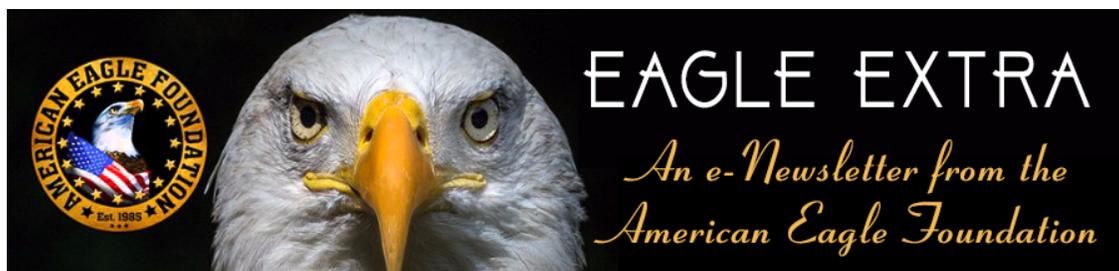


# Eagle Extra Newsletter - Fall 2017

[Campaign Preview](#)[HTML Source](#)[Plain-Text Email](#)[Details](#)

*Fall 2017 AEF Newsletter*



## Let's Catch Up!

### Challenger Flies At His 11th World Series!

Challenger flew magnificently during the National Anthem before the third game of the World Series between the Astros & Dodgers at the Houston Minute Maid Park. [Here's another look!](#) Congratulations to both teams for making it to the World Series, and a special Shout-Out to the Houston Astros for winning that game, and for being Champions of the 2017 World Series!





## A Few Summer Highlights

A summer of newly hatched eaglets and releases at Dollywood...

Four of our non-releasable breeding pairs of Bald Eagles had a successful season:

- Eleanor and Mr. Roosevelt had two eaglets
- Hero and Volunteer had one eaglet
- Freedom and Faithful Spirit had two eaglets
- Honor and Braveheart had one eaglet

Watch "Graduation" and Release Videos Below:

- [ER2, ER3, and HB Graduate to the AEF Hack Tower](#)
- [ER2, ER3, & HB Fledge From AEF Hack Tower](#)

## Chatter Reunion & American Eagle Day



*The traditional "Chatter Wave" to all the viewers of our Dollywood Eagle Cam..*

The 2017 Chatter Reunion and celebration of American Eagle Day was filled with

adventure, good times, good food, a fantastic auction & dinner, and an educational experience that will be remembered for years to come! See our [Scrapbook of Memories!](#)



## Nesting Seasons Begins Again!

The American Eagle Foundation's eagle cams are once again bringing live-streaming video to hundreds of thousands of viewers and eagle enthusiasts across the nation and around the world from four Bald Eagle nests.



**DOLLYWOOD** - In late Fall, AEF staff and volunteers participated in our annual nest-building activities, refurbishing all eagle nests and cleaning up Eagle Mountain Sanctuary. In addition, all resident non-releasable eagles undergo annual physical examinations performed by avian specialist Dr. Mike Jones and his students from the University of

Tennessee School of Veterinary Medicine.

Around mid-December, new cams and equipment will be in place to live-stream the nests of non-releasable breeding pairs [Isaiah & Mrs. Jefferson](#) and [Eleanor & Mr. Roosevelt](#).



The nest of Eleanor & Mr. Roosevelt has been refurbished and is seen here with fresh branches. Nests are positioned by AEF staff close to the ground for easy accessibility for our eagles, whose flight is very limited. Large tree limbs are placed from the ground up to the side of the nest (similar to a ramp) so the eagles can walk up from the ground into their

nests.

The nest area of [Franklin & Independence](#) is undergoing an exhibit restoration and remodel. This is a total nest reconstruction, and involves far more time than a normal nest repair entails. While restoration and reconstruction is underway, Frank & Indy will reside off-site at AEF headquarters. We hope to finish the

project in time for the next nesting season, but it may take longer. If the pair were to lay eggs while offsite, they will remain there until the end of the nesting season, and then be returned to Eagle Mountain Sanctuary.



