



Photo credit to WWIA Guide Crystal Masek for this amazing shot from the 4th Annual Double Creek Lodge TN Rifle Deer Hunt

Notes From the Field: December 2017

Another year is in the books, and what a tremendous year 2017 was for WWIA and our Purple Heart Heroes! Although the year was winding down there was no shortage of outstanding events during the month of December. With six events offering opportunities for deer, bear, bobcat, quail, and waterfowl, our Heroes started off the holiday season the right way and closed out the year on a high note! Our ability to accomplish our mission throughout the past 10 years has been due to the incredible support and stellar efforts from so many of you and we want to **THANK YOU** for standing with us to help bring honor, connection, and healing to our amazing Heroes! May this new year bring joy and blessings to you and yours.

Founder's Feature: 2017 Summary



Wounded Warriors in Action Foundation was honored to celebrate our 10th year of operation in 2017. When I founded WWIA in 2007, I could have only hoped that it would grow into a nation-wide movement filled with so many amazing Heroes, Guides, Associates, Pro-Staff, and dedicated supporters, volunteers, and donors. We exist and accomplish what we do because of you, and I wanted to share a few of the highlights from a truly exceptional year:

WWIA served 250 Purple Heart recipients on 55 events across North America in 2017. We held our 2nd multidisciplinary outdoor Guide School for Purple Heart recipients, funded by the VA, which allowed us to train and certify 8 new WWIA Guides. We also launched a beautiful new user-friendly website that encapsulates the message and mission of WWIA.

As we look back on the accomplishments of 2017, we know that none of it would be possible without your incredible support and dedication to WWIA and our Purple Heart Heroes. Selflessly, many of you gave your time, money, talents, and resources, and we are truly humbled and honored to call you our partners and friends. You are making a difference far beyond what the pictures and videos from our events show you. Your support and hard work are what allows these events to be a catalyst for healing and restoration. Together, we are changing lives and hearts, improving and impacting the quality of life for so many of our Heroes and their families.

As we enter 2018, we will continue to serve our Heroes through world-class outdoor sporting activities and implement new programs and services to increase our effectiveness and their well-being. I want to personally thank all of you for your tremendous efforts in serving our Warriors throughout 2017 and I wish all of you much health and happiness this new year.

Lt. Col. (Retired) John J. McDaniel



Events and Fundraisers

11th Annual Camp Hackett Event

October 19-23 & 26-30

CORRECTION: In our October issue of 'Notes From the Field' we incorrectly listed a donor as "American Legion of Tomahawk". The actual donor was "VFW of Tomahawk". We apologize for the error and any inconvenience this may have caused. It has been corrected in the version below.



WWIA was proud to offer the 11th Annual Camp Hackett Event at our Northern Healing Center near Phillips, WI. The wide range of activities included bow hunting for trophy whitetails, shotgun hunting for grouse, and fishing for musky. With such an overwhelming demand for opportunities at camp, the event was split into two groups in back to back weekends to facilitate the growing desire to attend. We are so fortunate to have had the support of so many individuals and sponsors. Special thanks to [United Piping Inc.](#), [AMVETS Post 50](#), [VFW of Tomahawk](#), Mike and Joan Reed, [Club 13](#), [A&W Restaurants](#), Bob Bolz, Don Angelo, [Brigadoon Winery](#), [Feed and Seed](#), [Phillips High School](#) and many more. Most of all, thanks to the town of Phillips for all the support over these wonderful 11 years!

"I deeply appreciate the opportunity afforded to me while at Camp Hackett. It's warming to see an entire

community come together for what was a once and a lifetime experience. It allowed me to step back from my daily troubles, connect with other veterans, and make new friends. Thank you to everyone, on and behind the scenes, for everything you poured into this event, it meant the world."

2nd Annual OR Bobcat Hunt

November 30 - December 5



The 2nd Annual Oregon Bobcat Hunt was another unique opportunity for our Purple Heart Heroes to hunt elusive and challenging game in a beautiful environment. This event brought four of our Heroes together over six days allowing for great stories, food, camaraderie, and much needed time in the great outdoors. Although the weather conditions were challenging at times, two of our Heroes successfully harvested bobcats. Our Heroes were also the guests of honor at a wonderful Saturday banquet at the [Fern Ridge Tree Hound Club](#). This dinner allowed local community and Hound Club members to thank them for their service and sacrifice to our country. Several of the Hound Club members were also recognized for their outstanding support of the event and were presented with WWIA challenge coins by WWIA Guide Joe Liddell to commemorate their contributions. Our sincere appreciation to Hosts Heath and LaurelLynne Sewell and the [Fern Ridge Tree Hound Club](#) for their exceptional coordination and care of our Heroes during this event. Additional thanks to WWIA Guide Joe Liddell for his tremendous support and efforts throughout this time.

"This was my first real hunting experience and it was a blast. I have met some amazing people who will forever be remembered and keep in contact with. I have been told for a while since my departure from the military, that hunting could be an outlet. That being said, this has been my first real outing. It is very hard to put into words how excited I was and still am to have traveled, met people who have walked in my shoes, and can relate to past experiences. WWIA, as well as our Hosts, have given me back so much.

Thank you does not do it justice. And, I got the first call! Thank you, Joe , WWIA, Heath and his wife, and everyone else I had the honor to meet."

3rd Annual Newfield Deer Hunt

December 1-4



The Newfield Deer Hunt celebrated its third year of serving our Purple Heart Heroes in New York. Four of our Warriors traveled from NC, MI, GA, and TX to spend four full days enjoying the camaraderie of fellow Heroes both in the field and around the dinner table. Our Heroes enjoyed the opportunity to hunt throughout their stay and were able to harvest some nice whitetail deer. The local community did an exceptional job of welcoming and honoring our Heroes throughout their stay, ensuring that this trip was a memorable one. Special recognition and thanks to Carol & Bernie Cook and their family for generously hosting our Heroes and continuing to make their event better each year. Additional thanks to WWIA Guide Tim Spence for his outstanding assistance and support.

