



The Things That They Do:

"FW Police Praise Man Who Helped Officer In Struggle: '2 Officers Went Home Safely Thanks To Your Efforts'"

Yes, that is Jim Walker with his guide dog Callie, receiving high praise and thanks from the Fort Worth Police Department and Chief of Police Fitzgerald after assisting two officers who were in "a dangerous struggle and were entangled with an unsecured weapon."

Jim came out of the bank, where he heard the struggle and asked if he could assist. The officers did not say "yes" right away, but as the incident progressed and the officer could not control the suspect and had to go after the unsecured weapon, a Glock 22, Jim jumped on top of the suspect, holding him to the ground well enough that the officer could get up and secure the gun.

This is what Chief Fitzgerald had to say: "Mr. James Walker, you were able to show empathy and concern for everyone involved. Based on your experience and awareness, you came to the aid of officers in need by tactically assisting in the arrest process. Two officers went home safely to their loved ones thanks to your efforts on that day. Mr. Walker, you truly have a guardian spirit, and for this, the City of Fort Worth and Fort Worth Police Department commends you (and thanks you) for your actions."

It wasn't until it was all over that the officers realized Jim really hadn't seen what was going on. He'd only heard it. He told the officers, "Can't see y'all."

Jim said, "They really didn't need my help. They did an amazing job, but I wasn't going to walk away and let them get hurt."

Jim trained to be a police officer in the 1980s until he started to lose his eyesight. Now he's a counselor who helps people with their careers after they experience an injury or disability.

To us, Jim, with Cassie by his side, is a hero every day.



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What have the amazing GDTX PUPPY-RAISERS (VOLUNTEERS EXTRAORDINAIRE) and their pups been up to?



Lily working on "food distraction", trying to ignore that snack in front of her nose.



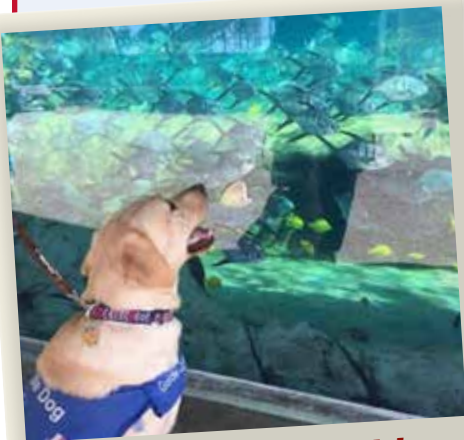
Merlin learns to fly!



Lincoln meets some feathered friends!



Mark makes a new "friend"?



Liam at SeaWorld!



Puppy-Raisers and their pups at GDTX for a fun training session!

Roxie & Marsha

A retired guide dog/love story by Marsha Rogers

"Several years ago, I began volunteering at the Guide Dogs of Texas School. I was a weekend boarder, which meant I would host dogs in training over the weekend, giving them a break from school and a restful, loving environment for the weekend. A couple of years into this I received a clear vision – a call from God – to rehome a retiring guide dog and take the dog to visit and minister to hospice patients.

The school knew what I felt I had been called to do and was very receptive to the dog continuing a life of service after retiring from guiding. I had been on the waiting list for 6 years when I got the call. They felt like they had the dog for me and would I like to meet her.

A few days later, the Guide Dogs of Texas van pulled into my driveway and there was Roxie – a beautiful black lab. The staff member and I visited while Roxie looked around. When we went out to see the backyard she said, 'Oh Roxie! Have you come to retirement heaven?' I did not know how providential her statement was.

Roxie had been guiding a blind and deaf woman for 8 years. She had worked very hard for a long time and it took a couple of months for her to understand that she didn't have to work anymore. At first, every time I got up to go to another room, she was instantly by my side – that's what she had needed to do for 8 years. I explained to her she didn't have to work anymore. I had something for her to lie on in every room since she would follow me everywhere. Slowly she began to understand she was 'off-duty'.

She and I developed a relationship like I had never experienced. Roxie loved me like no other had and I loved her deeply. She brought great joy to my life. She was the sweetest girl in the world.

I wanted to share the joy that Roxie brought to me with others, so I researched how Roxie and I could be certified as a therapy dog team. There were so many places that needed her special type of love – hospice, wounded warriors, cancer patients, children with reading difficulties (they would practice reading to Roxie!).

Roxie came to her retirement, as well as the love and rest she was experiencing, while being happy to help me when it was time to practice what we needed to learn together to be a therapy team. The absolute love she gave to me was overwhelming.

As we waited for our evaluation day to arrive, practicing together daily, something was off. She was not eating normally.

She tried so hard but something was very wrong. The results came back that her liver was fine, but she had kidney cancer. It was not good. The vet was wonderfully kind thanks be to God. He said to take her home and live through the next few days.

The next couple of days were excruciating. I fixed a place for her at the foot of my bed where she had all her favorite toys, blankets and a snuggly comforter to lie on. I stayed with her. By the second day she was not eating at all. I knew I had to let her go. A friend went with me back to the hospital to have her euthanized and cremated. I was devastated.

When I received her ashes and a bit of fur they had saved for me, I reached out to the woman Roxie had guided for those 8 years. She lives in Uvalde and after telling her Roxie had died, I asked if she would like me to take some of Roxie's ashes to her. She was very grateful for the offer. I went to Uvalde and when I handed her Roxie's fur and she smelled it.....she said, 'Yes, that's my Roxie'.

I tell this story to help me understand that even when I know I have received and clearly understood a specific call from God, I do not know everything.

I did not know I would be Roxie's hospice caregiver. I truly hope I am not called to be Hospice for retiring Guide Dogs. It was devastating. But I know that she needed me and I needed her and I believe God brought us together.

I am back on the list of candidates for rehoming retiring Guide Dogs. I will trust God while I wait."





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