**NORTHEAST FLORIDA** - Romeo and Juliet returned in August from their summer wanderings and began their bonding activities and nestorations [in their home](#) atop a Long Leaf Pine in Northeast Florida. Juliet laid her first egg (NE18) on November 2nd, followed by a second egg (NE19) on November 5th.

Remote Cam Operators, Moderators, & Videographers are all engaged with doing what they do best - welcoming visitors to Chat, educating our vast audience, and documenting important events happening in the nest. Check out our [YouTube playlist](#) for this season!



**DC EAGLE CAM** - Resident Bald Eagles Mr. President & The First Lady have been seen at the nest with each other, in preparation for a new season. Cams are expected to go live at the end of December. Until then, take a look at our [“scrapbook” of memories](#) from last season, and check out our [YouTube playlist](#) with up-to-date new videos featuring Mr. P &

TFL, as well as “Mr. Squirrel” who seems intent on building his own apartment in the “basement” of their nest.



**SMOKY MOUNTAIN CAM** - The nest of Bald Eagles [Lady Independence & Sir Hatcher](#) will also be featured this season. Lady was captive-hatched at Dollywood in the nest of Franklin and Independence, and released from the AEF hack tower on July 24, 2008. Approximately four years later, Lady returned to the Sevierville, TN area with a mate (whom

the AEF named “Sir Hatcher” [in honor of Bob Hatcher](#)). Together they have raised and successfully fledged 13 eaglets into the Smoky Mountains. New cams have been installed to feature these eagles, and we anticipate the cams going live

WITHIN a few weeks.



## Partnering with PIKSEL For Eagle Cam Streaming

Through the years, the American Eagle Foundation has been an innovator with live-streaming eagle nests. Several companies have provided this service for us—we are grateful to each of them for their part in helping us reach so many people.

With AEF's desire to do bigger projects, we decided to look to a broadcast-grade partner to stream the nest of Mr. President & The First Lady, a breeding pair of Bald Eagles that reside in the National Arboretum in Washington D.C. High-quality streams and stability were needed for the expected high profile and larger audience.

We turned to [PIKSEL](#) for our streaming partner. The result was an instant success, with tens of thousands of concurrent viewers and millions of viewers visiting our cams per day. PIKSEL has now become our streaming partner for all the nests we sponsor.



## Presenting AEF's 2018 Calendar!





Our 2018 calendar showcases 16 of the non-releasable resident birds cared for by the American Eagle Foundation. The photography is stunning, the calendar is printed on high quality paper, and the colors are just gorgeous. (Can you tell how proud we are of this calendar?)

The 16-month calendar (13.5" x 10") additionally includes the first four months of 2019 and a two-page spread about the mission of the AEF. This calendar took months to plan, and we hope you will LOVE it!

In addition to being a personal keepsake, this calendar will be a great present for family & friends. [Order yours today](#) and help the American Eagle Foundation care for all the birds in its care!



## The Celebrity National Anthem Eagle

Of course, Challenger's Fall schedule is always very busy with professional football and baseball. [Here's a look](#) at his stunning flights this Fall:

- September 10 – NRG Stadium in Houston – Texans vs Jaguars.
- September 11 – Mile High Stadium in Denver – Broncos vs Chargers
- September 17 – M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore – Ravens vs Browns
- October 5 – MLB Playoff at Minute Maid Park in Houston – Astros vs Red Sox
- October 16 – Nissan Stadium in Nashville – Titans vs Colts
- October 23 – Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia – Eagles vs Redskins
- November 6 – Lambeau Field in Green Bay – Packers vs Lions
- November 9 – Univ. of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale – Cardinals vs Seahawks
- November 12 – Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis – Colts vs Steelers





Laura Sterbens with Bald Eagle Challenger—Eagles vs Redskins game.



## Field & Stream Grand Openings



Thousands of people are reached each year across the country as Bald Eagles Challenger and Mr. Lincoln travel with AEF staff to new Field & Stream store openings. The AEF is able to showcase the majesty of our Nation's Living Symbol and educate many wildlife enthusiasts about how they can help protect Bald Eagles from lethal lead poisoning—which happens when the eagles feed on fish and dead carcasses that contain lead shot fragments or lead fishing tackle.

