

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

Randy Patrick, 612-643-5671

[rpatrick@pawpads.org](mailto:rpatrick@pawpads.org)

## **Pawsitive Perspectives Assistance Dogs (PawPADs) Receives Honors**

**Lakeville, MN**

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### **“Stars of the North” Congressional Award.**

Minnesota Congressman John Kline honored residents and organizations – **including Pawsitive Perspectives Assistance Dogs (PawPADs)** - with Congressional Certificates of Special Recognition at the annual “Stars of the North” ceremony on February 16, 2016 at Kenwood Trail Middle School in Lakeville.

The Star of the North Congressional Award was created to recognize people and organizations alike throughout Kline’s district who saw needs in the community and stepped forward to serve.

More than 400 people were in attendance at the emotional ceremony, many of whom were visibly touched by the stories and pictures of the projects and acts of the recipients. One of the most touching responses was to a photo of wounded warrior SSGT Calvin Berry and his service dog, Barkley. SSGT Berry was critically wounded in Afghanistan in an attack which killed three of his squad, leaving Berry in a wheelchair. Barkley assists SSGT Berry with daily tasks such as picking up dropped or needed items, providing balance support, and turning a light on and off, and opening doors. Barkley was provided to SSGT Berry free of charge by PawPADs.

(Photo attached).

“One of my greatest honors is the chance to recognize the generosity by many of Minnesota’s selfless individuals and organizations who are willing to step up to address the needs they see in our communities,” Kline said. “These ‘Stars of the North’ stepped forward to make life better for someone beyond themselves – volunteering, offering a helping hand, reaching out to a neighbor to ask, ‘what can I do for you?’ ”

### **Exceptional Business Women**

PawPADs’ Founder and Executive Director, Linda Ball, was named one of 11 “Exceptional Business Women” by the Dakota County Sun This Week Newspapers and The Dakota County Tribune.

“This is important for PawPADs, because volunteers, clients, and donors - people just like you and me - look for strong, smart nonprofits to support when giving of their time, treasure, and talents” said Ball about the recognition “It’s often seen as an indicator of the high levels of professional business competence that supports sustainability – protecting their “investment” in us”

The award was presented at a recognition banquet Thursday, March 3, 2016 at the Holiday Inn & Suites in Lakeville, MN.

### **Dogs Ready for Placement**

PawPADs is currently processing applications for the next Partner Training Camp to be held this spring. Those seeking a Service Dog or Diabetic Alert Dog can learn more about the application process, by visiting: [www.pawpads.org/apply](http://www.pawpads.org/apply)

### **Volunteers Needed**

PawPADs is currently seeking volunteers for a limited number of volunteer vacancies. Those interested in learning about volunteer opportunities with PawPADs can visit [www.pawpads.org/volunteer](http://www.pawpads.org/volunteer)

### **About PawPADs**

Pawsitive Perspectives Assistance Dogs (PawPADs), is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered in Lakeville, MN, that provides trained assistance dogs to wounded warriors, other persons with disabilities, and diabetes. It is an Assistance Dogs International Candidate, and a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, Assistance Dogs United Campaign, and the Minnesota Council on Nonprofits. For more information, please visit [www.PawPADs.org](http://www.PawPADs.org) or call 612.643.5671.

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