



NOTES FROM THE FIELD: AUGUST 2019

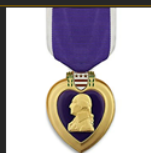


A beautiful sunrise at the 8th Annual Lake Erie Trophy Walleye Fishing event.

Photo credit to WWIA Guide Jon French.

Notes From the Field: August 2019

It has been a memorable and adventurous month as our Heroes hit the water and cast their lines on two different WWIA events. As we bid farewell to a spectacular summer, the fall season presents some outstanding hunting and fishing opportunities for our Heroes to enjoy the Great Outdoors with their fellow Purple Heart Heroes. Be sure to check out the WWIA August spotlight feature to learn how one of our amazing supporters and his team are making a huge impact for our Heroes. Stay tuned for upcoming news and events and thank you as always for your faithful support!



Events and Fundraisers

8th Annual Lake Erie Trophy Walleye Fishing

August 2-5 Ashtabula, OH



Eight of our Heroes traveled to Ohio to cast off on the 8th Annual Lake Erie Trophy Walleye Fishing event. Our Warriors were given a Hero's welcome as they were escorted through the town of Ashtabula by the [Ashtabula Police Dept.](#), the local [American Legion Riders Motorcycle Club](#), and 'The Patriot' show truck to the [American Legion Post 103](#) where our Heroes enjoyed a steak dinner and were profoundly moved by the warm welcome they received from members of the community. Our Heroes hit the water early the next morning and within 90 minutes of dropping their lines had already reached their limit on large walleye! Later that evening, there was a phenomenal walleye dinner with local residents, volunteers, boat captains, crews, and guides who presented homemade pies and Purple Heart sugar cookies to our Heroes. The following day on the water was just as spectacular as our Heroes once again reached their limit on walleye within the first two hours. There was a wonderful dinner and closing ceremony on the final evening for our Warriors, and each of them returned home with a cooler full of walleye, but more importantly with new friendships and treasured memories of their time in Ohio. We would like to recognize and express our gratitude to Hosts Bill and Diane Miller, Co-Host Larry Fielder, to the incredible Team Erie, and to all the tremendous volunteers, supporters, and local community members who went above and beyond to welcome and honor our Heroes and who continue to raise the bar each year with this spectacular event. Special recognition to Dave Conat for his efforts, and thanks to WWIA Guides Jon French and Jordan Bondurant for their tremendous contributions and care throughout this four-day excursion.

"I went in a boy and came out a man, but I was honored to serve our country. Coming home was tough, I was spit on, yelled at, I felt like, what did I do but try to be a good American? Then along comes WWIA and makes me feel like a million dollars. It was very emotional, and my heart was pumped up. Everyone that was involved in the Walleye trip was one of a kind. It was so organized, everything was wonderful. It was so great to meet other Warriors and listen to their stories. Every so often someone would ask you if you needed anything. They made me feel special and honored to be a Veteran. Thank you for everything."

3rd Annual Saltgrass Lodge Red Fishing

August 9-12 Buras, LA



Four of our Heroes recently converged on Buras, LA to enjoy four days of world-class fishing on the bayou at the 3rd Annual Saltgrass Lodge Red Fishing Event. Our Heroes found themselves in the perfect environment, not just for world-class fishing but also for connecting and building bonds with their fellow Purple Heart brothers. When they weren't on the water catching gorgeous reds, speckled trout, black drum, flounder, sheepshead, and even a black-tipped shark, they were treated to exquisite accommodations and delectable cooking as they shared stories and laughter with one another. Our sincere thanks to Host Raymond Schmitt and Co-Host Audie Murphy for their generosity and thoughtfulness in honoring our Heroes with this top-tier event. None of this would have been possible without the selfless dedication and support of the following individuals: Boat Captains, Chief, Ike, Raymond and Todd for both their fishing expertise and the incredible respect shown toward our Heroes; Chef Kevin Vizard for honoring our Warriors with his mouth-watering meals throughout their stay; and the entire [Saltgrass Outdoors](#) staff for their gracious hospitality and care. Special thanks to [Louisiana Outdoor Adventures TV](#) CEO Bryce Michel, Host Kevin Ford, and Producer Gem Ceasar for honoring our Heroes and helping bring greater exposure to the mission of WWIA. Be sure to check out LOATV's outstanding [video](#) of our Heroes time on the water! Additional recognition and gratitude to WWIA Guide Mark Broda for his support and attention throughout the event.

