



Gabriel Meets His Partner

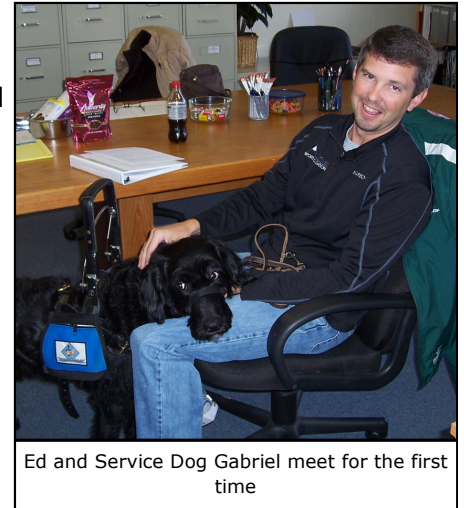
Carolina Canines for Service, Inc.
www.carolinacanines.org

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Ed, met Gabriel, a three and a-half year old Labradoodle, in November. Ed is a retired U.S. Army National Guard Lieutenant who proudly served our country in Iraq. Ed tells us, "In November 2004, we were on a regular patrol in a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, looking for bad guys. We found them when they initiated contact with two rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs). I was standing in the turret at the time, and one of the RPGs found its way into the Bradley, exploding and taking off my leg and the leg of one of my men."

Ed found a Wounded Warrior Project backpack in his room one day when he returned from surgery; and that, he said, "was very necessary at the time." Like many injured soldiers coming home from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Ed arrived in a hospital gown. He had no other clothing, and his family didn't know to bring any along when they rushed to Walter Reed to see him. So the shorts and T-shirts in the WWP backpack were a big plus. But the first thing he mentioned – with gratitude – was the razor and shaving cream. Apparently, after being shifted around for a few days, he was darn good and ready for a nice shave!

The partnering of Ed with Service Dog Gabriel was made possible by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign War, Department of North Carolina through the 2006-2007 charitable project. Not only did they raise the funds to see one special veteran partnered with one special dog, through their contacts Ed made application for a service dog from Carolina Canines.



Ed and Service Dog Gabriel meet for the first time



Ed and Gabriel. Photo by Dick Parrott Photography

Gabriel arrived in the Carolina Canines program in August 2004 and was donated by Nancy Smallwood of West Virginia. Gabriel was fostered by Abigail Lanier and her family for two years and many hours of training, patience and tears. After a few more months with Bob and Nancy Barkalow for Gabriel to mature a bit more, Rick Hairston focused on his advanced training with assistance from Beth Shepherd.

Ed leads a very active life-style, including keeping active in different sports. He will come to rely on Gabriel for assistance with daily living needs as they begin the bonding process to work as one team, just as Ed had to learn to work with his prosthetic leg.

"I need Gabe. I need help with routine tasks like doing laundry, retrieving the remote, the phone or items from the fridge. Gabe is perfect because he helps me with those tasks; however, he does not think I am weak. He also doesn't roll his eyes when I ask the hundredth time. We are a good team." - Ed

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