



Photo credit to WWIA Guide Nick Fox for this scenic view from the Inaugural Primitive Outfitters Black Bear & Fishing Event

Notes From the Field: September 2018

September welcomed in the start of the fall season and brought a wide range of hunting and fishing events across the country for our Purple Heart Heroes, including two inaugural events. It was another exceptional month for WWIA fundraising events thanks to our unbelievable family of Hosts, supporters, donors, volunteers, and patriotic communities around the country. Read below to learn about the inclusion of a WWIA Chapter as our new WWIA 'Medal of Honor' Patron for their stellar fundraising efforts throughout the years. Don't forget to check out our September Spotlight Feature and also learn more about our Inaugural WWIA 5K that will be coming up in January. As we enter into the last quarter of the year, we've got plenty of outstanding events coming your way, so stay tuned and in touch for some amazing highlights from our Heroes.




Events and Fundraisers

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

Will you join us in supporting our
Purple Heart Heroes?
Please consider a pledge to WWIA.

WWIA




Combined Federal Campaign
#94512

HONOR. CONNECT. HEAL.

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. 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 for your faithful support as you partner with us.

Inaugural Primitive Outfitters Black Bear and Fishing Event

September 5th - 9th





Four of our Purple Heart Heroes traveled to Weston, Maine for the Inaugural Primitive Outfitters Black Bear and Fishing Event. This presented an exciting opportunity for our Heroes to hunt and fish over five days in the pristine wilderness of Maine. This event provided an exceptional environment not just for hunting and fishing, but also for our Heroes to relax, connect, and share stories and laughter. Special thanks to Hosts Daniel and Katie White for putting on a phenomenal first-time event. We would also like to thank the gracious community and friends of Daniel and Katie for their tremendous support in making this world-class event possible for our Heroes. Additional recognition and appreciation to WWIA Guide Nick Fox for his outstanding assistance during this trip.

"It is an honor to have been chosen to go on this hunt with these warriors! I can't thank the organization enough for giving me the opportunity to enjoy this hunt. Dan and family took great care of us. At no time of this hunt did I ever have to worry about anything. They went above and beyond for the warriors on this hunt. Nick Fox, WWIA Guide was more than just a Guide right off the plane, he took all the worry out of this trip. When the Outfitter wasn't around and even when he was, he took care of any issues we had or did his part to make sure everything went smoothly for us. This trip was a much-needed trip to get my life back on track. Thank you, Nick, Daniel, Katie, Vann and the rest of the WWIA Staff for putting on such a great event. "

Inaugural Camp Hackett Black Bear Hunt

September 6th - 10th



WWIA was proud to host a new event at Camp Hackett where it all started 11 years ago. The Inaugural Camp Hackett Black Bear Hunt welcomed a Purple Heart Hero to Phillips, Wisconsin to take part in the first official black bear hunt on the property over a 3-day period. This hunt met with the hopeful expectations as our Hero harvested a beautiful black bear, the first ever taken at Camp Hackett. This would not have been possible without the generous donation of a bear tag by a local Wisconsin resident and the tremendous coordination and preparation by Bob Bolz for this event. Our sincere thanks to VFW Post 2687 for their thoughtful donation of \$1000 to help support this event.

6th Annual PA Cast & Blast

September 21st - 24th

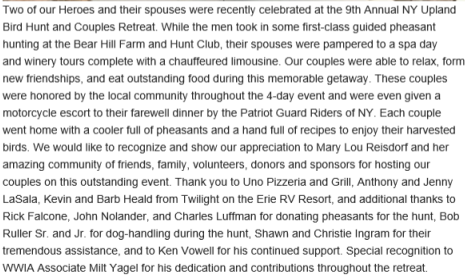


Seven of our Heroes gathered in Rebersburg, PA for the 6th Annual Central PA Cast & Blast. This event provided the opportunity for our Heroes to take in some amazing bird shooting and spectacular trout fishing while connecting with fellow Purple Heart recipients over four days. This is truly a community event and our Heroes were honored and revered throughout their stay for their tremendous service and sacrifice to our country. WWIA Founder and CEO, John McDaniel was also in attendance to thank those who made this event possible and to spend time getting to know the Heroes. This event featured two mini-concerts with music by Sgt. Bob Timney and Donald Malliband and lots of time to relax and share stories over meals. Our Heroes were honored by the presence of Congressman Glenn "GT" Thompson who presented each of them with a U.S. flag that had been flown over the U.S. Capitol. This event would not have been possible were it not for the generosity and support of the businesses and donors of the Centre Region. Special thanks to Russ Schneiden for providing the opportunity to hunt and fish on his family property, to Chef Corey Confer for his delicious Saturday dinner and world-famous crab cakes. Our Appreciation and thanks to Centre Hall American Legion Post 779 and B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 1600 for their generous support of this amazing event. Recognition and appreciation to Gravel Spring Lodge and Sandy Deveney as well as his exemplary team for hosting our amazing Heroes. Additional thanks to WWIA Guides Jake Whipkey and Derek VanBuren for their outstanding support throughout the 4-day event.

