



Photo credit to WWIA Guide Gabe Fierros for this outstanding shot during the 4th Annual Kuneytown FLX Ducks & Bucks Hunt.

Notes From the Field: November 2017

What an amazing month November was! Our Hosts and Heroes made the most of the fall season with a total of eight events taking place across the country and one in Canada. Deer, moose, quail, bobcat, hog, waterfowl, and even coyote were harvested by our Purple Heart Heroes this month, and of course, there was some outstanding fishing as well. In addition, there was plenty of great food, camaraderie, new friendships and life-long memories made. We're closing in on the end of the year and the coming winter, but there are still plenty of great events and opportunities ahead. As always, thank you to everyone for your support of WWIA and our amazing Heroes.



Events and Fundraisers

4th Annual Double Creek Lodge TN Archery Deer Hunt

November 3-6



This outstanding event welcomed four Purple Heart Heroes to the beautiful Double Creek Lodge in Tennessee for some southern hospitality, home cooking, and deer hunting at its finest. This four-day excursion was full of exciting and fruitful hunting, but the conversations and camaraderie were even better as life-long friendships were made. The local community did an outstanding job of welcoming and honoring these Heroes. Thanks to WWIA Lead Associate Josh Krueger for his support and guidance throughout this event. Special thanks to event Hosts Dennis Reynolds and Shelley Cohen for their continued generosity and care in serving and supporting our Heroes.

"Thank you WWIA, Josh Krueger, Dennis Reynolds & Shelley Cohen, Corrina Hart, all the guys that

helped out guiding us around Double Creek, as well as the other veterans that came out. Truly it was a great bonding experience with a great group of people. It's nice to be around other people that have seen and done some of the same things you have. Rather than keeping it tucked inside because others would not completely understand it. I personally feel is not what activity you are doing, it's the company you are doing it with. I personally thank each and every one of you for the effort. Honestly, it truly makes a difference."

9th Annual Grand Ciel Lodge South Dakota Pheasant Hunt

November 3-6



It was an exciting time at the 9th Annual Grand Ciel Lodge South Dakota Pheasant Hunt. This long-standing event brought together eight Heroes for some relaxation, fellowship, and world-class pheasant hunting. Our Heroes took in some trap shooting before hitting the fields and found success in harvesting pheasants throughout their stay. In addition to the world-class hunting, outstanding food and accommodations, there was story-telling and bonding that occurred for these Heroes. A special occasion during the event was the presentation of a Purple Heart medal for one of the Heroes whose award had never made it home from service. This was a very moving and memorable moment that was shared live over video with the Hero's wife, daughter, and friends. We would like to recognize WWIA Guides Jon French and Jake Whipkey for their service and contributions throughout this event. We also extend our gratitude and appreciation to Brad and Julie Boisen for hosting our Heroes once again and thank them for their dedication to WWIA throughout these many years.

"What an outstanding opportunity, I had, to spend several days with other combat Wounded Warriors in the South Dakota pheasant hunt. The hunt was special, but the time spent with the other veterans was beyond words. The ability to participate in the discussions about how our wounds affected our lives for many years after the actual military event. I am so greatly appreciative for this opportunity provided by the Wounded Warriors In Action. The entire event was very heartwarming. The Hosts at the Grand Ciel Lodge were so very gracious. The staff that participated in the pheasant hunt provided the skill and safety measures that made the hunt productive and very memorable."

Alberta Moose Hunt

November 7-15



The Alberta Moose Hunt was a unique opportunity for WWIA Guide Jeremy Smith to fulfill a dream of harvesting a North American Moose. This trip would prove to be everything Jeremy had hoped for as he was able to harvest not only a beautiful Moose but also his first-ever coyote which he had heavily pursued throughout his past hunts. This outstanding event would not have been possible were it not for the generosity of an anonymous donor and the coordination and graciousness of Charlie Rehor (Bowsite.com) and event Host Mike Ukrainetz (Mike's Outfitting); thank you both for your support of WWIA and our Heroes. Additional thanks to all of the Guides and staff at Mike's Outfitting who did such a tremendous job of planning, tracking, preparing the harvested Moose, and making our Hero Jeremy feel like one of your own!

"How do I put into words my gratitude and appreciation for an amazing event and opportunity. The outdoors boast such a peace and raw beauty that every day spent amongst it is one more day of pure tranquility within myself. Canada has a landscape similar to the Midwest of the United States, but even more stunning with its extreme abundance of game. Never did I feel confined nor distressed but more like part of the team and always having a place to belong. The many laughs we shared will always be remembered. I never imagined that within a few days' time complete strangers would become so close. Everyone in camp brought something special and I am honored to have new friends in such great places. To me, it seems that mother nature knows how to pair outdoorsmen together and connect. Trip of a lifetime! Truly, I am gracious for the opportunity to enjoy some time with great people in a beautiful place. The complete circumstance of this event makes every part of the trip feel so right. Thank you to every person involved in every way."

