



Photo credit to WWIA Guide John Keeney for this beautiful photo from the 2nd Annual Kodiak, AK Fishing Event

Notes From the Field: August 2018

August was another exceptional month for our Heroes. There were plenty of great catches and harvested game as we hosted five unique events ranging from culinary arts to Colorado mule deer and even some fishing in Alaska. We are proud to offer a wide variety of event offerings and that is a result of our amazing Hosts that partner with us. We would like to humbly thank everyone for their hard work and support in serving our Heroes, including our event and fundraising Hosts. You won't want to miss our monthly spotlight feature as we go behind the scenes of one of our newest WWIA events. As we welcome in the fall season, stay tuned for more outstanding opportunities and highlights coming your way soon!



CFC Season is Here! Help Support WWIA with a Pledge!



The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) season has officially begun! The CFC allows federal employees and retirees to make charitable contributions to a number of eligible charities they personally select by directing a portion of their income or annuitant payments to those non-profits. The CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign and the pledges and contributions received help non-profits like WWIA continue the work we are doing to assist in the healing and restoration of our Heroes. As you look to make your CFC charity designations this season, we would appreciate you considering making a pledge to WWIA and making a direct difference in the lives of our Purple Heart Heroes. Click [here](#) to be taken to the CFC Donor Pledge Site. We thank you in advance for your consideration and thank you for your faithful support as you partner with us.

Inaugural MN Caregivers Culinary Event

August 3rd - 6th



WWIA was excited to welcome three amazing caregivers to Minneapolis, MN for The Inaugural MN Caregivers Culinary Event. This event is unique because it focuses on serving the caregivers who stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our Purple Heart Heroes, sharing in their challenges and assisting in their care and recovery. The caregivers received formal training and education in preparing and cooking wild game and fish, as well as in presentation. This event had an integral focus on health and wellness as our Hosts shared a number of cooking skills and tips that the caregivers can use utilize upon returning home. The caregivers were taken to a local farmers market to learn about a variety of food options they can use in preparing their meals. They learned how to make a number of delicious appetizers and entrees such as fish chowder, pheasant soup, and venison kabobs. They also had time to relax and get to know one another better with an enjoyable trip to the [Minnesota Arboretum](#). The camaraderie and bonds formed between these caregivers were amazing as they shared stories, laughter, and connections over their four days together. Resounding applause and a debt of gratitude to Hosts Karen McDaniel, Moira Tidball, and Shelley Cohen for their coordination and hard work in making this event so successful. We look forward to conducting future culinary events as we see the tremendous benefits it provides for both the Heroes and their caregivers.

" I am so thankful for the experience, for all the hard work and dedication that went into making the event happen, and for the many spouses like the ones I met this weekend, who stand behind their Wounded Warrior, pushing them on, helping them, supporting them, loving them, and giving them a swift kick in the rear when needed. I love you ladies. Thanks to each of you for an unforgettable and uplifting weekend. "

7th Annual Lake Erie Trophy Walleye Fishing Event

August 3rd - 6th



The incredible community of Ashtabula, Ohio welcomed eight of our Heroes for the 7th Annual Lake Erie Trophy Walleye Fishing Event. Our Heroes were blessed with exceptional weather and tight lines as they enjoyed world-class walleye fishing, outstanding food, and formed strong bonds with their fellow brothers. Our Warriors also had time to enjoy a memorable ride on a Higgins boat (an amphibious landing craft used extensively in World War II). The Lake Erie event also welcomed their first-ever WWII Purple Heart Hero, which was a tremendous honor for the community and the other Heroes in attendance. Ashtabula always goes out of their way to show appreciation for the service and sacrifices our Heroes have made, and they continued that tradition by honoring our Heroes with a wonderful parade, lining the streets, waving flags, and expressing their gratitude. Our highest thanks to Host Larry Fielder and the incredibly dedicated volunteers that make up Team Erie for putting on another top-notch event. We would like to recognize the following: [Kister Marina](#) for once again donating the use of their marina and campground, The Legion Riders of [American Legion Dewey Howlett Post 103](#) for their continued dedication and support each year, John Everett for his outstanding fundraising efforts and assistance during the event, Bill and Diane Miller of [dentistofficebydesign](#) for both their stellar fundraising support and generosity throughout the years. Our sincere appreciation to Diversident Systems, Peter and Tara Brown, Knights of Columbus 947, Michael Morgan DDS, and Synthec LLC for your thoughtful and generous donations. There are so many individuals and businesses that selflessly give of their time, monies, and talents to make this event possible each year, and we collectively recognize and appreciate your partnering with us. Ashtabula and Team Erie are making a huge impact! Additional thanks to WWIA Guides Mark Broda and Jon French for their teamwork and coordination throughout the event.