"The Cast & Blast was a truly outstanding event! The five Wounded Warriors and two WWIA Guides were treated like Kings. I'm a Vietnam Vet and this is the first time I have been honored for my service in RVN. Sandy, John, and Bill plus all the other support staff and guides made each Warrior feel special and honored. The hunting and fishing was wonderful, but the bonding with other Warriors was the best medicine ever! Sandy and his staff of volunteers are great Americans that cannot be thanked enough for the way they honored all of us and treated us as Heroes!"

9th Annual NY Upland Bird and Couples Retreat

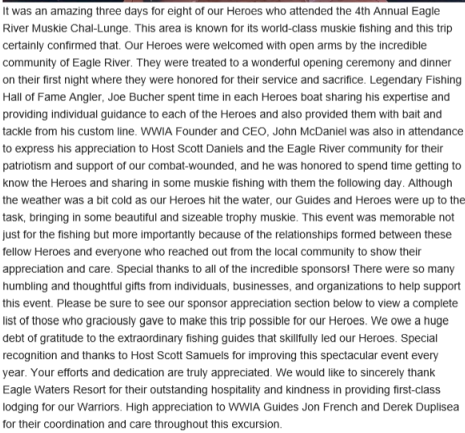
September 21st - 24th



"Just a quick note to thank you so very much for all your work and effort in getting my wife Lara and I to this great event in Rochester. We had an unbelievable time with Ms. Lou and her family and friends. We met them at the airport as strangers and left as best friends."

4th Annual Eagle River Muskie Chal-Lunge

September 28th - 30th



"First, I would like to thank everyone that participated in this event a hardy thank you. The experience for me wasn't about fishing, it was about spending time with other veterans and sharing good conversation. I must say Bob Jacobs was a great person to spend the day and evening with. We talked a lot and for me, I made a new friend, that was important. Scott, the Host was fantastic. From the dinners to the awards, he did a great job, thank you. I spent some quality time talking to other Warriors at night, we all share an unbreakable bond with our military experience. Life is all about people, spending quality time with family and friends. Add some warm weather, it would have been perfect. Thank you again to everyone who volunteered their time to add a great experience for a Vietnam Veteran."

4th Annual WWIA Wisconsin Golf Tournament

September 1





The 4th Annual WWIA Wisconsin Golf Tournament at [Bottens's Green Acres](#) was another incredible success raising an impressive total of \$11,875 to support the 6th Annual Bayfield Cast & Blast Event! Special thanks to Dan, Nancy, and Brad Bourassa for their incredible dedication in organizing this fundraiser, to Brad & Jodi Botten and family for their huge contributions to help WWIA and also to their wonderful employees Heather Coryell Burgaller, Allison Melde, Robbie Blair and Maureen McGarth for their outstanding work! Additional thanks to Mara Magnavite, Jayda Klobucher, Karen Lawler and Jimmy Klobucher for keeping an eye on hole #3 to see if anyone got a hole in one! Steven Schaefer, thank you for asking and collecting a number of door prizes and sponsorships for WWIA, as well as your own generous donation. Thank you to Lorie Heule for helping with the silent auction, selling t-shirts and anything else we needed to be done! Special recognition and appreciation to Scott Orville for making and donating a portable bow hunting blind to be used for hunters with disabilities and to Liquor in the Woods for their continued support and another generous donation in support of our Heroes! Thank you to all of the amazing individuals and businesses that graciously sponsored a hole, gave a door prize or an auction item. Lastly, our sincere gratitude and thanks to everyone that came out to help support WWIA through your participation in the tournament or through the silent auction. What an amazing community of supporters!

