



107 Woodruff Industrial Lane
Greenville, SC 29607
www.sd4v.org

January 15, 2023

Dear Mr. Lambright,

An envelope mailed to you on November 15, 2022 was returned to Service Dogs for Veterans on January 9. I apologize for the address error that delayed your receiving this thank you letter from Michael Story. Michael and his Service Dog, Wednesday, became our 111th ADA-compliant Service Dog team on November 10th.

As an update, on December 14th, our 112th Service Dog Team achieved ADA-compliant status. This achievement occurred after a demonstration of skills that have been learned, skills that will permit the Military Veteran with the help of her 'battle buddy' to once again move into the mainstream of society and enjoy her life. After demonstrating these skills in a public setting (Cabela's in Greenville), this team became an official Service Dog team, with all the rights and privileges granted by the Americans with Disabilities Act. This young woman described how having succeeded in training her own service dog has restored her self-confidence and self-worth, qualities she had lost as a result of her service-related experiences. A photo of this team is included. The smile on her face tells the story, and while her battle buddy is smaller than you might expect to see as a Service Dog, this little guy provides the comfort and support needed for his Veteran to move forward with her life.

Currently, 23 team are moving through the various training levels. And 10 more Military Veterans currently on a waiting list will enter the program very soon. At their graduations, our veterans often talk about how having the support of donors like you and their trained, ADA-compliant 'battle buddies' have changed their lives and the lives of their families. I tell you this because your support is the way SD4V is able to make this training and this wonderful opportunity possible.

Thank you again for putting your trust in us with both your donation dollars and much-valued support.

Sincerely,

Pat Tulibotz
Volunteer

Our 112th Service Dog Team





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November 10, 2022

Dear Mr. Lambright,

I'm Michael, of Michael and Wednesday. I joined the Army at 17 and served between 2005-2009 with every intention on a full career before receiving a medical discharge at 21 and being sent back to navigate civilian life, however, with a permanent disability. I had been stationed at SHAPE and maintained operations for the 128th Signal Company SACEUR (Supreme Allied Commander of Europe) communications team.

It's been 13 years and I'm just now finding the ability to function as a citizen, and a great deal of that is thanks to you and our combined efforts with SD4V.

I wanted to quit on week 3, but as a veteran surrounded by veterans, I was gently reminded that quitting isn't an option. During the past year two beings (myself and my Doberman puppy) were experiencing the world with a great deal of anxiety, for different reasons; but through this training, we've formed a unit that can take on anything. That bond is irreplaceable.

Having the facility classes, public access, and the responsibilities of training at home have helped me forge a more responsible and healthy routine that didn't exist before having my dog, Wednesday. Through the training, Wednesday has learned these tasks: Cover, Center, and Snuggle. Wednesday is truly a Doberman and loves to do her tasks. Cover is the one where she shines, sitting in a reverse heel position, watching my back should I be engaged at an atm, or elsewhere.

Center works in many ways for us. We can fit through single file spaces, I can shop, wait in lines and she moves with me. The best part is that we can lean on each other. The scalability of this task is important in many aspects of my daily life - even being silly because Wednesday has brought that out in me.

Snuggle is what Doberman dogs were actually bred for. I know the finance guy created them back in the day to look fierce, but should I sit down, Wednesday will snuggle me. Over the year... there have been a few times when I really needed "snuggle" and even before really knowing the command, Wednesday brings her affection to me. She's even gone as far as to hug me without being trained to do that.

I can't tell you what this means to me because it can't be put into words. I suppose that I can tell you I'm sitting here welling with emotions because I'm grateful for where I am right now.

It's a much brighter place than a few months ago.

Thank you tremendously.


Respectfully,
Michael & Wednesday