"I don't get many opportunities to spend time in the woods, so this weekend was a real blessing to me, especially the time I spent with fellow wounded veterans. It was so peaceful in the woods of upstate New York. I got to see some familiar wildlife that I would see growing up in Michigan. The cold air reminded me that outside of Texas there are all four seasons (in Texas we have two, summer and January). I would like to say a big thank you to the Wounded Warriors in Action Foundation for this incredible opportunity."

2nd Annual Arkansas Bucks & Ducks

December 6-11



Four of our Heroes descended on Marianna, AR for the 2nd Annual Arkansas Bucks & Ducks Event. Our Heroes enjoyed six exceptional days of deer, duck, and hog hunting as well as plenty of time for shared experiences around the fire pit, amazing home-cooked meals, and bonding between fellow Purple Heart brothers. Although only in its second year, this event keeps getting better and provided our Heroes with a world-class experience they will cherish for many years to come. Special thanks to William French for graciously hosting this event and to everyone from the local community that came together to honor, support, and welcome our Heroes. High praise to WWIA Guide Bryan Gray for his service and contributions throughout this event.

"It's not about killing an animal, it's about meeting new like-minded people. Having a host who is also an amputee is great, everything is set up right. The laid-back atmosphere, great food, and great people made it a great week. Thanks to WWIA and Mr. French for everything."

5th Annual Great Creek Deer Hunt

December 7-10



Host Andy Wilson and the Great Creek Hunt Club were proud to welcome four of our Heroes to Alberta, VA for the 5th Annual Great Creek Deer Hunt. This event was not limited to deer hunting, but also included the opportunity to hunt for bear. This four-day event allowed for exceptional hunting from stands, blinds, and with dogs. Aside from the time in the field, there were great stories and camaraderie shared and new friendships formed between our Warriors and the sportsmen of the Great Creek Hunt Club. Our gratitude and appreciation to Andy Wilson and Great Creek Hunt Club for hosting our Purple Heart Heroes and showing them extraordinary hospitality and hunting. Special thanks to WWIA Guide Grady Rakestraw for his leadership and support throughout this event.

"To Andy, all the Great Creek Hunt Club members and the WWIA, thank you for everything you do. My trip to the Great Creek Hunt Club was the high point in my life over the last few years, the best memory in a long time. Thanks for the great company, good food, awesome hunt, and all the effort and care you put into this event. I'll always remember it."

Inaugural Long Leaf AL Whitetail & Quail Hunt

December 15-18



WWIA was proud to introduce the Inaugural Long Leaf AL Whitetail and Quail Hunt in beautiful Bay Minette, AL during the month of December. This event welcomed four of our Heroes to enjoy some southern hospitality alongside some great hunting, camaraderie, and lifelong memories being made. Our Heroes experienced four full days of first-class treatment including skeet shooting, hunting deer and quail with dogs, and some amazing food and accommodations. We extend our gratitude and praise to Host Andy McMillan, as well as his family and friends for their outstanding coordination and attention to detail in making this first-time event so spectacular. Our sincere thanks as well to WWIA Guide Nick Fox for his support and dedication throughout this event.

"Wow! That's all I can say about the first-class accommodations and hospitality that Andy and his whole family has shown us for the entirety of our trip/stay. The food, cabin, hunts, and people will never be forgotten. I couldn't think of a better way to spend a weekend amongst friends and fellow Warriors. Thanks for the opportunity to attend such an awesome event."

4th Annual Double Creek Lodge TN Rifle Deer Hunt

December 15-18



Four of our Heroes closed out the 2017 hunting season in picturesque Tennessee at the 4th Annual Double Creek Lodge TN Rifle Deer Hunt. This four-day event allowed for plenty of bonding and fellowship while providing ample opportunities for our Heroes to harvest whitetail deer, followed by some much-needed downtime. Although the hunting is exciting, a highlight and Hero-favorite is always the home-cooked meals. This event was an ideal way to end the year. We would like to extend our appreciation and gratitude to Shelley Cohen and Dennis Reynolds for graciously hosting our Heroes and for their dedication and support throughout the years. Special thanks to WWIA Guide Crystal Masek for her contributions and care throughout the event.

"Thanks for your hospitality! What a wonderful relaxing weekend amongst new friends. The food was great and plentiful. All of your volunteers were very kind and helpful. It's nice to see ya'll helping your fellow soldiers. Many thanks!!!"

THANK YOU for supporting WWIA during this CFC season!

Thank You

to everyone who supported WWIA with a CFC pledge and also to those who represented WWIA at their local CFC events. We extend our gratitude and appreciation for your faithful support.



The 2017 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) has officially concluded and we would like to express our sincere appreciation to everyone that made a pledge to WWIA through their CFC selection. We are honored and grateful for your support and thank you for partnering with us to bring honor, connection, and healing to our combat-wounded veterans. Special thanks to everyone who represented WWIA at a local CFC event educating people about our mission and message. We are so very humbled by your dedication and support of our Purple Heart Heroes! THANK YOU!!

Here are some unique ways you can help support WWIA!

did you know?

You can also help support WWIA by donating any of the following:
cars, trucks, motorcycles, RV's, boats, airplanes, heavy equipment, farm machinery, etc. (running or not)



There are lots of ways to give and help support WWIA. For more information about how you can donate a variety of unused vehicles, visit: <https://buff.ly/2xFBFoP>

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](#)

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)



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.

[CLICK HERE TO BECOME A PURPLE HEART PATRIOT!](#)

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



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