Notes From the Field: October 2018

As we enter the winter season, October brought with it a bounty of opportunities for our Purple Heart Heroes to enjoy the great outdoors. WWIA offered seven different events across the country, from the northwoods of Wisconsin to the Louisiana bayous. There were also some outstanding fundraisers that went live in October and we would love to thank all of the hosts, donors, sponsors, and participants for their partnership and support. We would also like to thank everyone who has opted to represent WWIA at CFC events across the country. Thank you for sharing the good work of WWIA and encouraging others to help support our Heroes through their CFC pledges. Be sure to check out our October Spotlight Feature as we highlight one of this month’s event hosts. If you enjoy reading our newsletter, consider sharing it with friends and family to help us spread the mission and message of WWIA as we work to bring healing and restoration to our combat-wounded Heroes. Thank you.

Events and Fundraisers

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

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) season has officially begun. The CFC allows federal employees and retirees to make charitable contributions to several eligible charities; they personally select by directing a portion of their income or annuity payments to those nonprofits. CFC is the world’s largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign. Your pledges and contributions received help the WWIA continue our work assisting 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 for your federal support as you partner with us.

2nd Annual Hero Shot Archery Whitetail Hunt

September 20th - October 6th

The 2nd Annual Hero Shot Archery Whitetail Hunt offered a special opportunity for our Purple Heart Heroes to hunt for deer over five days in the middle of the Golden Triangle
which is known for having some of the best whitetail deer hunting in America. Our Heroes host an amazing time in this hunter’s paradise. There were plenty of opportunities for adventures and sights to see, but it was important to make a solid decision before attempting a shot. The camaraderie, people, and time spent in the great outdoors truly make this event a memorable one. Our sincere thanks and gratitude to Jason and Amber Okerlin, owners of Area 51 Outfitters, for graciously hosting our Heroes and for their outstanding hospitality. Additional recognition and thanks to VWRA Guide Grady Rakeshaw for his assistance and care throughout the event.

"I am so glad there was enough for this trip. I named it ‘slaphunt’ as it’s about a real-life adventure. The activities are real and not just for show. As a hunter, I want to be surrounded by like-minded people who love the outdoors. I’d like to thank you for all your kindness. Thank you VWRA." —

10th Annual Grand Ciel Lodge South Dakota Pheasant Hunt
October 12th - 15th

VWRA was honored to celebrate the 10th year of hosting Heroes at the annual Grand Ciel Lodge South Dakota Pheasant Hunt. Eight of our Heroes gathered in Platteville, SD to enjoy a few days of world-class pheasant hunting while bonding with their fellow hunters. The hunts were extremely successful with our Heroes harvesting 25 pheasants the first day and another 20 the following day. Despite their time in the field, our Heroes had plenty of opportunities to relax, share stories, and take in some first-class meals such as prime rib, pheasant and wild rice soup, and venison chili and cornbread. It was another fantastic year for this popular event. Our highest gratitude and appreciation to Rick Pichot and Julie Baasen for their incredible support of VWRA and our Heroes throughout the last decade. Special thanks as well to VWRA Guides Gabe Perros and Jeremy Smith for their tremendous coordination of efforts throughout the event.

"I am so thankful and proud to have spent the time around these guys. Our hosts have been so generous, I am without words. The hunting was amazing and the attention to the details made this the most memorable experience. I will work hard in gaining the responsibility of being the caretaker of the grounds of VWRA Grand Ciel Lodge Pheasant Hunt 2015." —

5th Annual Double Creek Lodge TN Archery Deer Hunt
October 12th - 15th

Three of our Heroes (we know you traveled to beautiful Homewood, TN for the 5th Annual Double Creek Lodge TN Archery Deer Hunt! All the heroes loved about the stunning beauty that surrounded them as they hunted whitetail deer. As great as the hunting was, the connections made among these Heroes was the real prize. The home-cooked meals throughout the 4 days were delicious and the hospitality was top rate. This was another exceptional event that keeps building on each year’s success. Our appreciation and gratitude to Heros Dennis Raines and Shelley Cohen for their dedication and support throughout the years and for always taking such good care of our Heroes. Additional thanks to the local community who go above and beyond to express their appreciation for our Heroes and ensure these events are possible through their tireless support.

