

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



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

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

BY SCOTTIE TAYLOR IVERSON



Flair!

– 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 heroes 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 Gaitlin 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. Popular and loyal TAPS supporters - Tony David & WildeFire entertained during cocktail half hour. Other featured songs of the evening were *K9 Brother* about Sgt. Joshua Ryan Ash-

ley USMC who died in 2012 in Afghanistan from an IED – improvised explosive device. His Military Working K9, Sirius survived the blast. Just six months after returning home from a second tour of Iraq, Marine Nicholas Pansini of Littleton committed suicide in 2010 (30% of those with TAPS are because of suicide). *Rebel Wings* was a tribute to Nicholas. His sister Angel is a legacy mentor for TAPS. Over \$5 million has been raised over the years in Colorado and nearly \$250,000 this year. The need for TAPS support is greater than ever. There is no government funding for TAPS. Donations are still being accepted. Contact Lynne Cottrell: 303-696-0450.



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

Celebrity Emcees - multi award-winning journalist Kyra Phillips, now an investigative reporter for ABC News and Canadian Broadcast Hall of Famer John Roberts, White House Correspondent for FOX News.



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



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



Auctioneer Halie Behr
Ordinarily, the Coors Chuckwagon Gang caters a hearty western meal