"First off you guys went above and beyond for us. It has been a while since I've felt the camaraderie of my battle buddies. The Town of Ashtabula welcomed us with open arms and made this trip amazing. Walleye fishing one of the Great Lakes has always been a dream of mine and you guys made it happen. From the bottom of my heart, thank you so much for this opportunity. I can't wait to be a part of another WWIA adventure!"

2nd Annual Kodiak, AK Fishing Event

August 9th - 12th



Three of our Heroes recently traveled to the Last Frontier for the 2nd Annual Kodiak, Alaska Fishing Event. Our Heroes spent four adventurous days in scenic Alaska, enjoying wilderness and wildlife while also being welcomed and honored by the incredibly generous military community of Kodiak. They were graciously presented with new fly rods courtesy of Big Ray's Alaskan Outfitters on their very first day. Throughout their stay, they enjoyed outstanding meals and camaraderie, and were able to see bald eagles, bears, wild horses, killer whales, humpback whales, and more. There was also plenty of time for world-class fishing and our Heroes caught a bountiful variety of native fish including silver salmon, king salmon, rockfish, and lingcod. Special thanks to Ranger Kiel of [Ranger Kiel's Kodiak Adventures](#) for hosting and leading our Heroes. This event would not have been possible were it not for the tremendous support and contributions from the following individuals: Alaskan National Guard Armory, Jesse, Eric, and Lenny from [Big Ray's Alaskan Outfitters](#), Ryan Sharratt, [USCG Base and Air Station Command Team](#), Nick Lindsey, Frank Peterson, Branson and Ashley Wallace, Frank Bishop, Rick and his team from MWR, Jess from Lodging, and the Boat House team. Additional gratitude to WWIA Guide John Keeney for his assistance and support throughout the event.

"Thank you for blessing me with this once in a lifetime opportunity to fish in the last frontier of Kodiak Alaska! From the moment Ms. Corrina contacted me and brought me into the fold, through the final goodbyes in Alaska, the entire experience has been professional, caring and phenomenal. Your organization has given me a gift that is truly priceless. I have wanted to visit Alaska my entire life, not only have you made that dream a reality, but you brought people into my life that are simply amazing. This journey has been a spiritual awakening for me, something I wasn't even aware I needed. This trip has centered me."

2nd Annual Saltgrass Lodge Red Fishing Event

August 10th - 13th



The 2nd Annual Saltgrass Lodge Red Fishing Event just keeps getting better! Four of our Heroes recently converged on Buras, LA to enjoy four days of prime fishing on the bayou. This area is well known for fantastic catches and our Heroes discovered that first-hand, pulling in some gorgeous Reds! This was a first-class event all the way around as our Heroes had exquisite accommodations and mouth-watering chef-cooked meals. Our sincere thanks to Host Raymond Schmitt and Co-Host Audie Murphy for putting on another outstanding event. This would not have been possible without the selfless dedication and support of the following individuals: Boat Captains, Chief, Ike, Raymond and Todd for both their fishing expertise and the incredible respect shown toward our Heroes, Chef Kevin Vizard for spoiling our Heroes with memorable and tasty food throughout their stay, the entire [Saltgrass Outdoors](#) staff for their gracious hospitality and care, and to Host Kevin Ford and Producer Joey Bordelon from [Louisiana Outdoor Adventures TV](#) for honoring our Heroes and helping bring greater exposure to the mission of WWIA. Special recognition to WWIA Guide Crystal Masek and WWIA Lead Associate Josh Krueger for their contributions during this trip.

"This is one of those events where the fishing was unbelievable, but it was just the icing on the cake. The sit-down, 3-course meals were a time to eat amazing dishes but also have fellowship and hear about the other's day. Saltgrass is a high-class establishment and every one of the employees from fishing guides to the chef did everything to make sure we were taken care of every second. It was a weekend I will always remember and reflect on going forward. A lot of healing will come from my time at Saltgrass with WWIA."