4th Annual Kuneytown FLX Ducks & Bucks Hunt

November 8-12



Four of our Heroes converged on Seneca Falls, NY for the 4th Annual Kuneytown FLX Ducks and Bucks Hunt. This event started off with some outstanding training and qualifications in crossbow use, waterfowl hunt safety, and tree stand safety to ensure our Heroes were appropriately prepared. The first day of hunting had all of our Heroes obtaining their limit for Canada Geese. The following two days consisted of both duck and deer hunting and the results were equally as impressive. Our Heroes had the unique opportunity to hunt the Seneca Army Depot each afternoon, a former munitions storage facility at just over 10,000 acres. This protected government land has allowed the local deer population to flourish for more than 60 years, including the extremely rare white deer. On the final evening, our Heroes attended the Kuneytown Sportsmens Club Banquet and were awarded a citation for their service by State Senator Pam Helming. This outstanding community raised over \$10,000 for WWIA in addition to hosting this event at no cost to the Foundation. Special thanks and appreciation to Keith Tidball and the [Kuneytown Sportsmens Club](#) for proudly hosting our Heroes, to [Whitetails Unlimited](#) for presenting each Hero with a knife and a 2-year unlimited membership, and to [Ducks Unlimited](#) Seneca Falls Chapter for gifting our Heroes with a 1-year unlimited membership, a blind bag full of goodies, and their DuckStamps allowing them to hunt waterfowl. Additional recognition and gratitude to [Frontenac Fowlers Guide Service](#) and Jay Barnes, [BU Outfitters](#) and Tylor Nicholson, [Seneca Falls VFW Post 1323](#), [Ovid VFW Post 6200](#), Bob Lapp, Moira Tidball, Eric Riegel, Bob Stuck, Scott & Tammy Ridley, Rich & Lynn Carson, Mike Ernst, Shane Guthrie, and all of the supporters and volunteers that were involved. This event would not have been possible without the outstanding patriotism, care, and dedication of this wonderful community of people.

"I retired in May of this year. Since then I have had a bit of a time getting adjusted to being a civilian. I have missed the camaraderie of my fellow Marines, the guys I could trust for advice and guidance. I have felt somewhat lost since getting out of the Corps. Attending the Wounded Warriors in Action Ducks & Bucks Hunt with fellow service members gave me back some of the camaraderie I have missed. It also gave me the excitement and adrenaline rush that came with being a Marine. I felt comfortable with my guides Keith and Scott and was able to share some of the baggage I have been carrying around from the past few years. It was a great experience, one I will never forget. Thank you, Wounded Warriors in Action for such a wonderful experience!"

4th Annual Western PA Archery Deer Hunt

November 9-12



The 4th Annual PA Archery Deer Hunt welcomed four of our Heroes to Rural Valley, PA. Unfortunately, Pennsylvania received record-breaking cold during our Warriors' visit which made bow hunting even more challenging, but that did not deter our Heroes in the least. Despite the inclement weather, there were plenty of stories shared and bonds formed between our Purple Heart veterans; and our Heroes were still able to harvest an exceptional deer. Our sincere appreciation to [IUP Football Program](#) and Cunningham's Caife' who helped welcome these Heroes and made this event possible. We would like to recognize and thank Hosts Dan and Susan Bevevino for their incredible hospitality and care of our Heroes, and also to WWIA Guide Grady Rakestraw for his oversight and assistance throughout the four-day event.

"The Western PA Whitetail Hunt was one of the most amazing times of my life. Everyone involved was wonderful. Everything we needed was taken care of, it was all perfectly planned from travel to food to lodging. The location was beautiful, so serene, almost out of a magazine. I can't wait for my next chance to go back."

5th Annual Murphy Family & Friends Gulf Coast Cast & Blast

November 9-13



Beautiful Bay St Louis, MS was the ideal location to host four of our Heroes at the 5th Annual Murphy Family and Friends Gulf Coast Cast n' Blast. This five-day event included some incredible fishing for speckled trout, flounder, and redfish and also featured hog hunting. Following a successful day fishing in Delacroix, LA, our Heroes were treated to a delicious shrimp and crab boil by the [St. Bernard Parrish Sheriff's Department](#). Later that evening, they attended a fish fry/boil and fundraiser at [Dan B's](#) with an outstanding turnout from the local community who came to honor and show their support for our Heroes. The next day our Warriors were introduced to hog hunting using dogs, a unique yet highly effective method, and their efforts were met with great success. This was an exceptional event due to the assistance of the many volunteers, supporters, and a welcoming community. We applaud your efforts and sincerely thank you! High praise to WWIA Guide Mark Broda for his professionalism and care of our Heroes throughout the event. Additional thanks and recognition to Host Audie Murphy and family for their coordination of this event and their faithful support throughout the years.

"To say this trip, the people and the organization who facilitated it are world class would be an understatement! I am truly blessed to have been selected to be a part of this event. Hog hunting with dogs, inshore saltwater fishing in what is considered the 'Mecca' of catfish and trout country, and rifle hunting in front of feeders on gorgeous private lands are only some of the fantastic things we took part of in this weekend. We met some of the most amazing people I have ever had the pleasure to associate with. The food was great, and the company was even better. Truly world class!!"

