



Check out what WWIA has been up to this month!



Photo credit to WWIA Guide Crystal Masek who captured this beautiful sunset at the 2017 3rd Annual Galveston Fishing Event.

## Notes From the Field: September 2017

As we enter into the fall months of 2017, we want to thank all those that made the final month of summer truly spectacular. September brought together many of our Purple Heart Heroes in a wide range of fishing and hunting events across the country. We are beyond appreciative for all the fundraising efforts that took place this month that helped make these opportunities for our Heroes possible. Thank you to all of our supporters, donors, fundraisers, volunteers, Hosts, Guides and Associates who afford us the opportunity to serve those who have served. We hope to build upon this momentum in the coming months.

---



## Events and Fundraisers

### 3rd Annual Healing Heroes in Action

September 7-8



The 3rd Annual OPTIMA Batteries Healing Heroes in Action event was an incredible success. This wonderful program on the Gull Lake of Nisswa, MN paired three of our Purple Heart Heroes with Pro Anglers [Edwin Evers](#), [Todd Faircloth](#), and [Ish Monroe](#) to promote physical and emotional healing. In a full day of bass fishing, our Heroes enjoyed friendly competition with one another in what was a beautiful day on the water. Prior to the event, fans were invited to bid on the chance to fish against the veterans and anglers. Bubba Dukes and his veteran partner and Purple Heart recipient Clayton Carver secured this opportunity by placing the winning bid of \$7,000. Thank you, [OPTIMA Batteries](#), for your generous support and putting on such a special event. Special thanks to Pro Fishing Media, LLC, and [Linder Media Productions](#) for providing amazing photo and video content from this amazing day.

"The day of fishing was absolutely great. Learning how to fish from these pros was an experience I'll never forget. This trip was also special to me because I got to fish with two of my very good friends and fellow Purple Heart recipients I was deployed to Afghanistan with. It makes it that much more special when you get to share an awesome experience like this with others that you spent time with overseas. It was especially great for me to see them have as an amazing



time as I did. Thank you so much WWIA and everyone who made this event possible!"

## 2nd Rocking R Ranch Elk Hunt

September 19-25



In what was a special event, one of our Heroes had opportunity to travel to Norwood, CO and experience phenomenal Elk hunting. This week long experience in Southwest Colorado took place on an 8,000-acre property with truly spectacular scenery. We are extremely grateful to our host, Dan Reardon, who provided such an exceptional opportunity for our Hero. A special thanks to [Rocking R Outfitters](#) and [Bowsite.com](#) who were instrumental in the execution of this event.

"The healing power of the outdoors, along with great comradery and working toward a goal together, really sums up what the mission of this great organization is all about. Being able to be in Colorado with these great people and participating in this great event together was absolutely amazing. Thank you so much WWIA and everyone involved; this was truly a dream come true!"

## 5th Annual Central PA Cast & Blast

September 22-25



Nine of our Heroes gathered in Rebersburg, PA for the 5th Annual Central PA Cast & Blast. This event was unique in that it brought together some of the Heroes that attended the first four years of the PA Cast & Blast. Reuniting with old friends and making new ones only made the hunting and fishing that much more memorable. Beyond the bird shooting and trout fishing, this event also featured a cookout, trap shooting, a concert by Sgt. Bob and lots of time to share stories and connect with other Purple Heart Heroes. This event would not have been possible if not for the generosity and support of the businesses and donors of the Centre Region. Special thanks to Fox Gap and Gravel Spring Gun Clubs, as well as Sandy Deveney and his exemplary team for hosting our amazing Heroes. Additional thanks to WWIA Guide Jake Whipkey for his outstanding support throughout the 4-day event.

"Thank you WWIA for another wonderful opportunity. Coming to the 2017 5th Annual Central PA Cast & Blast was amazing. It was an honor to attend and see old faces and new. The memories made this weekend will be forever carried with me. WWIA does great things with great people for a greater cause. Thanks are also in order to Gravel Springs Lodge, Fox Gap Gun Club, and to the owner of Penn's Cave. The hospitality shown by all is greatly appreciated. Thank you, Jake, for all you do for this organization. Until we meet again!"

### 3rd Annual Eagle River Muskie Chal-Lunge

September 22-24





The 3rd Annual Eagle River Muskie Chal-Lunge brought 8 of our Heroes together for another fantastic time on the water. This event took place over 3 days and offered opportunities to connect with other Purple Heart recipients, great food and fellowship, and of course plenty of guided Muskie fishing. Our Heroes were welcomed warmly by a grateful community, even receiving letters from local school children honoring their service and sacrifice. Special thanks to Host Scott Samuels for his coordination and outstanding efforts in organizing this event, and also to the local community of Eagle River for their outpouring of support for this event and our Heroes. Additional appreciation to [St. Croix Rods](#) for generously donating Muskie rods to each of our Heroes that attended the event. High praise goes out to WWIA Guides Mark Broda and Derek Duplisea for their tremendous support throughout the event.

"I had an amazing time. I have been on a few trips with a few different organizations and the WWIA Foundation is the definition of a family! The Guides make you feel exactly like family and I was honored to be a part of this event. It was amazing to have the opportunity to be with and spend time with a couple of Vietnam war vets, and I can't tell you how much that means to me. Those guys are Heroes, and we treated them as such. It was an amazing opportunity to be able to tell them thank you and relate to their stories! Thank you!"