3rd Annual Rocking R Ranch Mule Deer Hunt

August 24th - 30th



The 3rd Annual Rocking R Ranch Archery Mule Deer Hunt was truly the trip of a lifetime for one of our Purple Heart Heroes. There was an abundance of wildlife as many bear, elk, and mule deer were spotted throughout the 7-day event. There were many opportunities to sit from an elevated stand as well as to spot-n-stalk. From early morning to late into the night, our Hero and the accompanying guides made the most of their time in the field. Our sincere appreciation and gratitude go out to Dan Reardon and family of [Rocking R Ranch](#) for generously hosting this event and providing his expertise in the field. Additional thanks to Charlie Rehor and the incredible [Bowsite.com](#) community for helping fund this remarkable opportunity, to Forest Keith, to [Ironwill Outfitters](#) for providing broadheads, to [Sitka Gear](#) for graciously outfitting our Hero with clothing, and to Denny and Jodi for their outstanding cooking, care, and attentiveness.

"I found it very overwhelming to be treated with such kindness and hospitality. Truly an experience I will never forget. I could never express my full gratitude to everyone involved to include being a part of such a wonderful organization as Wounded Warriors in Action."

The 2018 Brigadoon Winery "Out in the Country" WWIA Fundraiser

August 4th



The Brigadoon Winery recently held their 2018 Out in the Country WWIA Fundraising Event. This event was held on the beautiful winery grounds and featured outdoor arts and crafts booths and a variety of food and beverages. They also had local veterans graciously serve burgers, hot dogs and brats and also offered gourmet ice cream and Italian specialty cakes. There was an outstanding silent auction offering an assortment of items to bid on. This fundraising event raised an impressive \$2,294.00 and these proceeds will directly support WWIA events at Camp Hackett, Wisconsin. Our sincere thanks to Tamara Lauder of [Pottery & Printmaking](#), Tom and Tina Kocken, and Bev Heikkinen for your individual donations. To all of the vendors and everyone who came out to enjoy this special event and show their support and patriotism, THANK YOU! We would like to express our highest appreciation and gratitude to David and Linda Welbes owners of Brigadoon Winery for their exceptional support of WWIA and our Heroes.

The Steve Schneider Memorial Musky Tournament

August 18

THE STEVE SCHNEIDER MEMORIAL MUSKY TOURNAMENT

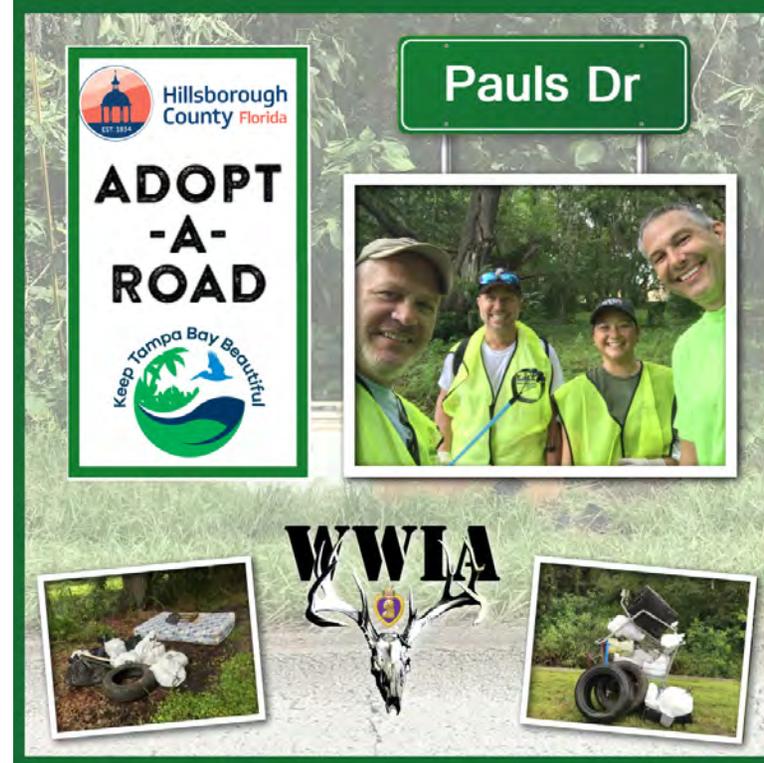
 22ND ANNUAL PHILLIPS CHAIN-OF-LAKES
CHARITY CATCH & RELEASE TOURNAMENT 



We would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to everyone associated with The Steve Schneider Memorial Musky Tournament that was held Aug. 18th to benefit the Wounded Warriors in Action Foundation. This was the 22nd year for this Phillips area charity catch and release musky tournament, and they raised a total of \$2,100.00 this year! We are truly honored to be associated with so many generous and patriotic supporters from this event.