"I don't leave my family much outside of work. I'm missing them but I know my wife has the house handled. I'm glad I came to this event. I love to fish and time with other veterans is good for my soul. Sharing stories, experiences and time on the drive and out on the boat has been great. It is great and inspiring to meet these Heroes and these incredible patriots. The love and support are real and it means a lot. Thanks, WWIA and Mark for giving me this opportunity."

5th Annual WWIA Wisconsin Golf Tournament

August 31 Lake Nebagamon, WI

**5TH ANNUAL WWIA
WI GOLF TOURNAMENT**



BOTTEN'S GREEN ACRES GOLF COURSE LAKE NEBAGAMON, WI

The 5th Annual Wounded Warriors in Action Golf Tournament held at [Botten's Green Acres Golf Course](#) teed off on August 31st and was another HUGE success! The weather was picture-perfect for our golfers and we appreciate the tremendous support from our local community who came out to enjoy the food and fellowship and place bids for some of our amazing auction items. This year's collective tournament efforts raised an impressive \$13,012. Special recognition and thanks to Nancy and Dan Bourassa for their outstanding coordination and hard work on this event!

A big shout out to those that helped us make this fundraiser so successful: Brad and Jody Botten & their family, Heather Burggaller, Allison Melde, Robbie Blair, Maureen McGarth, Tom & Sue Johnson, Steven Schaefer aka/Shrek, Brad & Mara Bourassa, Jimmy Klobucher and Lora Sipperley. This tournament would not have been possible without the support of so many incredible individuals and businesses. Our sincere thanks and gratitude to all of our amazing sponsors (for a full list of sponsors, [click here](#)). Additional thanks to all of the participants, volunteers, and to everyone who came out to enjoy this special day and help support WWIA and our Purple Heart Heroes!

Honoring Purple Heart Day.

PURPLE HEART DAY 2019



WWIA proudly celebrated Purple Heart Day this month. Purple Heart Day is officially recognized every August 7th and commemorates the creation of the oldest American military decoration for military merit and honors the brave men and women who have earned the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Established by General George Washington during the Revolutionary War, the badge was given as a distinction for meritorious action and was originally a heart made of purple cloth. This award was discontinued after the Revolutionary War until it was reintroduced in 1932 with support from Gen. Douglas MacArthur in association with Washington's 200th birthday. The modern purple heart medal emerged and was to be awarded "to persons who, while serving in the Army of the United States, perform any singularly meritorious act of extraordinary fidelity or essential service." Over the years, eligibility for the Purple Heart was extended to members of all branches of the U.S. military. There is a rich and important history behind the Purple Heart, and we encourage you to go [here](#) to learn more about it.

CFC Season is Upon Us!





The Combined Federal Campaign season is almost here. The greatest way for us to share our mission and the life-changing impacts we are making is by telling our story to others. We are reaching out to our amazing WWIA family/supporters to see if you would consider representing WWIA at a CFC event in your local geographic area. If you would be interested in attending and representing on our behalf, please email WWIA Chief of Staff Gerard Dempster at gerard@wwiaf.org. We appreciate your support in advance and for all you do to help us spread the message and mission of WWIA. We look forward to hearing from you.

THANK YOU!

Our Sincere Thanks!

THANK YOU

TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE WWIA SWEEPSTAKES!



WWIA SWEEPSTAKES

GRAND PRIZE:
HENRY .30-30 REPEATING RIFLE WITH CUSTOM ENGRAVING
BY BARON ENGRAVING OR \$2,500 IN CASH.



