

## Wild for Life Foundation 2014 Spring Benefit Highlights

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Wild for Life Foundation's Charity Spring Benefit to Celebrate Life, Horses and Healing and Honor our Veterans held on March 29<sup>th</sup> "was an exquisite evening of transformation" said Linda Harris, President of Ambassadors for Compassion. The event was held in Rancho Santa Fe and was hosted by Lisa and Scott Harris, Patent Attorney at Law Office of Scott C Harris, Linda Harris, Director of Ambassadors for Compassion; and prominent equine law attorney, Bing Bush, Jr. at the Law Offices of Bing I. Bush, Jr. Event sponsors included the [Coalition to Salute America's Heroes](#) and the [American Association of Equine Sports Preservation](#).



The benefit was held to help seed funds for the new [Wild for Life Foundation Charity Sanctuary & Wellness Center](#) in North County

San Diego which will provide programs with a focus on its community enrichment equine wellness activities; robust equine assisted programs for disadvantaged youth, active duty military, and veterans and their families. Meaningful donations were received from individual supporters and as part of the evening's festivities; the [Coalition to Salute America's Heroes](#) presented a check to the Wild For Life Foundation (WFLF) for \$2500. "We are honored to receive these essential funds from the Coalition," said Katia Louise, President and Founder WFLF.

"These funds will help meet critical needs for the operation of WFLF's equine assisted wellness program for war-wounded veterans as they find healing through the power of horses."

"It is an honor to be here and to work with the Wild For Life Foundation in partnership to help America's horses, and America's heroes – in a positive way that will save lives," said **Sergeant Matthew Pennington**, U.S. Army (Ret.). War wounded heroes and at risk youth will benefit from learning, growth, and recovery opportunities through a healing partnership with horses. The program at the same time aids rescued horses whose lives have been saved from life threatening situations.

"The need for a nonprofit community enrichment equine sanctuary and wellness center to benefit people and horses as partners in healing in San Diego County is dire," added Ms. Louise. Just the day before WFLF's benefit



event the [San Diego Union Tribune](#) reported the suicide of Camp Pendleton infantryman Cpl. Farrell Gilliam who had taken his own life after a long struggle with the invisible wounds of war. Sadly veterans account for 20 percent of U.S. suicides, and for youth between the ages of 10 and 24, suicide is the third leading cause of death, and suicide among Native American youth is 9 to 19 times as frequent as among other youths.

“The expansion of WFLF’s sanctuary and wellness program is so important right here in San Diego County,” added Rob Pliskin, MSSA, LSW, EAGALA Dual Certified Professional, and WFLF BOD. “Camp Pendleton is home to over 42,000 active duty Marines. Over 23,000 Marine and Army Reservists come here to train, and most live nearby. In 2011, the VA estimated over 235,000 Veterans live in San Diego and Imperial counties. It hosted over 768 thousand outpatient visits, and enrolled over 4,300 warriors from Iraq and Afghanistan.”

Among the highlights of the WFLF benefit was a private musical concert by world-renowned Tenor **Anthony Kearns**, and live reception vocals and piano by Rocky Randal and Richard James. Program speakers included Coalition representatives, **Corporal Donny Daughenbaugh**, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret), the Coalition’s Regional Vice President East **Sergeant Matthew Pennington**, U.S. Army (Ret.), **Bing Bush, Jr.**, **Rob Pliskin**, **Craig C Downer** and **Elder Daniel Ramos**, Yamasee, Navajo and Apache.



The benefit helped to raise awareness on an international level and was the first in a series of fund raising efforts to benefit the WFLF Charity [Serenity Sanctuary project](#). Financial contributions will literally help to save countless horses’ lives. Sponsorships will help to purchase, improve and equip the WFLF Serenity Sanctuary Center and Preserve, and will also endow essential program costs.

To learn how to support this mission, visit [www.WildForLifeFoundation.org](http://www.WildForLifeFoundation.org). Inquire about company sponsorship and naming opportunities; contact WFLF by phone 310.439.9817 or email, [admin@wildforlifefoundation.org](mailto:admin@wildforlifefoundation.org).

**ABOUT THE WILD FOR LIFE FOUNDATION:** The Wild for Life Foundation (WFLF) is a 501 (c)(3) U.S. registered tax exempt nonprofit charity. The WFLF has been at the forefront of efforts to rescue and provide safe harbor for at risk animals, providing the space, natural habitat and quality of care which they deserve. The WFLF’ aim is to provide charitable equine assisted learning activities together with equine-therapy programs to aid youth and adults in building positive life skills. The WFLF is internationally recognized as a leader in animal welfare -- among our greatest concerns are imperiled wild horses and burros, abused, neglected and slaughter bound wild and domestic equines, and inadequate standards of protection for America’s equine population as a whole. The WFLF promotes the preservation of natural ecosystems, wildlife and the prevention of cruelty to animals. We strive to preserve and celebrate

Native heritage and cultures through embracing harmonious relationships among people, animals and nature. The WFLF is achieving these goals through operating equine rescue, sanctuary, education and wellness programs which provide community enrichment through fostering symbiotic environmental stewardship and a healing partnership with horses.

[www.wildforlifefoundation.org](http://www.wildforlifefoundation.org).

**ABOUT THE COALITION TO SALUTE AMERICA'S HEROES:** The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, based in Leesburg, VA, has provided an invaluable lifeline to thousands of America's wounded veterans since its establishment in 2004. The Coalition is distinguished from other veteran-focused organizations by its direct financial assistance to America's wounded heroes. Its Emergency Financial Aid program has stopped foreclosure proceedings on veterans' homes and kept their vehicles from being repossessed. The organization regularly provides gift checks to cover meals, medical and utility bills, clothing, car repairs and even baby diapers.

<https://saluteheroes.org>

**ABOUT THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF EQUINE SPORTS PRESERVATION:** The mission of the AAESP is to make the world a better place for horses and their habitats - and for humans who can be helped by horses by protecting the historical, cultural and economic value of equestrian sports, and related industries, throughout the world in recognition of the innumerable contributions of horses to mankind over centuries. AAESP helps give horses a new job after they retire from the track by showcasing equine-assisted programs that help children with autism, military veterans, and other victims of post-traumatic stress disorder.

<http://www.aesp.org>

**ABOUT ANTHONY KEARNS:** Anthony Kearns first took the American television audience by storm in 1999 as the youngest member of The Irish Tenors, with whom he has five PBS Specials and 10 CDs. His solo career includes concerts, high-profile celebrity engagements, major television appearances, operas, and collaborations with some of the world's most renowned orchestras. Among his achievements, he has had the honor to perform for three U.S. Presidents. In fall 2013, Kearns released his first solo album, "With a Song in My Heart."

[www.anthonypearnsmusic.com](http://www.anthonypearnsmusic.com)

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Links:

**PDF of this announcement:**

[http://www.wildforlifefoundation.org/April2\\_2014\\_WFLF\\_Spring\\_Benefit\\_Highlights.pdf](http://www.wildforlifefoundation.org/April2_2014_WFLF_Spring_Benefit_Highlights.pdf)

**Serenity Sanctuary Summary:**

[http://www.wildforlifefoundation.org/WFLF\\_Sanctuary\\_Expansion\\_Serenity\\_Center.pdf](http://www.wildforlifefoundation.org/WFLF_Sanctuary_Expansion_Serenity_Center.pdf)

**Serenity Sanctuary Sponsorship:**

<http://www.wildforlifefoundation.org/sponsorserenitysanctuary.html>

**Serenity Sanctuary Poster:** <http://www.wildforlifefoundation.org>