

Celebrity Profile

Bo Derek

Running on the beach in the 1979 smash hit “10,” Bo Derek entered American pop culture and became the standard for the “perfect 10 beauty.” More than two decades later, Ms. Derek has proven that her beauty goes deeper, as she devotes her time to caring for other people and animals alike.

Ms. Derek’s compassion for animals led her to create “Bless the Beasts,” a line of pet products sold in stores nation wide. A humanitarian, Ms. Derek donates a portion of all sale proceeds to Canine Companions for Independence, a non-profit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing to them highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support.

However, her compassion for people with disabilities goes beyond Canine Companions for Independence. Ms. Derek also serves as the national honorary chairperson for the Department of Veterans Affairs National Rehabilitation Special Events. These therapeutic and rehabilitative events are designed to help veterans overcome their disabilities through competition. They are the hallmark of rehabilitation in the nation.

Born Mary Cathleen Collins in Long Beach, Calif., Ms. Derek is no stranger to veterans. Her father, Paul Collins, was a radio operator during the Korean War. Both her stepfather and her late husband, John Derek, were also veterans. It is this love for the armed forces that has inspired Ms. Derek to perform her duties as national honorary chairperson with passion and ease, taking the time to meet and encourage veterans, one by one.

In 2002, Ms. Derek was bestowed by the Special Forces Association with the distinction of honorary Green Beret. She joins only four other Americans who have been so honored — entertainers John Wayne, Martha Rae, and Wayne Newton, and the author of *The Green Berets*, Robin Moore. Ms. Derek was recognized for her efforts on behalf of America’s men and women in uniform, and our military veterans. She participates in USO tours, entertaining U.S. military personnel serving abroad.

Along with her devotion to veterans, Ms. Derek is a patron of the arts. In January 2002, President George W. Bush appointed her to the Kennedy Center Board of Trustees.

Now a published author, Ms. Derek poured into *Riding Lessons: Everything That Matters in Life I Learned from Horses* the essence of her beauty - a radiance resulting from her caring heart and bright mind. More than twenty years after she first seared the American consciousness with her image, Bo Derek is as captivating and as ravishingly beautiful as ever, both inside and outside.