- Coraopolis, PA in March—Challenger
- Florence, AL in August—Challenger
- Prosper, TX in August—Mr. Lincoln

- Huntington, WV in September—Challenger
- Scranton, PA in September—Challenger
- Fayetteville, NC in September—Mr. Lincoln



## AEF's Charity Initiatives

### Celebrity Fight Night - March 18, 2017

Since its inception in 1994, \$142 million has been raised for the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center at the Barrow Neurological Institute and many other charities during this [star-studded event](#). The event features an incredible live auction and musical performances by some of today's brightest stars, including this year's honoree, Harrison Ford.



Lonnie Ali, widow of Muhammad Ali, with Harrison Ford.

For the 12th year, [Challenger did a fantastic job](#) at this event. It just wasn't the same without The Champ, but his spirit was felt throughout the night. As always, we were honored to be a part of this charity gala!

## Horatio Alger Awards - March 31, 2017



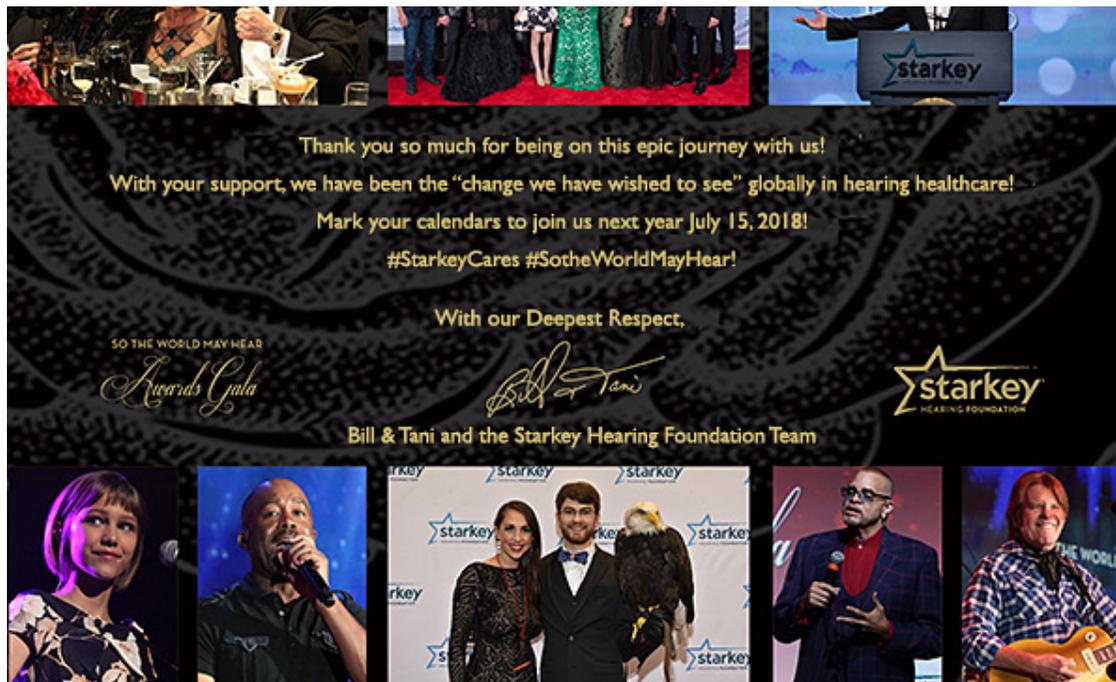
Attending the gala, L-R: Gretchen Cecere, Julia Cecere, Connor O'Brien, Laura Sterbens, Madison Abell, Challenger, Al & Nhi Cecere

Each spring at the DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. ten to twelve individuals are inducted into the Association with the presentation of the [Horatio Alger Award](#). Concurrently, the newest class of Horatio Alger National Scholars are recognized for their determination in spite of personal adversities. Beginning in 1984, the National Scholarship Program has awarded more than \$125 million to more than 25,000 young people in the United States and Canada. In addition to financial aid, the students receive assistance with internships, mentoring, housing, support, and referral services.

Since 2004, Challenger and the AEF have been included in the festivities surrounding this event, and we were honored [to participate](#) in the 70<sup>th</sup> year of this worthy cause.

