



Dear Friends,

Leo was no ordinary dog. If you saw him and his human, Rafael, on the streets of Ventura County, then you know he was extraordinary.

At 190 pounds of pure white Alaskan Malamute, he looked like a big friendly polar bear, happily doing his job of working with veterans in our community. Veterans facing major hurdles and life-threatening situations – homelessness, addiction, abuse, financial instability or any of the other litany of challenges those who served our country face.

None of that mattered to Leo. He greeted everyone he met with a smile and a tail wag. Often just letting a veteran pet him and feel loved and connected for a time.

Leo was homeless himself, so he understood loneliness and fear. Rafael adopted Leo while he was still just barely a puppy and Rafael was facing challenges of his own.

Together they formed an inseparable bond, one that let me heal and recover together and then discover their life's mission of helping other veterans find the help, recovery, and connection they so desperately need.

Leo's presence was more than comforting; it was transformative. People recognized him as a symbol of unwavering dedication and a furry hero who made a difference in the lives of many. He changed the life of everyone he met.

Over 250 American veterans and their families were rescued from the harsh streets of homelessness by Leo and Rafael.

Leo was a beacon of warmth, a pillar of love, and a steadfast companion – not just to Rafael, but to everyone he helped and our entire community.

At the age of 13 Leo has crossed the rainbow bridge. He leaves behind a legacy of love, hope, and healing that deserves to be honored.

You see, there are still thousands of veterans who need our help – and Leo's legacy.

Today, I'm inviting you to join us in celebrating Leo's life and legacy with a gift to the Gold Coast Veteran's Foundation Mobile Veteran's Outreach program. Will you make your most generous gift today in honor of Leo and to help a veteran?

Leo's legacy will continue to inspire us. That's why I'm asking for your help today.

We want – we *need* – to continue the work that Leo and Rafael started. We want to ensure that no veteran in Ventura County has to suffer the indignity of homelessness.

Your thoughtful and caring support of the Mobile Veteran Outreach will bring life-saving care and services directly to veterans throughout Ventura County.

Imagine this: with your financial contribution, you could provide a warm meal, a safe place to sleep, or a much-needed counseling session to a veteran in need.

Your generosity could be the lifeline that pulls a veteran out of the clutches of homelessness and despair just as Leo's huge smile started hundreds of conversations that were the first step in rescuing them off the street and start repairing broken lives.

Your gift in honor of Leo's tireless and unconditional love for those who most needed it will support programs like one-on-one personalized care, mobile outreach, and emergency assistance providing help for veterans in crisis.

Every contribution, no matter the size brings us one step closer to providing the critical support our nation's heroes need.

In Leo's memory, let's come together to make a difference. Your gift will be a tribute to the enduring bond between Leo and his veteran companion – a bond that speaks of loyalty, resilience, and unconditional love.

To be a part of this legacy, please visit <https://gcvf.org/remembering-leo/> to make your most generous gift today, or return your support in the provided envelope.

Thank you for opening your heart to this important work. Together, we can ensure that Leo's spirit lives on, casting a light of hope for our veterans in their darkest hours.

With gratitude,

Bob Harris

Bob Harris
Executive Director

P.S. Please make a gift of caring support to honor the legacy of Leo, the loveable, gentle giant who changes the lives of so many veterans in our community. Your gift will directly support the Mobile Veteran Outreach, providing critical to veterans where they need it most. [DONATION LINK](#)

