

# Shining Star Award 2018

Every year, the Collie Club of America selects the Shining Star Ambassador Collie. The award is open to any Collie that works as a Service Dog, Therapy Dog, Education/Library Assistance Dog, or has done any good deed for his family or the community.

This year the CCA received 18 applications for the Shining Star program. All applicants received a certificate designating the Collie/human team as a “Shining Star.” The CCA Shining Star Committee has selected two teams as “Co-Ambassadors” for 2018.

## **GCH CH Sylvan Argent Creston’s The Highlander BN RE THDA CGCA CGCU “Duncan”**

DOB: 6/15/2012.

Owners: MaryAnn & Fred Campbell, Brooksville, FL

Breeders: Gail Currie, Connie DuBois,

Cindi Bossart DVM, & Jennifer Mosing

Duncan and MaryAnn Campbell began their adventure in therapy work when they were certified by the Alliance of Therapy Dogs in 2014. They became members of R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) the same year. This is one of Duncan’s favorite things. When he gets to school and realizes where he is, he gets a spring in his step and a grin on his beautiful face. He loves lying quietly beside the children and giving occasional kisses. Duncan was featured in a piece about R.E.A.D. by the Fox affiliate in Tampa. His impact is evident in all of the happy faces.

[www.fox13news.com/news/what-s-right-with-tampa-bay/151196763-story](http://www.fox13news.com/news/what-s-right-with-tampa-bay/151196763-story).

In 2015, Duncan and MaryAnn joined Dade City Dogs in Court. Duncan goes to Dependency Court to provide comfort to children in difficult, uncertain, and often frightening situations. Duncan’s calm, steady presence helps calm the children and bring much needed smiles. In October 2017, the ABC Tampa affiliate did a special on domestic violence. The segment on Dogs in Court is about 5½ minutes into the special and shows the powerful impact of this program. The following week they did a live follow up in the studio. (To see the videos, go to YouTube.com and search for “Dade City Dogs in Court.”)

In 2015, Duncan and MaryAnn became a HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response team. Extra training, continuing education, and yearly background checks are required to earn and keep HOPE certification. They provide comfort to first responders and victims of natural and manmade disasters. Some of the events they’ve attended as HOPE representatives are:

- Yellow Ribbon events for the Air Force Reserve and Coast Guard. Yellow Ribbon events connect military personnel and their families with resources both post- and pre-deployment. Duncan brings stability and normality to a

stressful situation. Attendance has run from 300 to 900 military personnel and their families.

- Yankeetown, FL, was hard hit by Hurricane Hermine. Duncan and MaryAnn visited their Community Center where Duncan received many hugs and gave out kisses.
- After Hurricane Irma they visited FEMA Disaster Relief Centers and comforted people who were there to sign up for disaster relief.
- After the Pulse nightclub shootings, they visited Ocean County Sheriff’s Office Communications Department 911 dispatchers. Some of the dispatchers were on the phone with victims during the shooting. One dispatcher sat on the floor with Duncan. She whispered in his ear and he gave her a gentle kiss. Whatever transpired between them

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MaryAnn Campbell and Duncan



was private. When she got up to leave, she had tears in her eyes. When she saw him later, she had a huge smile and said in a loud, happy voice “There’s my new best friend, Duncan.” Several people commented that the dogs brought the first laughter that they’d heard there in a week.

In October 2016 the Orange County Sheriff’s Office awarded HOPE an Award for Excellence for their efforts. Duncan and Mary Ann were honored to accept the award on behalf of all the teams

When dispatchers were asked how the one-year anniversary of the shootings should be commemorated, the first thing they asked was to have the dogs back. They were honored to return. The ABC affiliate in Orlando did a piece on the visit and posted still photos on their website (to view these, go to wftv.com and enter “comfort animals” in the website’s search box).

Duncan and MaryAnn attended Stand Down 2017, an event that puts veterans in touch with available services and resources. They hope to attend again in 2018.

They attended St. Leo University’s Pizza & Pups. The university provides pizza and therapy dogs for students during finals week. There is a constant stream of students and staff. It is a fun event with a lot of laughter, smiles, and hugs.

Duncan worked the Meet the Breeds booth for four years at the AKC National Championship event in Orlando. It is very chaotic but Duncan is calm and friendly throughout.

In their spare time, Duncan and MaryAnn compete in agility, FAST CAT, obedience, and rally and are taking herding lessons.