## Starkey Hearing Foundation Gala - July 16, 2017





A thank-you from the founders of Starkey Hearing Foundation Gala, Bill & Tani Austin. Postcard includes our own Laura Sterbens and Connor O'Brien with Mr. Lincoln.

This Awards Gala, considered to be Minnesota’s largest fundraising event, is held in the ballroom of the RiverCenter in St. Paul. It honors the contributions of generous donors and supporters who assist [Starkey Hearing Foundation](#) in providing thousands of free hearing aids to children and adults nationwide and around the world.

The 2017 “So The World May Hear” Starkey Gala set a record attendance, and for the fifth consecutive year, the [AEF and Bald Eagle Mr. Lincoln played an important part](#).

After being released from the glove of Laura Sterbens and soaring majestically over the audience during the song *You Raise Me Up* (performed by Aria), Bald Eagle Mr. Lincoln, a wonderful Ambassador for his species, landed perfectly on the glove of Spencer Williams.



## Giving Back: Eagle Grants Awarded By AEF

The American Eagle Foundation is proud to announce the fifth year of its Eagle Grants Program supporting eagle conservation and research.

To date, the American Eagle Foundation has sponsored grants totaling almost

To date, the American Eagle Foundation has sponsored grants totaling almost \$500,000. This year, [six applicants for American Eagle Foundation grants were selected](#) to receive a combined total of \$84,133 in funding for work to be carried out in 2017.

We appreciate the important work of these grantees and are honored to be able to contribute to the continued growth and reproductive success of the Bald Eagle population.



## A One-Of-A-Kind Anthem Presentation Featuring Julia Cecere



Have you ever seen someone perform the Star-Spangled Banner while catching a free-flying Bald Eagle on her glove during the very last note? Well, it looks like we made history on March 16th at the Team National Convention in Dallas, TX!

[In this video](#), after being released from center stage by trainer Laura Sterbens, Challenger soars to curator Spencer Williams at the back of the arena, and then returns to the stage to ultimately land on singer Julia Cecere's glove.

Julia (PR, Marketing & Media Coordinator - and so much more!) is currently taking a leave of absence from the AEF as she embarks on a Global Adventure of Discovery as a "Wanderologist." Before she left, we captured this incredible moment in the life of this unique and very special person that we hope you will enjoy!



## You Will Be Missed!

Five individuals who have been part of the heart and spirit of the American Eagle Foundation retired or moved away this year! How we will miss them!

- **Mike Acuff** – Star Performer and Stage Manager of our *Wings of America* Birds of Prey Show, as well as a Master Falconer—Mike was with the AEF for two decades!
- **Craig Strong** – Audio / Video Technician at *Wings of America* show since 2008—Craig also handled the birds and assisted with the Dollywood Eagle Cam Program from its early inception.
- **Bethany Pack** – Administrative Assistant, Merchandise, Membership, & Donation Coordinator—Bethany's bright smile, optimistic spirit, and great customer support will certainly be missed!
- **Julia Cecere** – PR, Marketing & Media Coordinator, and Wildlife Program Coordinator—Julia was extremely instrumental in the public expansion of our Eagle Cam Program, increased public visibility, and website redesign.
- **Madison Abell** – Wildlife Program Coordinator and licensed falconer—Madison started as a volunteer in 2013 before joining the AEF staff. Congratulations on becoming a new Mom!





L-R, top: Mike Acuff, Craig Strong; L-R bottom: Bethany Pack, Julia Cecere, Madison Abell

We wish these dearly loved friends and colleagues Happy Trails as they enter a new chapter in their lives.



## Thank You For Your Support!

As we approach the Holiday season, please consider [shopping online at our AEF Eagle Store](#). New selections come in frequently, and we think you will find many gifts that will brighten the holidays for family and friends. In addition, please think about [Adopting an Eagle or Bird of Prey](#) to help with expenses for its care; make a [one-time or monthly donation](#) to our Foundation; or [donate to one of our nest cam projects](#). Another way to help is to [become a member](#) of the American Eagle Foundation. There are so many levels from which to choose; please find the one that suits you best!

**We appreciate your continued support as we continue our mission to preserve and protect these birds and their habitats through education, rehabilitation, repopulation, and conservation.**



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