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Even in Retirement, Service-Oriented Paul Little Continues to Give Back

It's difficult to know what to call Paul Little, Wingate Class of '68 when you meet him. Colonel? Doctor? Mister Little? The humble Little is fine with "Paul." His accomplishments compel you to treat him with deference, but his unassuming nature disarms you pretty quickly. He's quick with a smile, and even quicker to lend a hand.

Now retired and back working the family farm in Anson County, Little has lived a full life that has taken him around the world. As a colonel and medical doctor in the U.S. Army, he served on the staff of the Army surgeon general at the Pentagon, in Washington, D.C., and was the first medical editor at the US Department of Defense Media Center.

The operable word in the preceding sentence is "served." For Little, serving is second nature, whether serving his country, his alma mater, his church or his community. Little has even arranged to serve Wingate University in perpetuity. In his will, he has designated most of his estate to go to the University after his death. The Little family's 1,200-plus-acre tree farm, called Magnolia Farms, will eventually help fund a new science center and endow scholarships to make Wingate more affordable.

"This will pass on your family's history and heritage with the University to the next generation," Ted Johnson, the University's senior director of gift planning, recently told Little.

When Little decides to serve, he goes all-in. Once, a number of years ago, his church, First Baptist of Wadesboro, was in need of a new piano, and Little decided to help them out. Instead of simply writing a check, he flew to New York to talk to the people at Steinway & Co., who soon after came down to Wadesboro to install the Little-purchased instrument.

Little has donated many works of art to the University – some created by his mother, Edna Pearle, a fine-arts professor at Wingate in the '60s and '70s; others from the personal collection he and his mother accumulated in their extensive travels. He has also volunteered as a trustee for the past four years. This year, Little is transitioning to "lifetime trustee" status.

His devotion and work ethic stem at least partially from his teen years, when Little, an only child, had to step in to keep the family farm running after his father died. The farm was a big operation at the time, with a large chicken house, a cotton gin, and cows. Little attended Wingate Junior College in part because it kept him close to home.

"He could go home every day and work the farm," says his good friend, former Anson County Sheriff Tommy Allen, Wingate Class of '69.

Wingate provided Little with a welcoming place in which to ease into adult independence. The chemistry major got plenty of personal attention, helping prepare him for the much larger classes he would be a part of at his next stop, N.C. State University. "It was a great transition from a high-school environment to a college campus," he says. "At Wingate, teachers knew your first name. You were not a number."

Little fell in love with the College and was an engaged student. He was active in the International Relations Club and the Debate Team, and he served on the editorial staff of Meanderings, a student-produced magazine. All three activities served him well as he rose up the ranks in the Army, using his diplomacy, critical-thinking and editing skills along the way.

But as much as Little loved his time at Wingate, Edna Pearle would not countenance her precocious son's stopping his education at the associate-degree level. He went on to keep earning degrees, first a bachelor's at N.C. State, then a physician assistant degree at the Medical University of South Carolina, and finally his M.D. at East Carolina University.

"I know his mother would have encouraged that," Allen says. "She would have almost demanded that he go on further."

Little eventually landed at the Pentagon. Living in Washington, for years Little would fly out every Friday and spend the weekend in Anson County with his aging mother, returning on Sunday evening.

Little was in the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, when he heard the hijacked plane slam into the building. His administrative assistant was killed. He spent the next 48 hours treating survivors. It was just another example of Little's service-oriented life. He and Allen worked together on the Anson County Rescue Squad for years. Later, Little volunteered with the Anson County Historical Society, the North Carolina Forestry Association, the Anson County Voluntary Agricultural District, and the First Baptist Church of Wadesboro, where he also sang in the choir. Little has been the recipient of the Heritage Award from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina for his many years of service to his church congregation in Wadesboro. He also assisted in organizing and building the Gullede Volunteer Fire Department in Wadesboro.

Little established the Edna Pearle Little Memorial Scholarship in memory of his mother, and he received Wingate University's Alumni Service Award in 2016.

"Paul has always worked in public service to a degree," Allen says. That service continues at Wingate, now and for years into the future.