Wherever he goes, Duncan is always a perfect gentleman who brings smiles to all who meet him. Adults call him Lassie and talk about a dog they had when they were younger who was “exactly like Duncan.” Kids are amazed at how big and “fluffy” he is. All respond to his sweet, gentle nature. Everyone he meets comes away with an appreciative and positive feeling towards our wonderful and versatile breed.



### **Milas Beam Me Up Mr. Scott RN CGCA THDD “Scotty”**

Owner: Debbie Taylor, Fulton, Maryland

Breeder: Lynn Butler, Milas Collies

Scotty was born April 10, 2013, about the same time Debbie had lost her second service dog. Scotty excels as both Debbie’s service dog and as a therapy dog.

Scotty performs many tasks to assist Debbie with her mobility disability. Just a few of these tasks are:

- Picking up trash
- Picking up Debbie’s cane when dropped
- Picking up things Debbie drops, as small and flat as a credit card
- Helping to pay for purchases
- Helping to get laundry out of the dryer
- Providing stability for Debbie to get up and stand if unsteady.

Trained and handled by Debbie, Scotty got an early start earning the AKC Star Puppy Award, and the AKC CGC title at only 8 months old and has also attained the CGCA title. He also secured his AKC Herding Certification at the CCA Regionals and has won many ribbons in performance competition in Rally and Obedience and has also done Nose Work.

Scotty started working with the Red Cross as a Therapy Dog when he was only 8 months old. He was certified as a Delta Pet Partner Therapy Dog at 12 months old. The AKC recently awarded Scotty the title of Therapy Dog Distinguished (THDD), which requires a minimum of 400 therapy visits.

As a volunteer team for the Red Cross and working with the Department of Defense and the Walter Reed National Military Hospital, Scotty and Debbie regularly visit the wounded warriors. Soldiers that have received devastating physical injuries are given smiles and hope from them. Since a dog is non-judgmental, soldiers are accepted 100% regardless of missing limbs or deformities.

Debbie and Scotty perform seminars at Walter Reed on how having a service dog can help the wounded return to a normal life, by performing tasks that they can no longer do themselves. She tells them of the confidence and independence she has gained by having a service dog at her side.

Debbie is passionate about the role of service dogs and also presents a similar program to local businesses and schools. In this program she educates others on disability awareness, how a service dog can help a person with a disability to achieve their full potential, and the differences between a service dog and a therapy dog. She provides this service to

schools in the Howard County, Maryland Public School system, and many local businesses.

Because of their work at Walter Reed, Debbie and Scotty were selected to participate in the CPAWW Study (Canines Providing Assistance for Wounded Warriors) with the Department of Defense and University of Colorado. This study compiled data to measure the impact of a service dog to a wounded warrior. The study required 120 missions at Andrews Air Force Base, including greeting returning troops at airports, as well as hospital visits.

One would think this would keep them pretty busy but Debbie and Scotty also work with Montgomery General Hospital, Holy Cross Hospital, and Johns Hopkins to provide stress relief to both patients and staff. They also visit the Children's House at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Brooke Grove Assisted Living, Riderwood Assisted Living and Rehab, and Spa Creek Rehab and work with special needs adult patients at Mosaic and Athelas.

In addition to all of this, Debbie and Scotty participate in reading programs with children at Central Library, Howard County Library - Savage Branch, Howard County Library - East Columbia Branch, and Bond Mill Elementary School. One program is the DEAR program (Dogs Educating and Assisting Readers) through Fidos for Freedom.

Remember college finals and how stressful they could be? Imagine a therapy dog coming to visit as you prepared for that big test. Debbie and Scotty visit local colleges during finals week to help release the stress and tension and help students to get the best grade they can attain.

Lastly, Debbie and Scotty can often be found at businesses, government agencies, trade shows, and public events with Fidos for Freedom doing promotional work for the organization and educating others on service dogs. Scotty is a "demo" dog that demonstrates the various skills service dogs perform.



*Debbie Taylor and Scotty*

But wait, how does Scotty do all this and still be focused as Debbie's service dog? Scotty has an innate ability to know that his most important job is to provide assistance to Debbie. He instinctively knows when Debbie is in distress and changes his role immediately for whatever is necessary at the time. He is never distracted from his primary role as service dog.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Shining Star Committee Co-Chairs:  
Corinne Boon and Deborah Gates*

*Committee Members:*

*Ann Boles, Susie Delorenzo, Ace Mask, Celia Van Voorhis ❖*



*Shining Star 2018 recipients  
with outgoing CCA president  
Mike Van Tassell*