"The absolute best times can say it best, but also can’t forget the great hunting! You felt more with open heavens, felt as if you were with friends. The sky was nice! I have a lot of fun here. I love this! You have such an amazing and beautiful park. It is my playground. Thank you for hosting the weekend, and an absolutely amazing experience you are providing for us all. Thank you for the bottom of my heart." —

Inaugural Shell Beach Fishing
October 12th - 15th

VWRA welcomed a new event to Louisiana this October with the Inaugural Shell Beach...
6th Annual Bayfield Cast & Blast

October 18th - 22nd

The 6th Annual Bayfield Cast & Blast welcomed five of our heroes to Devil's Nest for a few days of relaxation, fellowship, first-class food, and plenty of fishing and hunting in the Northwoods. Our heroes were greeted at the airport by the local American Legion, airport staff, and a noise crew to honor and show their arrival for the event. Their time in the heat and on the water did not disappoint, as there were plenty of opportunities to harvest deer and catch trout. As great as the fishing and fishing were, the heroes all agreed that the true highlight of this trip was the camaraderie and new friendships formed during their time together. Special thanks to Terry and Patty Froehmig of The Southern Cross Resort for their hospitality and kindness in providing lodging and meals for our heroes throughout their stay; and also to Devil's Nest. We would like to also recognize and express our appreciation to Heroes Chris and Brent Creager and the entire Devil's Nest Team of volunteers, supporters, and donors who go out of their way each year to honor our heroes. Additional gratitude goes to WYFA Robb Yarbrough and WYFA Lead Associate Matt Phillips for their coordination and assistance during the event.

"I had no idea I would have this much fun this week. I was excited to be here, but this was even better than I imagined. The staff was friendly, the meals were great, and the fishing was amazing. I can't wait to come back next year."

12th Annual Camp Hackett B

October 25th - 29th

Four of our heroes traveled to Philips, Wisconsin for the 12th Annual Camp Hackett Event. This event offered both fishing and hunting for our veterans with the assistance of outstanding local guides. Our heroes were able to bow hunt for whitetail, steelhead hunt for ruffed grouse and geese, and fish for proud Wisconsin musky. The town of Philips welcomed and honored our heroes throughout the 5-day event, only adding to the overall experience. The highlight of the trip was without a doubt the bonds and friendships formed between strangers as they spent time on the water, and around the dinner table sharing stories and life experiences with one another. This event would not have been possible without the incredible support of the local community, and the following individuals: Bob Goltz, Mike Reed, John Cartlon, Erin Angell, Casey Williams, and Chad and Tessa DelParl. Our continued thanks to Tomahawk Wisconsin for being a part of the special event. To CEI Grant 2020 for their ongoing support, and to CAS USA INC for graciously providing grant funding for this event.

"This was the best week of my life. I had a blast. I met new people, had some laughs, and had a great overall experience. I highly recommend this event to anyone."

Inaugural North Dakota Wild Pheasant Hunt

October 26th - 29th

"I had a great time on this trip. The pheasant hunting was some of the best I've ever done. The guides were professional and made sure we were safe. I'm looking forward to coming back next year."
WWWA was excited to offer our very first event in North Dakota this month. Five of our heroes were warmly welcomed to the City of Garrison for the inaugural North Dakota Wild Pheasant Hunt. Upon arrival, our heroes were given an escort into Garrison country by the Wadena County Sheriff’s Department. Prior to the first day of hunting, each hero was given Cannon Wild Hunting Bundles and pheasant hunting wads from Silverado Shooting Supplies and an Under Armour Hunt overnfelt courtesy of Kaiser’s Superior. The wild pheasant hunting was plentiful as our heroes harvested almost 45 birds in two days. Our Heroes spent time getting to know one another, talking with members of the local community, and enjoying delicious food throughout the event. They were also gifted custom embroidered jackets with the WWWA logo and a pheasant meat bundle from Chris Wohman of Blakely’s Bar and Grill and were honored with a banquet dinner that was held at the Garrison City Auditorium with over 300 guests in attendance to show their support and appreciation. We are honored to have Congressman Kevin Cramer at the banquet. Their community support and participation surrounding this event were second to none. Thank you to North Shore Inn and Saloon for graciously hosting our Heroes, to Ron from Warden Taxi for providing transportation throughout their entire stay, and to Glen Schroeder Farm for providing beautiful hunting grounds. Our appreciation to Saloon, Inn, and Saloon and to Kaiser’s Superior for providing outstanding meals for our heroes.

Our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to Hosts Roy and Gert Middendorf, the Garrison Chamber of Commerce, Wadena officials, and everyone who worked together to make this new event a tremendous success. Special thanks and thanks to BWU and Lakeview Inn for their wonderful photography work, and to WWWA Guide Gabby Flores for his outstanding contributions throughout the 4-day event.