2018 WWIA Big Bass Event at Wolfe Creek on Grand Lake

September 16th



Thanks to everyone who came out to support the 2018 Wounded Warriors in Action Big Bass Benefit Tournament by 5 Fish Productions, LLC. It proved to be another great tournament this year. Wolfe Creek on Grand Lake, OK was a great venue to come out and show support for WWIA and the Purple Heart Heroes who have sacrificed so much on our behalf. There were thousands of dollars in cash and prizes. A 4.37-pound bass was big enough to win a camper trailer provided courtesy of [Wade's RV](#) in Glenpool, Oklahoma. The participant who landed a 3.81-pound bass went home with a golf cart provided by [Golf Cars of Tulsa](#). There were countless other prizes awarded throughout the day thanks to so many incredible sponsors. There was a trailer load of donated items available during the WWIA Auction with 100% of the proceeds going directly back to the Foundation. Thank you to everyone who purchased items during this year's auction. A big shout out to all the volunteers and sponsors who came out, set up booths, donated money, prizes, and took time to make this tournament a success. Special recognition to Lifetime Transmissions, Allen Technologies, WPX Energy, and The Hinson Family Charitable Fund for being our four weigh-in sponsors. Thank you to Brent Salt and the entire 5 Fish Productions Team for their coordination in running this event and for their continued support of WWIA and our Heroes.

The 28th Annual Tuddy Golf Tournament

September 21



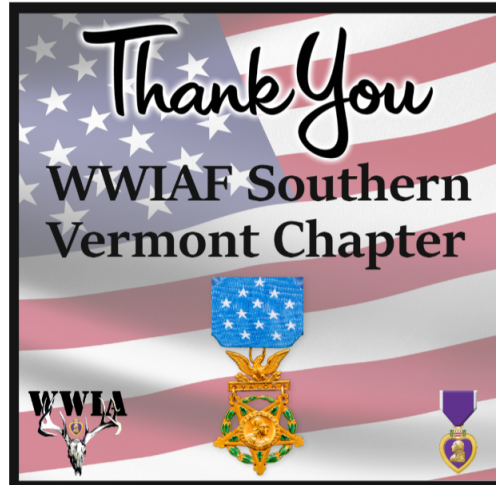
SEPT. 21, 2018

OSHKOSH, WI

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone that participated in the 2018 Tuddy Golf Tournament in Oshkosh, WI. This was the 28th year of this outstanding event and although the winds and weather made the tournament a bit more challenging this year, it didn't deter our players from having a great time for a great cause. WWIA was honored to be the recipient of the tournament proceeds. Our sincere appreciation to Hartford VFW Post 8834 for their generous \$1,000 donation, and our gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Daun for their exceptional coordination of this event. Finally, a HUGE thank you to everyone who attended, sponsored, contributed, and participated in this event for your exceptional support and your commitment to helping us honor, connect and heal every Purple Heart Hero.

The 6th Annual WWIA Southern Vermont Chapter Banquet Dinner Fundraiser

September 22



We would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the WWIA Southern Vermont Chapter for their incredible donation of \$62,636.00 raised from their 6th Annual Banquet Dinner. This is a record-setting amount for the Southern Vermont Chapter who continue to raise the bar every year through the generosity and dedication of their patriotic community. With this year's stellar fundraising effort, the Southern Vermont Chapter has now become a WWIA Medal of Honor Patron. This achievement is given to those who have raised over \$150,000 collectively in support of WWIA. What an amazing accomplishment! A HUGE THANK YOU to Mike and Debbie Davenport for their tremendous work and coordination in making these annual fundraisers so successful. In addition, we would like to thank all of this year's sponsors, donors and attendees for going above and beyond to support WWIA and our Purple Heart Heroes!

The Inaugural WWIA 5K is Coming!



Tampa Bay, get ready for the [WWIA 5K](https://www.wwia.org/heroapplication/)! Join us on Saturday, January 12, 2019. This timed 5K offers you the choice to run, walk, or stroll through beautiful Al Lopez Park. Our race is professionally timed and the Overall Top Male and Female finishers will receive prizes. Top Male and Top Female finishers in each age category will also be acknowledged. Every finisher registered before December 14, 2019 will receive a race shirt and finisher's medal. Stay for our after-party featuring adult beverages provided by Bootleggers Brewing Company, ice cream, awards, and more! Discounted registration is available for Veterans who show their Military ID or Drivers License with a "V" symbol at packet pickup with Promo Code VET20. Purple Heart recipients will be able to participate free with registration to WWIA by using Promo Code PHFREE. Visit <https://www.wwia.org/heroapplication/> and complete all three steps at the top of the page. Proceeds benefit the WWIA.

WWIA September Spotlight





We are honored to feature Dr. Keith G. Tidball as our September Spotlight Feature. Dr. Tidball serves as WWIA's Science Advisor and proudly hosts the annual Kuneytown FLX Ducks & Bucks Event which will be celebrating their 5th year this November. Dr. Tidball is an anthro-ecologist working in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University, where he focuses on the dynamics of natural resource management in the context of disasters and war. Experiences in the military and in the field of international disaster response and relief inform his unique brand of applied scholarship, including stints throughout Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Tidball's doctoral work focused on the role of community-based natural resource management in Post-Katrina resilience of New Orleans, and he continues to work in post-disaster contexts, as well as in disaster readiness, resilience, and response. He also studies how outdoor recreation contributes to and enhances resilience and recovery for returning combatants. He lives with his family on their farm overlooking Cayuga Lake in upstate New York, where he enjoys hunting, fishing, and working the land.