1ST PRIZE: \$1,000	2ND PRIZE: \$500	3RD PRIZE: RAPID RIVER CUSTOM KNIFE
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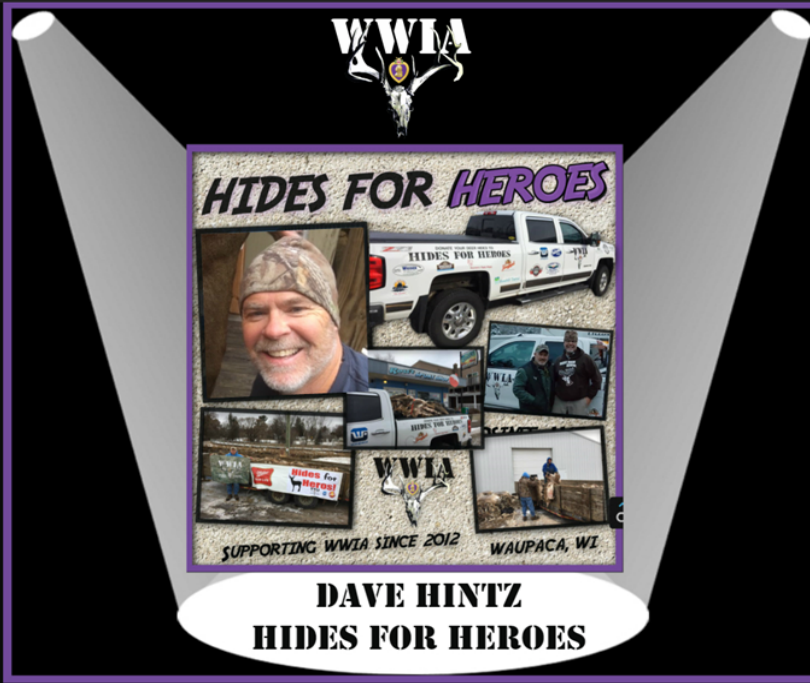
NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Ends 7/30/19. Open to legal residents of 50 US & DC who are 21 or older. Subject to full Official Rules (see link in text). Void where prohibited by law.



We would like to extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to everyone who participated in the WWIA Sweepstakes and to those who truly went above and beyond to share this promotion with their friends, family, and local communities, but more importantly for telling others about the work WWIA is doing to bring healing to our Purple Heart Heroes. Congratulations to all our winners! (Official winners list can be found [here](#).) Special thanks to [Henry Repeating Arms](#), [Baron Technology, Inc.](#), and [Rapid River Knifeworks](#) for their generosity and tremendous support of WWIA and our Heroes.

WWIA August Spotlight

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



DAVE HINTZ
HIDES FOR HEROES

We are honored to introduce you to this month's Spotlight featured guest, Mr. Dave Hintz. Dave is the founder and driving force behind [Hides for Heroes](#), an incredible fundraising effort based in Waupaca, Wisconsin that raises support and awareness for WWIA and our Heroes through collecting and preparing deer hides, then selling those hides to fur traders. Hides for Heroes has an incredible network of volunteers and community sponsors who passionately embrace and support this initiative. Through their collective efforts, Hides for Heroes has donated over \$46,000 to WWIA since 2012! We are grateful and humbled by Dave's dedication and thoughtfulness and hope you enjoy getting to know him and the incredible story of how one person's ingenuity and generosity can blossom into something truly amazing!

Dave, can you please give us a brief introduction and tell us a little about yourself?

First of all, the good Lord blessed me with four wonderful healthy kids, three boys and a girl. Those children gave us four wonderful grandkids, three girls and a boy! I love the outdoors and spend as much time as I can at our cabin in Phillips, Wisconsin. I enjoy turkey, deer, bear, and grouse hunting, in addition to fishing, cutting wood, snowshoeing, and collecting and cooking maple syrup with my kids and grandkids. We love sitting around the fire pit enjoying life and sharing stories. I am an addicted shed hunter, walking many miles each spring in search of antlers. I also enjoy kayaking, a round or two of golf, pitching corn hole bags, hiking, waterfalls, and sunsets. I am also a High School and B.A.B.A. umpire. I have been employed at [Waupaca Foundry Inc.](#) (who has been a huge sponsor and supporter of WWIA and Hides for Heroes) for 30 years where I work in the Q.C. dept.

How did you first get involved with WWIA?

I met Matt Tennesen, a WWIA Associate, at a fundraiser in Phillips, WI. Matt explained how WWIA was serving Heroes and how it had helped him through some difficult times. I had been doing fundraising for my son's high school band by collecting hides and then donating the proceeds to them. Since my son was graduating, I decided I could continue this fundraising effort but change the recipient to WWIA.

What are the origins of Hides for Heroes? When was it created and how was it implemented?

I am a meat cutter by trade, and I would process deer each fall on the side. As a result, I would end up with a few hundred hides each year that I would sell to a fur buyer. In 2000 our local high school was looking for ways to make money for a new football field and that is when we started collecting deer hides. In only three years, with the help of all my children collecting and salting hides, we raised over \$8,000.00 toward the new football field. Collecting deer hides was a valuable resource. We did several other fundraisers for church, a baseball Florida spring trip, band trips, band uniforms, and also one year for a cancer patient. This year will be our 7th year collecting hides for WWIA. Who would have thought that collecting deer hides that most hunters throw out would make such a tremendous difference? We went from 4 hide collection boxes when we first started fundraising for the football field in the small village of Iola-Scandinavia to now having 50-60 boxes throughout Northern and Central Wisconsin! We've also expanded into the OshKosh Fond du Lac region due to the outstanding efforts of Rachel Walters. The naming of Hides for Heroes just popped up in my head while having a few beers with friends at my cabin. Everyone liked it and it clearly represents what we do and who we do it in honor of.