"What he's doing will keep the Little family connected to Wingate University forever," Johnson says. Story courtesy of Chuck Gordon, Managing Editor, Office of Marketing and Events, Wingate University



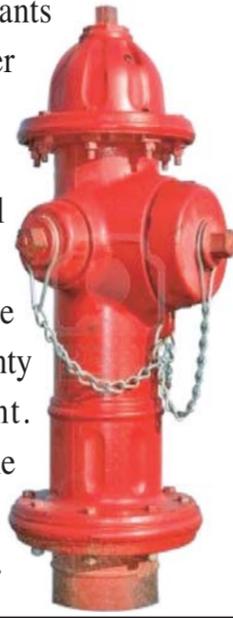
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Anson County Animal Shelter To Distribute Free Pet Vaccines and Microchips this Saturday

Anson County Animal Shelter is partnering with national nonprofit Petco Love to give pets their best shot for a healthy life by distributing free pet vaccines for Anson County pets. Petco Love established March as "National Pet Vaccination Month" to encourage pet parents to keep their pets up to date on vaccinations and will provide free pet vaccines to Anson County for family pets in need. As puppy and kitten season approaches, pet exposure to contagious and deadly diseases – parvovirus, distemper, and panleukopenia – increases but is preventable with a simple vaccine.

Anson County Animal Shelter aims to vaccinate 300 pets through this effort this Saturday, March 26, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The Shelter is located at 7257 Highway 74 in Polkton, at the entrance to Field of Dreams. They will also be administering Rabies vaccinations and Microchips. Vaccines distributed through the Petco Love initiative will be the DAPPv Canine and HCP Feline vaccines. Microchips were bought thru a grant from Petco Love. Two free chips per household will be administered, additional chips can be purchased at a cost of \$5 per chip.

"Thanks to Petco Love, we can offer these important vaccines at no cost to pet owners," said Maureen Lett, Director. "We urge community members to take advantage of this free resource to help reduce the spread of disease and ensure the health and wellness of our community's pets."

The Give Pets Their Best Shot initiative makes crucial pet vaccines accessible to pet parents who may be experiencing financial challenges and assures that cost is not a barrier to protecting pets from preventable diseases.

"Treatment for these deadly diseases can be prohibitively expensive for many pet parents," said Susanne Kogut, Petco Love President. "By providing free vaccines to those in need, we can help these pets live a healthy life. Through this national effort and our other Petco Love Care initiatives, we continue our 22-year history of strategic investments and innovation to end unnecessary pet euthanasia."

National Pet Vaccination Month is a continuation of Petco Love's 1 million free pet vaccine campaign, which has helped 400,000 pets to date. Fifty percent of participating pet parents surveyed reported their pets had never been vaccinated against these diseases. With Bissell Pet Foundation as an additional partner this month, Petco Love's goal is to increase awareness and accelerate the distribution of vaccines.

For more information about Anson County Animal Shelter's vaccine event, email [mlett@ansoncountync.gov](mailto:mlett@ansoncountync.gov) or call 704-994-2738. Learn more about Petco Love's national vaccine effort and lifesaving impact at [petcolove.org](http://petcolove.org) or [freepetvaccines.org](http://freepetvaccines.org).

**About Anson County Animal Shelter** Anson County Animal Shelter is a public animal welfare facility that serves Anson County in North Carolina. We provide shelter and care for dogs and cats, while vigilantly working to have them reunited with their owners or adopted into loving homes. We partner with rescues, both local and out-of-state. We strongly promote the Spay and Neuter movement and strive to assist and educate all pet owners on the importance of controlling the rural dog and cat population.

Anson County Animal Shelter workers and volunteers have paw prints on their hearts. Their love for animals drives them to provide the utmost compassionate and loving care for these shelter dogs and cats in their charge.

Our mission is for every cage to be empty: for every single homeless, abandoned, lost or abused animal to be in a loving and safe home. Until that day, we will do our best and give our all to show them they are worthy of happiness and of being loved.

And remember, older dogs and cats need a home and love too!

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