8th Annual MO-KAN Ducks, Bucks, & Trapping Event

November 16-20



The WWIA MO-KAN chapter has done it again! This amazing event combined world-class hunting for trophy whitetails and ducks in both KS and MO, as well as a successful Heroes Trapping College. The WWIA MO-KAN event is made up of over 100 dedicated volunteers operating many different components and lasting 5 days. The Heroes stayed at the world-class Napier Hunt Club in Napier, MO whose members rolled out the red carpet, making the Heroes feel at home. We can't thank Napier Hunt Club and its amazing members and friends enough for the support given to the Heroes & the Foundation. On Friday, Nov. 18th, the WWIA fundraiser banquet was held with well over 400 supporters of the Foundation in attendance. The banquet was a huge success and enjoyable for everyone. The banquet was sponsored this year again by Western States Fire Protection. Deep and special thanks to the banquet committee members and Banquet Chair Cari Evans. Saturday, Nov. 19th, the Heroes attended a special dinner prepared and hosted by the Christian Fellowship Church in Mound City, MO and the Missouri Department of Conservation. On Sunday, Nov. 20th, the Heroes attended a special dinner at Napier Hunt Club. Terry Supple and Ryan Schultz spearheaded an amazing fundraising effort involving the Mound City, MO area duck clubs to raise money for the Foundation and secure a Hatfield shotgun for all the Heroes. A special thanks go out to the 139th Airlift Wing for providing all the transportation from Napier Hunt Club to the guides and providing tables and chairs for the banquet. The MO-KAN Machine raised over \$50,000 this year thanks to all of our generous patrons at the dinner as well as individual donors and MO-KAN event sponsor Victory Chevrolet! Thank you MO-KAN volunteers for all your hard work, expense and hours each of you so tirelessly allow for our Heroes!

"The MO-KAN event was truly a God-send for me. Just to know that the people of America actually appreciate what we did for the country is a humbling moment to say the least. Words can't really describe the experience that was generously given to us and the personal connections made. It's special moments like the thrill of walking up to a set with a coyote in it or the anticipation of a group of ducks coming in to your decoys that really define the finer points of this great region and it's the people like the ones here that exude the word community and represent what America is all about. This was a priceless experience, thank you to all."

3rd Annual OK Whitetail Deer Hunt

November 17-20



The 3rd Annual OK Whitetail Deer Hunt brought four of our Heroes together for some much-needed camaraderie, relaxation, and world-class deer hunting! Our Heroes were given the red-carpet treatment during their stay thanks to the tremendous support of the local community. There was plenty of time both in the field and around the dinner table for sharing stories and forming bonds between brothers. There was also time to harvest some beautiful trophy bucks! Special thanks to J&A Service and Host Russ Johnson for his tremendous care and coordination in organizing this event and for his dedication to serving our Heroes. Additional appreciation to WWIA Guide Grady Rakestraw for his support throughout this four-day event.

"Words can't describe how much I needed this trip. Being able to come out with other Warriors and build new friendships while getting to enjoy everything the outdoors has to offer has been an amazing opportunity and I can't wait to do it again. "

2nd Annual MN Whitetail Deer Hunt

November 17-20



Four of our Heroes took in some phenomenal whitetail deer hunting over four days in scenic Mabel, MN. Our Heroes quickly found out that this part of the country has the ideal terrain and conditions for some top-tier trophy bucks! Throughout this excursion our Heroes enjoyed world-class hunting, food, accommodations, and were able to form close bonds with their fellow Purple-Heart brothers as if they had known them forever. Special recognition and appreciation to Jay Kim for proudly hosting our Heroes and working consistently to raise the bar on an already amazing event. Our gratitude to WWIA Guide Nick Fox for his outstanding leadership and support. In addition, we want to thank all of the volunteers and supporters for their dedication and efforts in making this event so successful.

"Hunting was fun, but the real treat was the camaraderie we all shared. Having someone who genuinely listened and cared was very welcoming. The hospitality was off the charts and awesome. Sharing stories was the highlight of this event."

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WWIAF.ORG**

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!

From all of us at WWIA, we hope you and yours have a wonderful holiday season!



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CFC Season Ends in One Month! Please Consider a
Pledge to WWIA.



The Combined Federal Campaign season is officially here and we hope you

will consider making a pledge to WWIA (CFC #94512) this year. You will find us in your charity listing as a member of Military Support Groups of America. Thank you for your support of our Nation's Purple Heart Heroes!

****NEW THIS YEAR**** -Federal retirees can now make donations in the form of monthly annuitant payments to the preferred CFC charity of their choice!

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Purple Heart Patriots

Become a Purple Heart Patriot by donating monthly to WWIA and the Heroes we serve! Monthly contributors receive an introductory gift and mention in next month's newsletter.

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◆ THANK YOU to all of our **Purple Heart Patriots!** We sincerely appreciate your support and generosity. ◆



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