

doing more than I'm doing. It's not a big deal."

Because of the media attention, people from all over the country contact Lorraine and new friendships are made. Through her new friends, family and community, she is able to deal with the constant grief felt at each funeral. The effect each person has on her is evident as she recounts them for this interview. She remembers each and every funeral vividly, not just the military funerals. There have been funerals for children and complete strangers; she can recall something about every one.

"Yes, I have the hurt," she says. "I lose a piece of my heart each time, but look what I've gained. That's how I deal with it."

Lorraine feels we all have a gift and this is why God put her here and why she didn't quit after Lady died. She feels stronger for all she's been through and for what she can do. "Not everyone can do what I do, but everyone can do something to help," she says.

The families of the fallen deeply appreciate Lorraine's efforts. It means a lot to them that a stranger would do this for them — that she would pick up the phone and call them and do this for their loved one.

"Just like I am humbled that a stranger would die for me, they are humbled that a stranger would drive 400 miles and do this funeral for them," she says.

She wants the families to know she cares, that a stranger ap-

preciates the sacrifice and what they've been through. While the ceremony of a horse-drawn procession is common for burials in Arlington National Cemetery, it isn't generally seen otherwise. For Lorraine, it is important to add this extra measure of honor and dignity to a veteran's funeral.

With her horse and her hearse Lorraine is saying, "I recognize the sacrifice you gave, and you're going to receive the highest honor that I can give."

Audra Daugherty is a freelance writer from Arizona. This is her second feature for Colorado Country Life.

To get in touch with Lorraine at Wellington Carriage Company

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Follow Lorraine on Facebook at [facebook.com search Duke the funeral horse.](https://www.facebook.com/search/duke-the-funeral-horse)



Colorado COUNTRY LIFE

Donates \$100 each to

- Ellicott Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Colorado Springs
- Volunteers for Change, Colorado City
- Grand County Council for Aging, Granby

All were nominated by readers as part of a December program focused on giving to others. All of the other nominated organizations received \$20 donations.



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