A huge THANK YOU to the following individuals and businesses for their outstanding support and participation: WWIA Field Coordinator John Bentley for his all-around efforts, Bob Bolz for helping judge the event, John and Linda Carlson of [Ross's Sport Shop](#) and Guide Service, Dan and Holly Virnig of [Birch Island Resort](#), Duane and Bonnie Grube of [Harbor View Pub and Eatery](#), [St. Croix Rods](#), [Elk River Custom Rods](#), Dennis and Connie Potter of the Potter Place, Ketchum Island Cranberry Co., Chuck Bolton, Linda Christman, and all of the judges, volunteers, sponsors, and participants that made this tournament such a tremendous success! Thank you for your incredible support of WWIA and our Purple Heart Heroes!

Taking it to the Streets!



Our staff recently took to the streets outside WWIA headquarters to clean up as part of the Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful initiative! WWIA adopted Pauls Dr. (the street that houses our main offices) through the Adopt-A-Road program and is committed to preserving and maintaining this area. Environmental stewardship is everyone's responsibility and if everyone does just a little, it truly equals a lot!

WWIA August Spotlight



We are excited and honored to feature one of our newest WWIA event offerings in this month's spotlight, The Inaugural MN Caregiver's Culinary Event. Caregivers are often the unseen partners who provide support and also share in the lifelong recovery process. They play a vitally important role in the healing and restoration of our combat-wounded veterans both in mind and body. This event allows us to honor and recognize caregivers for the work they do and equip them with various culinary skills to aid in the recovery efforts of their loved ones. If you are a caregiver of one of our Heroes and would be interested in participating in a future WWIA Caregiver's Culinary Event, please email us at info@wwiaf.org and let us know. Thank you!

This culinary event was proudly hosted by Karen McDaniel, Moira Tidball, and Shelley Cohen. We asked them what was one of the biggest benefits they received from hosting this event?

Karen McDaniel- "I have always believed that the impact of a Purple Heart Hero's injuries affect the entire family. However, not until I experienced a weekend with spouses of Heroes did I fully understand the importance of bringing them together to share their experiences.

The women I had the privilege of hosting gave me insight into their side of the journey of living with a Hero. I saw how readily and easily they connected with one another through the bond of common experience. The biggest benefit I received from hosting this event was witnessing the camaraderie that blossomed over the course of a weekend between women who showed up as complete strangers and left as friends. It was an amazing weekend that I will never forget."

Moira Tidball- "This weekend was a perfect recipe of sharing, laughter, and learning for all involved. I was honored to share culinary skills for preparing wild game and fish with these

fabulous military spouses, and I hope the benefits will extend to their home kitchens, enhancing the joy of hunting and fishing (and the food) provided by WWIA events."

Shelley Cohen- "This event allowed me to be witness to the caregivers' lifelong enduring impact of their loved one's injuries and the care involved surrounding those. This event reconfirmed the importance that the caregivers of our Heroes have not been forgotten."

If you could express to other caregiver's the impact this culinary event had on you, what would you say?

Temperance W., the wife of one of our Purple Heart Heroes recently attended this event and wrote a beautifully descriptive blog post describing her experience. She was kind enough to allow us to share her impressions. Here is what she had to say:

This past weekend, I attended a spouse's event with Wounded Warriors in Action, a group serving our Purple Heart veterans. As some may know, National Purple Heart Day is today, August 7. As most of you know, my husband is a Purple Heart veteran. For those that might not know, that means he was wounded in combat. In his case, his vehicle was hit by an IED (a couple of times) while deployed to Iraq, resulting in cervical spinal injuries, which later required a cervical fusion. Further, he experienced many symptoms of mild TBI (traumatic brain injury) from the blast, mostly related to short-term memory and concentration. However, this post isn't really about his injuries. Instead, it is about our experiences with an organization, Wounded Warriors in Action (WWIA).

First, a little background on WWIA: "The Wounded Warriors in Action Foundation Inc. (WWIA) serves our nation's combat-wounded Purple Heart recipients by providing world-class outdoor sporting activities as a means to recognize and honor their sacrifice, encourage independence and connections with communities, and promote healing and wellness through camaraderie and a shared passion for the outdoors." Their events range from hunting/fishing trips for warriors to couple's events where warriors hunt while spouses can choose to hunt alongside them or attend other events such as getting pampered at the spa, to their most recent addition, a caregiver's culinary event where spouses learn to prepare and cook wild game and fish.

