. All of these programs help to improve the lives of those who have given so much to defend our freedom.

The Patriot Gala is The Patriot Charities' signature annual fundraiser. They also have The Patriot Festival Go The Extra Mile 5K that takes place on Memorial Day in SouthPark and the bi-annual Bag Lady Luncheon which will be held April 4, 2017. For more information visit www.patriotcharities.org.

Max Teas, Aidan Nolan and Chris Teas of CJ and Brother Max, who played gigs all over the Carolinas to raise money for their second Patriot Charities service dog named "Gibson" (for their favorite guitar) was presented at The Patriot Gala. They are already planning for their 3rd one in 2016!



Anka, Rich Brewer's beloved service dog, who has attended The Patriot Gala for three years.



Scott Conklin, LTC Cristina M. Moore and MAJ (ret.) Robert Moore



Dana Bradley presents the Official Toast in honor of the 10th Anniversary celebration of The Patriot Charities