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Be safe. Stay Strong.

“Our goal was to take our gift of music and infuse it with the stories of survivors.”
-Jimmy Nichols

Love Lives On...emotional TAPS virtual fundraiser

15th Colorado Celebrity Classic features concert and auction

Love. Lives. On. Three simple little words. But, not small words in meaning. “Love transcends physical death,” said Bonnie Carroll, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) president and founder. When Bonnie’s husband Brigadier General Thomas Carroll, USA died in 1994, she realized there was no organization in existence to help military family survivors – no place to turn. So she founded such an organization that is now sharing its model with the civilian population.

The video in the concert/program/auction lineup featured Bonnie (“Miss Bonnie” as she is known to the kids in Good Grief Camp) who explained what TAPS is all about and how it gets families through the day. “I’m sending TAPS hugs to you all” she said. “At TAPS, we are no strangers to challenges. TAPS is here 24/7 and is able to meet the challenges of military survivors. Families know their hero will never be forgotten.” The making of the album Love Lives On was a collaborative effort to say the least. Vince Gill, Billy Ray Cyrus, John Rich, Lonestar, the Gaither Brothers, All-4-One, Pam Tillis (who was headliner at the 2018 Celebrity Classic), Lee Roy Parnell, Paul Overstreet, T.G. Sheppard, Kelly Lang, Deborah Allen and many others lent their time and vocal talent to perform. A-list studio and touring musicians who appear on the album include Vinnie Colaiuta, Eric Darken, Dan Huff, David Hungate (Toto) and David Pack (Ambrosia). Richie McDonald (Lonestar) and Bonnie Carroll co-wrote Love Lives On with Frank Myers and Jimmy Nichols producing.

Auctioneer Halie Behr


An emotional moment – screen shot of Bonnie Carroll with producers Jimmy Nichols (left) and Frank Myers (right) hearing title track Love Lives On for the first time, telling the story of service and sacrifice.

Sponsor Arlene Mohler Johnson hosted a patriotic “watch party” – Top row: Marly Dragoo, Diane Oppenheim, Arlene Johnson, Ashley Chesler, Doug Tisdale. Middle row: David Oppenheim, Dani David, Pat Robinson, Jay Davidson and Kristina Davidson in front.

Prior to 2020, Bonnie Carroll attended in person and Steve Grove has opened his Ranch at Cherry Creek for the event.

Talented and passionate Bo and Lynne Cottrell have coordinated the Colorado Celebrity Classic since its inception and are praised for their work.

The Virtual T.A.P.S (lean) Team 2020 – front row: Lynne Cottrell, Bo Cottrell, Christine Burt, back row: Liza Patton, George Dempsey Photos by Scottie Taylor Iverson

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