

The Patriot Gala



Dale Beatty, Keynote Speaker

The Patriot Gala 2014, the 8th annual premier black-tie fundraiser, was once again a sell-out November 1 at Quail Hollow Club. Presented this year by StoneLaurel, The Patriot Gala guests enjoyed the finest of food and wine, unique one-of-a-kind silent and live auction items and dancing to the sounds of "Soul Play."

The evening opened with a dramatic spotlight focus on three honored military guests, Specialist Crystal Ann King, Sergeant Andrew Mullee and Staff Sergeant Johnathan Rose. Presentation of the colors by the Joint Color Guard, the national anthem sung by Victoria Huggins, Miss Central Carolina, "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes by Chad Graham and the invocation by Dr. Bill Jefferies completed the opening ceremonies.

Erica Bryant, Channel 9 Eyewitness News Anchor, eloquently served as Master of Ceremonies over an emotionally packed evening. Dale Beatty, Top 10 CNN Hero, was the keynote speaker. Congressman Robert Pittenger presented a moving Tribute to the

Fallen Angels from the Carolinas, followed by Firing of the Volleys and the playing of TAPS.

CJ and Brother Max, 13 and 12-year-old brothers, played gigs all year in the Charlotte area and as far away as Lake Tahoe, raising money through donations and tips to present a service dog at The Patriot Gala. Their dog, "Tiger", was presented to Angela Simpson, US Army, and was one of the highlights of the evening. Kim Zecchin in honor of her brother Captain Todd Zecchin, U.S. Navy, presented "Zeke" to Peter Rodriguez, USMC. The third dog presented was "Decimo" (Latin for ten) to James Tessner, USMC, from John Kelly and Pinnacle Fund Administration, in celebration of their company's 10th anniversary.

A rousing live auction by auctioneers Ernest Perry and Eddie Case and sponsored by Ernst & Young wrapped up the evening's program as guests were making their way onto the dance floor. An exciting evening for all! Mark your calendars for November 7, 2015 for The Patriot Gala 2015.

For more information visit patriotcharities.org. *



CJ and Max Teas



Amber Beecher and Christopher Graper dance to the live band "Soul Play"



Congressman Robert Pittenger presented the Tribute to the Fallen Angels from the Carolinas

Avery Fields III, Erica Bryant (Channel 9 Eyewitness News Anchor), Ashleigh Fields



Joint Color Guard presents the Colors at The Patriot Gala



Dana Bradley, Kim Zecchin, Captain Todd Zecchin, Dr. Hagen Blaszyk, Rich Brewer, "Zeke"



Max Teas and Homer V. Wagnon, Jr., recipient of two Bronze Star Medals and author of *Foxhole Memoirs A to Z*

The Patriot Charities is a local grassroots 501c3 non-profit organization in Charlotte. Founded in 2005, the purpose of The Patriot Charities is to raise funds to financially assist non-profit organizations and local programs within the Carolinas concerned with the immediate welfare, care and support for our wounded military and their families. The Patriot Charities is eligible for many corporate matching programs. Visit patriotcharities.org for details on the programs The Patriot Charities supports and for sponsorship, volunteer and event information.