Our initial involvement with WWIA was a couple's upland bird hunt in upstate NY. Then, most recently, I received a call inviting me to attend a spouse's culinary event in Minnesota. They flew me up from Savannah to Minneapolis/St. Paul on Friday morning and I returned home yesterday evening. The event was amazing, restorative, full of laughs, and I learned so much. You will have to forgive me, as I am not sure I will be able to find the words to fully explain what this trip and this organization means to me.

Friday morning, I flew up to Minneapolis and was met at the airport by one of the hosts, Karen, and our chef extraordinaire, Mo. We picked up one of the other spouses, Sarah, and headed back to Karen's house, where we met the other spouse, Nichole, and our other host, Shelley. Did you catch that? We went back to Karen's house. Karen, who is not a military spouse, but is involved with WWIA, opened her home to virtual strangers for a long weekend. She was an amazing and gracious host and I immediately felt completely at ease and welcomed.

The weekend consisted of a mix of learning to cook wild game and fish and other events, including brunch at the amazing "esker grove" and a trip to the Minnesota Arboretum. We learned to filet fish, prepare and cook venison and pheasant in multiple ways. Best of all, we got to eat the food we cooked! YAY! Chef Mo taught all of us so much, a lot of tips and tricks we will be able to use, not just for wild game, but also for our everyday cooking. I feel like I

definitely walked away much more comfortable and daring in preparing wild game and ensuring there is as little waste as possible.

However, if I am being honest, the true magic in the event is in the comradery. The cooking served as a way to bring us together. As we prepared and cooked our food, we found ourselves sharing our stories. As spouses of wounded warriors, we often share our spouse's story. It is centered around their experiences. However, I found that when surrounded by other spouses and in an environment where we all felt supported, it became less about our spouse's experiences/injuries, and more about our own. We shared the scary parts, the hard ones, the stresses, the challenges, and the triumphs. There were some tears and oh my goodness did we laugh. I mean that deep belly laughs, the kind that leaves you bent over and out of breath. I don't know how to explain it, but these events are magic in a way. You spend a few days together with your hosts and other attendees and leave bonded through shared experience, heartache, and joy. You open up in ways you would never expect with virtual strangers. I attended this WWIA event with people I had never even met and left with a very special bond with these ladies, spouses and hosts alike. It was amazing. I am so thankful for the experience, for all the hard work and dedication that went into making the event happen, and for the many spouses like the ones I met this weekend, who stand behind their Wounded Warrior, pushing them on, helping them, supporting them, loving them, and giving them a swift kick in the rear when needed. I love you ladies. Thanks to each of you for an unforgettable and uplifting weekend.

Want a behind the scenes look at the Inaugural MN Caregivers Culinary Event? Click [here](#) to view an amazing Flip Book with exclusive pictures and details from the event.



Sponsors and Friends

We would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the following supporters for their gracious contributions and dedication to WWIA and our Heroes.

THANK YOU!

****Zachary Quintanar- \$656.25 through [V-Dac](#) donation****

****Ed Reed- \$500.00****

Help Us Tell Others About WWIA!



Would you consider representing WWIA at a CFC event in your local geographic area? Our nation's great federal employees (military & civilian) represent our single largest source of funding for our Heroes. If you're interested, please email us at info@wwiaf.org or message us on [Facebook](#). Thank you for your support!

100 Purple Hearts Fundraiser



Your help is needed to send 100 Purple Heart Heroes on all-expense-paid, world-class outdoor sporting events to facilitate healing and restoration in their lives. Let's give back to those who have given so much! Please consider a donation for our Heroes today and be sure to share this post with your friends and family. To learn more about this initiative and how you can help support our 100 Purple Heart Heroes, click [here](#). To all of our friends, families, supporters, and caring communities, we sincerely THANK YOU for your generosity in standing with us!

WWIA Earns Top-Rated Nonprofit for 2018!



WWIA is honored to have been rated a top-rated nonprofit in 2018! Thank you to everyone who took time to share your experience and feedback to help us achieve this wonderful honor. If you haven't shared your own WWIA experience, would you consider leaving us a review? Click on the following link to share your WWIA story and to read what others have had to say. <https://greatnonprofits.org/org/wounded-warriors-in-action-foundation-inc> We appreciate your support of WWIA & our Purple Heart Heroes!

Want to learn more about WWIA, visit us on online!

Our website is full of information about who we are, how we serve our Purple Heart Heroes, and how you can get involved! Visit us today! [Click Here!](#)

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW UPCOMING EVENTS](#)





813-938-1390 | info@wwiaf.org | wwiaf.org

STAY CONNECTED!



Having trouble viewing this email? [View it in your web browser](#)

[Manage Subscription](#)