



CLEARWATER MARINE
AQUARIUM™

MEDIA ALERT

Recent Amputee and Air Force Veteran Finds Inspiration in Winter the Dolphin

Clearwater Marine Aquarium Honors Veterans this Weekend with Admission Special

Clearwater, FL (Nov. 9, 2017) – U.S. Air Force Veteran Lamar Dean, 65 from Brandon, FL, found much needed inspiration today at Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA).

Dean, who served as a U.S. Airforce Aerospace Ground Equipment Specialist from 1971 - 1974, had his leg amputated above the knee in July this year. An acute infection in his foot spread up his leg and in just one month Dean underwent three amputations. When Dean found out from his Recreation Therapist at James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital that there is a dolphin that has faced a similar obstacle, he had to meet her.

Dean met Winter and Hope, another rescued dolphin at CMA, on Thursday, Nov. 9. Winter lost her tail after it was entangled in a crab trap rope in 2005. Dean is motivated to learn to walk with his new prosthetic leg, just as Winter learned to swim with a prosthetic tail.

“I felt a sense of loss like Winter,” says Dean about his amputation. “Winter lost her mother and her tail. But with love, support and perseverance, she is living a wonderful life.”

Clearwater Marine Aquarium is honoring U.S. Veterans all weekend with an admission special of \$9.99 for veterans and their guests.

“We are so thankful for veterans like Lamar who risked their lives to serve our country and keep us safe,” says David Yates, CEO of CMA. “While Winter inspires Lamar to learn to walk again, we are inspired by Lamar’s bravery, service, and perseverance. Clearwater Marine Aquarium thanks all those who have served, and continue to serve our country.”

Admission is free for active U.S. military all year at Clearwater Marine Aquarium. For more information on Veterans Appreciation Weekend visit <https://www.seewinter.com/event/veterans-appreciation-weekend/>.

Additional media information:

- To download footage from Lamar Dean’s visit, [click here](#).
- For further information, contact Julia Anderson at janderson@cm aquarium.org or 727.686.3499

About Clearwater Marine Aquarium:

Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working marine rescue center dedicated to inspiring the human spirit through leadership in education, research, rescue, rehabilitation and release. CMA is home to rescued dolphins, sea turtles, river otters, stingrays, nurse sharks and more. Winter the dolphin’s story of survival, after an injury that caused her to lose her tail, has impacted millions of people around the world. A major motion picture, *Dolphin Tale*, highlighted her life story in 2011. The sequel, *Dolphin Tale 2*, was released in September 2014 and features the incredible story of Hope, a young resident dolphin of CMA. The mission and potential to change people’s lives differentiates Clearwater Marine Aquarium from any other aquarium in the world.

WE BELIEVE in preserving our environment while inspiring the human spirit through leadership in the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of marine life, environmental education, research and conservation.

249 Windward Passage | Clearwater, FL 33767 | 727.441.1790 | SeeWinter.com

A Florida non-profit 501(c)(3)