What has been the biggest benefit of operating Hides for Heroes?

The biggest benefit has been meeting everyone God has put in my path. I've met some amazing people along this journey, including all the Heroes I am privileged to spend time with each year at Camp Hackett. WWIA Associate, Matt Tennesen and I have become good friends over the years since that first meeting and enjoy an annual grouse hunt up at the cabin each year. Guide Jake Whipkey. WWIA staff Nichole Veesaert and WWIA Founder and CEO, John McDaniel.

I am also blessed to have met so many outstanding business owners who graciously allow us to put our collection boxes out and help us promote our initiative. The people we meet collecting hides, thanking us for what we do for our veterans and Heroes.

In addition, the support we get from the city of Waupaca, the town of Phillips, and the surrounding communities is simply unbelievable. The best part of doing what we do is when veterans we don't know thanks us for what we are doing. Getting a thumbs up from strangers while we are driving the Hides for Heroes truck collecting hides is priceless!

Hides for Heroes is an incredible example of patriotic communities working together to selflessly support our Heroes. How have you been able to galvanize such a tremendous support network of volunteers, individuals, and businesses over the years?

After two years into collecting hides, I was getting overwhelmed. The company I work for, Waupaca Foundry, Inc. did a television segment on Hides for Heroes with a few of the local stations featuring employees that do work to benefit veterans. It aired the week of Veterans Day after that, the interest, support, and hide donations took off!

I remember speaking with John McDaniel for some advice on how to manage this growing initiative and be able to meet the demands surrounding the time and effort it required. I told him, "It's just a founder's gut, how can I do this?" He gave me the best advice I could have

him, "I'm just a foundry guy, how can I do this"? He gave me the best advice I could have asked for, to recruit foot soldiers to help me with the many tasks at hand.

I was very fortunate to have some good guys helping me. Many of my fellow employees stepped up to assist like Chuck Hultman, an Iraq veteran, Steve Buck, a Navy Veteran, Bob Swanson, Amie Borchardt and her young daughter McKenna, just to name a few. I will admit that salting hides isn't a fun job as it requires long, cold, strenuous work! Despite the difficulty involved in the process, I am amazed at the incredible dedication people put forth to support this important cause.

I received a call one day from a Conservation Warden Jeff Knorr, who saw Hides for Heroes featured on television and loved the idea so much that he wanted to get kids involved. He contacted the Weyauwega High school FFA director and soon after we had and continue to have high school kids helping us. Jeff also reached out to Myron Construction Inc. and got them involved to sponsor and offer a \$1,500 scholarship each year. We now have several schools involved and some amazing students helping out. I also spoke with the local GM dealership [Neuville Motors](#), to ask if they would sponsor a truck to enable us to collect deer hides, and they surprisingly but graciously said yes! I couldn't believe it. Our biggest expense is gas, so to help offset this cost, we went door to door asking local businesses to help sponsor us and in return, we place their business logo on our Hides for Heroes truck. We proudly have thirteen sponsors now and are growing! One of our sponsors, [Strategies LTD.](#), now donates all our Hides for Heroes shirts, beanies and can coolies. Waupaca Foundry Inc. donates all the hide collection boxes, all the salt required for salting the hides (6,650 pounds last year), as well as generously making monetary donations. Madie Wilson, a Wapauca Foundry Inc. employee at our Pennsylvania sister facility read about the work we are doing and wanted to get involved. She ran a t-shirt benefit, raising \$650 and is planning another one! There are just a few examples of the kindness and generosity from those who have come to support Hides for Heroes. I cannot thank God enough for the bountiful resources he has blessed me with and the selfless people that work on behalf of our Heroes.

What would you say to others who are considering getting involved with WWIA as a supporter, fundraiser, or in some other capacity?

My dad served in the Korean War, and my brother retired from the Army and served in Desert Storm. I never served, but this is my way of giving back. It's not much, but to be involved with WWIA and being able to meet and listen to the Hero's stories is humbling and gratifying. To see first-hand what a difference WWIA is making in the lives of our Heroes brings joy to my heart. I've made priceless friendships and met some of the most patriotic and amazing people through my journey with WWIA and I look forward to meeting many more. Please consider getting involved with WWIA. No matter how you choose to get involved in, you will enjoy the ride!