## 8th Annual NY Upland Bird Hunt Couples Retreat

September 22-25



Three of our Heroes and their spouses were recently celebrated at the [8th Annual NY Upland Bird Hunt Couples Retreat](#). While the men took in some guided pheasant hunting at the Bear Hill Farm and Hunt Club, their spouses were pampered to a spa day and a winery tours complete with a chauffeured limousine. Our couples had plenty of time to relax, form new friendships, and eat outstanding food during this memorable getaway. These couples were honored by the local community throughout the 4-day event and were even given a motorcycle escort to their farewell dinner by the [Patriot Guard Riders of NY](#). We would like to recognize and show our appreciation to Mary Lou Reisdorf and her amazing community of friends, volunteers, donors and sponsors for hosting our couples on this outstanding event, and also to WWIA Guide Crystal Masek and to WWIA Associate Milt Yagel for their contributions and care throughout the retreat.

"This was an amazing experience that we will never forget. We felt loved and treated like family. My heart was filled with pride and honor. Forever Blessed. The love, kindness, and hospitality was second to none. This weekend was just what we needed for a while. Getting to meet Warriors that have experienced combat similar to me constantly reminds me that we are not alone. We have each other and wonderful people that support us. I can't thank you guys enough. Thank you. We love you. We feel blessed. We will cherish these experiences and memories forever."

Kipper Tool Company Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser



# **KIPPERTOOL**

Our gratitude and appreciation go out to the [Kipper Tool Company](#) and everyone who participated in The Kipper Tool Company Annual Golf Tournament. This tournament raised a total of \$2500 to benefit WWIA. Special thanks to the following individuals from Kipper Tool: Mr. Jerry and Mrs. Nancy Kipper, Mr. Darrin Lee, and Mr. Al Harris. Thank you for helping us continue our mission of proudly serving our Heroes.

Botten's Green Golf Tournament Fundraiser

September 2





The 3rd Annual WWIA Wisconsin Golf Tournament at Botten's Green Acres Golf Course was once again a wonderful success. The event raised nearly \$12,000 with all proceeds supporting the upcoming 4th Annual Bayfield Cast and Blast. Thank you, Dan, Nancy, and Brad Bourassa, for organizing this amazing event which continues to exceed expectations. Special thanks to supporters Daniel K. Anderson, Steve Schaefer, [Liquor in the Woods](#) and of course all those at [Botten's Green Acres Golf Course](#).

## 2017 WWIA Vermont Chapter Fundraiser

September 23





THANK YOU to all those that made the 5th Annual Vermont Fundraising Dinner another spectacular event. This dinner featured an auction which included items such as custom-made fishing rods and artwork, a grill, guns and knives, and many more amazing items. We are incredibly proud and grateful for all the outstanding work our [WWIA Southern Vermont Chapter](#) does to support our Purple Heart Heroes. This community has truly inspired the WWIA family, working together to raise nearly \$45,000 this year. Since 2012, the Southern Vermont Chapter has raised over \$100,000 earning them the first ever Silver Star Award for their outstanding service and support of WWIA.



## Sponsors and Friends

### 2017 Tuddy Golf Tournament

September 22



We would like to express our gratitude to everyone that participated in the 2017 Tuddy Golf Tournament in Oshkosh, WI. This was the 27th year of this outstanding event, and WWIA was honored to receive a donation of \$1,250 from the tournament proceeds. Thank you to Reed Widen and [Widen Enterprises, Inc.](#) who generously donated an additional \$1,000. Additional thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Daun for their outstanding coordination and efforts. Our sincere appreciation to all of you for your exceptional support and your commitment to helping us honor, connect and heal every Purple Heart Hero.



*Fitzwater*  
TREE & LAWN CARE



Thank you, [Fitzwater Tree and Lawn Care](#), for your generous donation of \$2,000. This beautifully handcrafted, single slab Ash table was auctioned off at [The Great Darke County Fair](#) in support of the [7th Annual Southwest Ohio's "Fowl in Your Face" Waterfowl Hunt](#) that will take place in January 2018. We extend our sincere gratitude to David Furlong, the owner of Fitzwater Tree and Lawn Care, for supporting WWIA and our Purple Heart recipients.

Benchmark Physical Therapy





We would like to express our gratitude to [Benchmark Physical Therapy](#) for their donation of \$900 to WWIA. Special recognition to the following individuals from Benchmark Physical Therapy: Kellie Keeney, Steve Kritikos, and Shaun Brennen. Additional thanks to Purple Heart Hero Frank Casson. Thank you for your continued support of our Purple Heart Heroes.

Chippewa River Custom Rods



We would like to extend our appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Tom Schenk of [Chippewa River Custom Rods](#) for recently creating custom WWIA fishing rods that were presented to Bassmaster Pro Edwin Evers and the winner of the Healing Heroes in Action Event and another that was auctioned off at the Southern Vermont Chapter Fundraiser. Thank you for your exceptional support of WWIA and our Purple Heart Heroes.

Mike LaPointe Memorial Saturday 8-Ball Tournament



# Thank You!

## 2nd Annual

### Mike LaPointe Memorial Saturday 8-Ball Tournament



Our gratitude and appreciation go out to everyone who participated in the 2nd Annual Mike LaPointe Memorial Saturday 8-Ball Tournament held on September 9th. Thanks to the generosity of the the LaPointe family and friends, this tournament raised \$700.00 on behalf of WWIA in honor of Mike LaPointe. Thank you for your incredible kindness in helping us continue to serve our Heroes.

---

Upcoming Events

---

Please Consider a Pledge to WWIA this CFC Season!



# #94512

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!

[Donate Today](#)



## 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.



JOIN TODAY!

♦ THANK YOU to Mr. Mike Allumi for being our newest **Purple Heart Patriot!** Mike, we sincerely appreciate your support and generosity. ♦



813-938-1390 | [info@wwiaf.org](mailto:info@wwiaf.org) | [wwiaf.org](http://wwiaf.org)



STAY CONNECTED:



[Manage Subscription](#)