How did you first get involved with WWIA? Many years ago, when WWIA was basically John and his dog, he conducted a Veteran's Day hunt at Whispering Pines Shooting Preserve in Central New York. My colleague Eric Riegel and I were simultaneously conducting a youth hunt in celebration of Veteran's Day. We saw the logos on John's pick-up and the four Purple Heart Heroes, and I approached John about what he was doing. He was very gracious, and we arranged for our youth hunters to meet the heroes and thank them for their service. This was done in the field, with unloaded shotguns over shoulders, and pheasants bagged on gamestraps, and made a huge impression on the youth, and on we the adult chaperones. John and I exchanged business cards, and have been partnering ever since, about 10 years. For the first five years, I served as the Science Advisor for WWIA, and witnessed a number of successful programs. I was inspired by these events and 5 years ago decided to attempt to host our own event in the Finger Lakes region of Upstate NY.

Why do you choose to Host WWIA events? As a veteran dealing with my own history, traumas, and regrets, I have experienced personally the healing and therapeutic value of outdoor recreation and camaraderie in the pursuit of fish and game. It is an extraordinarily fulfilling thing to share the landscapes and pursuits that I know are full of healing with those that want it, and can use it. I also do it because I see how valuable it is to my support team, many of whom are very patriotic but have not served in the military themselves.

What has been the biggest benefit of hosting WWIA Events? The biggest benefit is the life-long relationships built between members of our community, our sportsmen's club, and those heroes we are able to serve. These folks become life members of our club, and many come back to hunt, fish, or just vacation, which is exactly the kind of connection/reconnection we seeking to facilitate.

You have an incredibly patriotic community who work together to selflessly support our Heroes. How have you been able to galvanize such tremendous support of donors, volunteers, and supporters over the years? The biggest key is having a core of 3-4 people that have the vision and are inspired to move mountains to accomplish the WWIA mission. Those individuals help with assembling a second layer of supporting individuals, who catch the spirit over time. An important ingredient is recognition and maximizing opportunities to create and nurture esprit de corps. Coining rituals and team uniforms go a long way in this regard.

What would you say to others who are considering getting involved with WWIA as a Host or in another capacity? If you care about the outdoors, if you know that hunting and fishing are pathways to peace and tranquility, and you want to give back to our men and women in uniform who have bled for their country, for our right to public lands and public fish and wildlife, then you owe it to yourself to get involved with WWIA.



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!

****Well-Bohn Charitable Fund Grant \$2,000****

****Debbie Gruber- \$1,173.75 via [V-Dac/CARS](#) Donation****

****Mindy McDonald- \$918.75 via [V-Dac/CARS](#) Donation****

****Kevin Mahaney with the support of Sun Valley Campsites- \$2,500 in support of the upcoming 2019 Inaugural Naples NY VFW Big Buck Hunt****

4th Eagle River muskie Chair-Lunge Sponsors:

*Premier Powersports & Marine \$800 *VFW Post 8637 \$800
 *American Legion Post 114 \$800
 *CR Meyer \$700 *Appraisal Associates \$500 *The Nutty Squirrel \$500
 Eagle River Guides Association \$500 *Eagle River Rotary Club \$600 *Edwin Pleus \$225
 *Immaculate Conception Church \$1,682 *Gremban & Gremban Dental \$300
 *Headwaters Chapter of Muskies Inc \$500 *Hessenjaeger Wirehairs LLC \$500
 *Peoples State Bank \$500 *Sweetwaters Spirits & Resort \$500 *Parsons of Eagle River \$500
 *Eagle River Lions Club \$600 *Three Lakes Fish & Wildlife Improvement Association \$500

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, you can find information on upcoming events where we could use your representation pinned to our [Facebook](#) page. Then, simply email us at info@wwiaf.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 Heroes. 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. Their 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 faithful 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

Thank You Marine Federal Credit Union!

THANK YOU



FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING
GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT
OF WWIA



Our sincere thanks to Marine Federal Credit Union for their generous donation of \$1,850 to sponsor one of our Purple Heart Heroes at an upcoming event in North Carolina. Thank you for your outstanding support of WWIA and our Heroes!

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-Dac 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 855-500-RIDE (855-500-7433) 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](#)



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