Thank You Fisher House for Your Outstanding Support!



Thank You



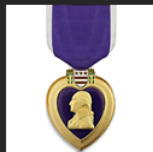
for your outstanding support of our Heroes!



www.fisherhouse.org



We would like to recognize and thank our friends at Fisher House for their exceptional support of WWIA and our Purple Heart Heroes. Fisher House is a WWIA Silver Star Patron for graciously providing over \$125,000 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 them at www.fisherhouse.org.



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!

Donations:

Matt Shore \$1,293.91 (via CARS donation)

**Toni Outland DBA Veterans Statue Iraq / Afghanistan in
coordination with Greg & Beth Edwards \$1,058.25**

Donations toward 5th Annual Eagle River

Muskie Chal-Lunge

Immaculate Conception Church \$1,110 (donation of \$1,110)

**Immaculate Conception Church \$1,440 (donation of 8
fishing reels to the event Heroes)**

**Three Lakes Fish & Wildlife Improvement Association,
Inc. \$1,000**

Eagle River Rotary Club \$600

Sweetwater Spirits & Resorts \$500

**Donations toward 8th Annual Lake Erie Trophy Walleye
Fishing Event**

**John Everett's Team Erie Charity Raffle & Spaghetti
Dinner Fundraiser \$7,800**

Diversident Systems \$1,000

Knights of Columbus Painesville Council No 947 \$500

Sal Squadron \$500

Syntec, LLC \$500

MC Charitable Foundation Inc \$500

Vecchio and Vecchio DDS \$500

Morgan and Lemke, DDS, MS, Inc \$500

**Donations toward 2nd Annual Ohio Mason Lake Erie
Walleye Fishing Event**

Discount Drug Mart, Inc \$638

Donations toward 13th Annual Camp Hackett Events

Cebery LLC \$664

Donations toward 7th Annual Kansas Cast & Blast

American Legion Post 379 \$579.92

Employer Charitable Giving Opportunities!

Did You Know?

MANY EMPLOYERS OFFER
CHARITABLE GIFT GIVING,
VOLUNTEER GRANTS, AND
MATCHING DONATIONS.



Many companies offer volunteer grants, gifts, and matching donations. You may work for one or know someone who does. To find out what philanthropic opportunities your employer may have, contact your company's HR department to see how you can help support WWIA and add them as a qualifying charity to your organization. If you know someone who works for one of the companies listed above, let them know about the mission of WWIA so we can educate others about what we do and the differences we are making. Together, we can continue changing hearts and lives as we bring healing and restoration to our Purple Heart Heroes.

Thank you for your faithful support!

Help Support WWIA Through Your Vehicle Donation!



DONATE YOUR VEHICLE

We accept cars, trucks, boats
and more! The process is easy,
the pick-up is free, and your
donation is tax-deductible.



You can help support WWIA and our Heroes by donating your car, truck, van, SUV, boat, motorcycle, ATV, RV, trailer or airplane. 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!

WWIA's Partnered with Ammo.com!



WWIA has partnered with [Ammo.com](#). They have an outstanding reputation for quality, price, selection, and customer satisfaction. You can find all your ammunition needs at Ammo.com while helping support WWIA and our Purple Heart Heroes at the same time! When you order from Ammo.com, 1% of your entire purchase will be donated back to WWIA when you select us as your preferred "Freedom Fighter" option from the dropdown menu at checkout. And right now you can also save 20% off any order of \$200 or more! Simply go to

now, you can also save 20% on any order of \$200 or more! Simply go to <https://ammo.com/wwia-supporter> to get started and find out more information. Our sincere thanks to Ammo.com for their support of WWIA and their outstanding patriotism!

Thank You for Helping WWIA Become a 2019 Top-Rated Nonprofit!



WWIA is honored to be a top-rated nonprofit in 2019! Thank you to everyone who took the time to share your experience and feedback to help us achieve this wonderful honor over the past 5 years! If you haven't shared your own WWIA experience, would you please consider leaving us a review? Your support of WWIA & our Purple Heart Heroes is greatly appreciated. Click [here](https://greatnonprofits.org/org/wounded-warriors-in-action-foundation-inc) or go to <https://greatnonprofits.org/org/wounded-warriors-in-action-foundation-inc> to share your WWIA story and to read what others have had to say!

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!](http://wwiaf.org)

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



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