“This has been the best group of an event with WWWA, actually, it has been my first experience with you guys of this organization since I left the Marine Corps in 2006. I now be a brotherhood of the military and for those two days, I felt like I was a part of something, something for something. The trip was more than just a trip and you made it feel like it was more than that. I suspect those two days, it’s something that I think everyone should do and I hope you’ll do it next year.”

Thank you for making everyone aware and for everything that is provided for not only you but to those that are not. Thank you.”

The 2018 Mercer Muskie Madness WWWA Fundraiser
October 19th - 21st

Thank you to all of the sponsors, participants, and volunteers of the 2018 Mercer Muskie Madness WWWA Fundraiser. This fundraising event took place in Mercer, Wisconsin from October 19th-21st. They were able to raise an impressive $2,105.50 in support of WWWA and our Purple Heart heroes. Special thanks and recognition to Host, Wayne Robie, who has been instrumental in organizing and supporting our Heroes throughout the year. Additional thanks to The Gateway Lodge and Resort, and WWWA Purple Heart Associate grains Coach.

WWWA Southwest Ohio Chapter Bourbon Fundraiser & Clark County Sportsman's Club Clay Competition
We would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the WWIA Southwest Ohio Chapter for their incredible donation of over $12,000 raised from the joint efforts of their Bourbon Fundraiser and the Clark County Sportsmen’s Club Clay Shoot Competition. The Bourbon Fundraiser consisted of two parts. First were the sales of the Eagle Rare Bourbon from Buffalo Trace Distillery. A team from the Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati Jocate Club and WWIA Ohio Chapter traveled to Buffalo Trace and placed an incredible barrel of Eagle Rare Bourbon to be sold for the fundraiser. Bottles from the barrel pick were sold at the Jocate Club with a charity buy (bottles will be distributed at a later date). Secondly, a separate portion consisting of over forty bottles were sold off to the Jocate Club with all proceeds going to the Foundation. Special thanks to Mark Casey and Nick Hessler for their coordination and support.

The second fundraiser was the Clark County Sportsmen’s Club Clay Shoot Competition. This event featured a sporting day competition between military service teams and was another outstanding event. Special recognition and thanks to Fred Pence for his efforts and support in making this event possible. High praise and appreciation for everyone who participated in the competition. High praise and appreciation to Clark Golf and Dave Studena and the entire Southwest Ohio Chapter for their tremendous work and outstanding support of WWIA and our Heroes.

The Inaugural WWIA 5K is Coming!

WWIA 5K Run, Walk, Stroll.
12 January 2019 - Elk Lopez Park
Benefiting Purple Heart Recipients

Let’s Hit the Road
In Support of Our Purple Heart Heroes

Tempe Bay, get ready for the WWIA 5K. Join us on Saturday, January 12, 2019. This timed 5K offers you the chance to run, walk, or stroll through beautiful Elk Lopez Park. Our race is professionally timed and the overall top male and female runners will receive prizes. Top male and Top Female finishers in each age category will also be acknowledged. Every finisher registered before December 14, 2018 will receive a race shirt and finisher’s medal. Stay for our after-party for ice cream, awards, and more! Discounted registration is available for Veterans who show their Military ID or Driver’s License with a “V” symbol at packet pickup. Purple Heart recipients will be able to participate free with a registration to WWIA by using Promo Code PPH2018. Visit https://wwia.org/runwalkstroll/ and complete all three steps at the top of the page. Proceeds benefit the WWIA. We also have limited sponsorship opportunities available. Please email us at info@wwia.org for more information. Thank you.

WWIA October Spotlight

Host Spotlight

For our October Spotlight feature, we are proud to present to you, Heidi Chris and Brenda Diesing. Chris and Brenda are WWIA supporters who host the Boyfield Coat & Belt which recently celebrated its 10th year of serving heroes. They have 2 boys, CAO and Zach, and two dogs, Charlie and Daisy. They love spending time in the great outdoors whenever possible. Chris is currently a loan officer for an interior contractor in the Milwaukee area. He and Brenda also have a cabin in the Northwoods that they enjoy visiting regularly. In fact, they call the cabin “home” and their screens are broadside the place they “stay” 3 days a week. To work, Chris was good enough to answer and share some questions about his own WWIA experience. Chris: would like to thank Chris and Brenda for their continued support and dedication to WWIA and our heroes.

How did you first get involved with WWIA? I was doing some remodeling for Lead Associate, Josh McNeer. Josh and I hit it off right away as we share the same passion for the outdoors. At some point, I talked about all the yards I have up north and how I’ve always wanted to do something charitable. He pointed me in the right direction, apparently thinking I had enough to offer. I contacted John McDaniels and the rest is history.

