



FLUVANNA SPCA
Supporting Pawitive Pet Partnership Since 1989



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA
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Community Member Robert S. Pace, Jr. Recognized by SPCAs of Charlottesville-Albemarle & Fluvanna

During this holiday season of reflection and giving thanks, two area animal welfare organizations are recognizing Mr. Robert S. Pace, Jr. and his lifetime of friendship and dedication to animals. Mr. Pace is a nonagenarian who has been an active supporter of both the Fluvanna SPCA and the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA for decades. While he has witnessed and participated in nearly a century of change and history, his steadfast commitment to animals, the FSPCA, the CASPCA, and the lives they save has been unwavering.

Mr. Pace, a World War II veteran and aficionado of the piano, classical music, art, history, antiques, and genealogy, has deep roots in central Virginia and a family history that traces 400 years of life in the Commonwealth. As a boy whose father was killed in a logging accident shortly before his birth, he always had pets around his Fluvanna County home on Steger Creek.

As a music major at the University of Virginia, he saw Franklin Delano Roosevelt deliver his famous "Stab in the Back" speech during his Commencement address to U.Va.'s Class of 1940, after FDR had been informed that Italy had allied itself with Germany and declared war on France and the United Kingdom. Mr. Pace served in the Navy in World War II and witnessed from a carrier the return of General Douglas MacArthur to the Philippines two and-a-half years the General's famous "I shall return" declaration. Later, after his service to the United States, Mr. Pace specialized in the sale and acquisition of fine pianos as he continued to preserve his own family's history and heirlooms. As a resident of Fluvanna County, he has been active in a variety of the county's historical preservation efforts, and he has maintained his own museum of artifacts dating as far back as Revolutionary War days. Additionally, there are a number of pets memorialized in the pet cemetery he created on his property.

Mr. Pace has advanced the work of both the Fluvanna SPCA and the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA through generous donations of land, operational funding, and facilities. In fact, the Fluvanna SPCA's shelter sits on a peaceful patch of Mr. Pace's donated land that adjoins Union Mills Road in Fluvanna County, near Steger Creek. He was named one of the Daily Progress' 2001-2002 Distinguished Dozen for his activism in support of animal welfare.

Amy Kirchner, Director of the Fluvanna SPCA, noted that, "Before the humane intervention of Robert Pace, the stray animals in Fluvanna County were housed at the local landfill. Mr. Pace took it upon himself to establish a permanent shelter for Fluvanna's stray animals in the form of the FSPCA. Mr. Pace donated the land, led the fundraising efforts and oversaw the construction of the building himself so that the homeless dogs and cats of the county would have a safe, warm place to live. Mr. Pace single-handedly overhauled the way Fluvanna County treated their lost and abandoned animals, and for that we are all grateful."

Susanne Kogut, Executive Director of the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA, noted that “Mr. Pace is a true advocate for animals, and many times over many years he has been there for the animals and has provided solutions to the challenges that we and other non-profit animal welfare organizations face.”

Both the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA and the Fluvanna SPCA honor Mr. Robert S. Pace, Jr. and his ongoing devotion to the companion animals of central Virginia.

The mission of the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA is to provide a safe and nurturing environment for the lost, abandoned, and homeless animals of the City of Charlottesville and the County of Albemarle and to increase the number of these animals being placed in appropriate, loving, and permanent homes through adoptions, foster care, and outreach, and to set a standard of excellence and leadership in shelter animal care, humane education, and progressive animal welfare programs. For more information about the CASPCA, please call 434-964-3305 or visit the CASPCA website at www.caspc.org.

The Fluvanna SPCA’s goal is to rescue domestic animals from cruelty, neglect, and abandonment, and to teach responsible pet ownership. For more information about the FSPCA, please call 434-591-0123 or visit the FSPCA website at www.fspca.org.

Thank you to Mr. Michael Pace for contributing biographical information on Robert S. Pace, Jr. to this story.



Photo: Mr. Robert S. Pace, Jr. at the 1998 groundbreaking for the Fluvanna SPCA’s new building.