Why do you choose to host WWIA events? Yes, always wanted to serve. Yes, always wanted to help others that need it. There have always been a certain guilt for not serving my country when I was younger. Unfortunately, I battled with physical with brain injuries and bad asthma. Those days, those things wouldn’t have held as much weight in wanting to serve. That guilt has driven me to serve those that have faithfully served us. I share this story with the heroes in order to give a little of myself to them and his told that they understand and...
Sponsors and Friends

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

THANK YOU!

**C. Bruce McDade - $1,000 via V-Dac/CARS Donation**
**Thomas Kelley - $648.75 via V-Dac/CARS Donation**
**Texas Roadhouse Tabling Event - $2,805.34**
**Five Fish Productions LLC’s 2018 Big Bass Donation $3,400**
**Donations toward the Inaugural Shell Beach Fishing Event: Committee to re-elect Paul D. Connick, Jr. - $500, The Committee to Elect Stephen Enright - $500, Connick and Connick LLC - $500, Martin Peake - $400, Dr. Michael Hayman - $200**
**Karen and Jeffrey Daun - $700 (Tuddy Golf Tournament)**
**Leigh Ann Wrona - $2,000**
**Donations toward MS Cast & Blast: Audie Murphy’s Cruisin the Coast Fundraiser - $1,900, Cure Land, LLC - $500**
**Donation toward PA Cast & Blast: American Legion Post 777 - $1,000**
**James Eastman - $5,000**
**Franciscan Health - $600**

Help Us Tell Others About WWA!
Would you consider representing WWIA at a CFC event in your local geographic area? Our network of federal employees (military & civilian) represent our single largest source of funding for our heroes. If you’re interested, you can find information on upcoming events where we could see your representation online in our Facebook page. Then, simply email us at rel@wwia.org or message us on Facebook. Thank you for your support!

Thank you Fisher House for your Exceptional Support!

We would like to recognize and sincerely thank our friends at Fisher House for their exceptional support of WWIA and our Purple Heart Recipients. Fisher House has earned the WWIA Purple Heart Patron Award for graciously providing over $60,000 in airline flight tickets to our heroes through their Hero Miles Program. This partnership makes a significant impact as it allows WWIA to connect our combat-wounded veterans to other Purple Heart recipients through outdoor sporting events that promote healing and restoration. Thank you Fisher House for your outstanding dedication and support in serving our heroes! Learn more about Fisher House and their Hero Miles program and see how you can help by visiting www.fisherhouse.org.

WWIA is Honored to Earn a SHIFT Award!

WWIA is honored to have been announced as an official nominee of Non-Profit Leadership for the 2018 SHIFT Award. Founder and CEO John McDaniel was on hand for this award ceremony and spoke at the Shift Festival last month (July 14th-16th). The 2018 Shift Festival took place in Jackson, WY, and recognizes individuals, initiatives, or organizations that make innovative, impactful and replicable contributions to conservation through human-powered outdoor recreation. To determine 2018 SHIFT Award Official Selections, SHIFT researchers first identified more than 100 individual or initiatives from around North America that leveraged outdoor recreation for conservation. They then used these criteria to make further evaluations of more than 160 initiatives in six categories: Non-Profit Leadership.
Shop this Holiday Season and Support WWIA!

SHOP FOR A GREAT CAUSE

when you're ready to shop,
CLICK HERE!

AND SUPPORT OUR HEROES

This holiday season, shop for a great cause by having a portion of your purchases go toward supporting our Purple Heart Heroes. Simply click here and make a difference. Happy shopping!

Help Support WWIA Through Vehicle Donation!

Help support WWIA by donating cars, trucks, motorcycles, RV's, boats, airplanes, heavy equipment, farm machinery, etc. (running or not) to CARS.

You can help support WWIA and our Heroes by donating your car, truck, van, SUV, boat, motorcycle, ATV, RV, trailer or airplane. V-Doc recently joined the CARS team to help continue providing opportunities to support non-profits through vehicle donations. You will still work with the same outstanding representatives that you have come to trust with your donation needs. Simply click here to start the donation process or call CARS toll-free at 1-855-900-4000 (1-855-900-4400) to have a donation staff specialist help guide you through the donation process. If you would like to learn more about how the CARS vehicle donation program works, please click here. We thank you in advance for your support!

Want to learn more about WWIA, visit us 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

HONOR. CONNECT. HEAL.