



HONOR. CONNECT. HEAL.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD: October 2020



A gorgeous from the 12th Annual Grand Ciel Lodge South Dakota Pheasant Hunt.

Photo courtesy of WWIA Guides Jon French & Jordan Bondurant.

Notes From the Field: October 2020

October was an exciting month for WWIA as we proudly hosted four world-class events, from the Northwoods of Wisconsin to the Great Plains of the Dakotas. There were also some outstanding fundraisers that were held in October, and we would like to thank all the Hosts, donors, sponsors, volunteers, and participants for their selfless patriotism and support. 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 honor, connection, and healing to our combat-wounded Heroes. Read on to learn more about the opportunities our Heroes were able to enjoy this month and get ready for more amazing adventures ahead!





Events and Fundraisers

12th Annual Grand Ciel Lodge South Dakota Pheasant Hunt

October 9-12 Plankinton, SD



Eight of our Purple Heart Heroes traveled to Plankinton, South Dakota to take part in the 12th Annual Grand Ciel Lodge SD Pheasant Hunt. This long-standing event is held at the scenic [Grand Ciel Lodge](#), surrounded by miles of rolling prairies and bountiful creek bottoms, a true sportsman's paradise. Once our Heroes arrived and settled in, they enjoyed a delicious home-cooked meal while getting to know one another around the dinner table and the campfire. The next morning our Heroes took in some early trap shooting before heading out for their first hunt. Our Heroes made the most of their time in the field, harvesting some beautiful pheasants throughout their stay. When they weren't hunting, our Heroes had plenty of opportunities to relax, share stories, build bonds with their brothers, and take in some first-class meals such as wild boar ragù, pheasant pizza, venison whiskey meatballs, and grilled steel head trout. When you combine world-class pheasant hunting, the camaraderie of Purple Heart Heroes, and top-tier hospitality in a beautiful environment, it's easy to see why this event is so highly regarded and impactful. With gratitude and thanks, we salute Hosts Brad and Julie Boisen for their tremendous support of WWIA and our Heroes throughout the past 12 years. Special recognition and thanks to WWIA Guides Jon French and Jordan Bondurant for their support and attention throughout this four-day excursion.

"I want to start by saying thank you so much! This past weekend in SD was incredible. Jon, and Jordan were incredible and I can't say enough about Brad and Julie. I wasn't sure what to expect and went into it a little hesitant due to experiences with other organizations, but that went away very quickly. If there are any other hunts that I could be a part of please let me know. Also, if there is anything that WWIA needs I would be happy to help out."

8th Annual Bayfield Cast & Blast

October 15-19 Delta, WI





Five of our Warriors converged on Delta, Wisconsin to partake in world-class hunting and fishing over five days at the 8th Annual Bayfield Cast & Blast. Gorgeous weather and the pristine wilderness of the Northwoods provided the perfect backdrop for our Heroes to get in some well-deserved rest and relaxation. Our Heroes relished their time in the field and on the water, as they were able to harvest three impressive bucks, catch six muskies, as well as a few northern pike. The hunting and fishing were first-rate, but the true highlight of this trip was connecting with other Purple Heart recipients, sharing like-minded experiences, and building new friendships. Our sincere thanks to James Klobucher and family for their hospitality and kindness in providing lodging for our Heroes throughout their stay, and also to [Hyde's Resort](#) for treating them to an amazing fish fry. This event would not be possible without the support of the local community, and we would like to recognize and thank [Whitetails Unlimited](#), [PJ's Cabin Store](#), [Liquor in the Woods](#), [Madison Block and Stone](#), Mr. Russ Heule and [Dairyland Fence Co.](#) for their incredible support and contributions year after year. We would also like to express our condolences and appreciation to the family of Roger Edgar and thank them for graciously directing memorial donations toward this event. Our sincere gratitude to volunteers Jamie Vee, Jeff Evans, Jason Edgar, Leif Wallin, Josh Teigen, and John Bentley for their invaluable assistance and support. Additional thanks to Tony Lewis and his dog "Big Jake" for their exceptional tracking skills which ensured the harvesting of two bucks. High praise and appreciation to Hosts Chris and Brenda Diesing and the entire Bayfield Team of volunteers, supporters, and donors who go out of their way each year to honor our Heroes with this awesome event. Additional gratitude goes to WWIA Guide Joe Liddell for his coordination and support from start to finish.

"This trip was a reminder of why all of us signed that check and sacrificed so much. Between the folks organizing the event to the supporting community and my fellow brothers in arms, it is times like this that give us a reminder of what being an American is all about. As reclusive as I am, I did not feel the slightest bit of awkwardness with anyone involved and for a brief moment I let my demons of war subside. The fishing and hunting were secondary to the therapy. Thank you WWIA and everyone involved."

3rd Annual North Dakota Wild Pheasant Hunt

October 22-26 Garrison, ND





The incredible people and city of Garrison proudly welcomed four of our Heroes for the 3rd Annual North Dakota Wild Pheasant Hunt (In memory of Glen Schreiner). Upon arrival, our Heroes were given an honorary escort courtesy of the McLean County Sheriff's Department, where residents and businesses came out to show their appreciation for our Heroes service and sacrifice. They were outfitted with hunting gear and supplies courtesy of [Scheels Sporting Goods](#) before enjoying a dinner that included the Heroes, Host, and event volunteers. Everyone hit the fields early the next morning to shoot some clay pigeons and get briefed by the local game warden. The hunting that followed over the next few days was simply exceptional as all the Heroes hit their limit of birds each day. There was plenty of wildlife to be seen as well, to include whitetail bucks, Canadian and Snow Geese, and even a moose. On the final evening, a wonderful dinner banquet was held at the [Garrison Fire Department](#). Everyone dined on pheasant nuggets and prime rib, courtesy of Krause's Markets. It was an enjoyable time of sharing stories, laughs, and highlights of their time in Garrison. The community support and patriotism surrounding this event are second-to-none, and the residents and businesses of Garrison showed our Heroes a phenomenal time that will be treasured for years to come. Thank you to [Cabernet Inn Lodge](#) for graciously lodging our Heroes, [Totten Trail Bar & Grill](#) for a fantastic meet & greet dinner, [Hunter's Bar & Grill](#) for a delicious porterhouse steak dinner and for also gifting wonderful WWIA ND Hunt jackets to all the Heroes. Additional thanks to [West River Transit](#) for providing transportation throughout their entire stay, and to the Schreiner Family Farm for providing bountiful hunting grounds, great food, and exceptional hospitality. Our sincere appreciation to Douglas Sportsman Club, [Benedictine Living Center](#), and Glenn Nygard. Our sincere gratitude and applause to Hosts and sponsors, Roy McKenzie of [4-Bulls Meat/Seafood & Deli](#) of Ocean Springs, MS, the [Garrison Chamber of Commerce](#), [Krause's Market](#), and everyone who worked together to make this event such a tremendous success. Special recognition and thanks to WWIA Guide Derek VanBuren for his contributions and care throughout their stay.

"Garrison, ND event has been a wonderful hunt. There are not really any words to describe it. The people are awesome. The hunt was so relaxing and fun that it was therapeutic. I was impressed by how all the people treated us like family. I can't thank everyone enough. It was well above and beyond. It was also wonderful to make lifelong friends on a once in a lifetime trip like this. Special thanks to Roy, Lance, and Derek and all the rest involved."

14th Annual Camp Hackett Group A

October 23-27 Phillips, WI





Four of our combat-wounded Warriors traveled to Camp Hackett, for five days in the pristine wilderness of the Northwoods at the 14th Annual Camp Hackett Group A Event. This event offered a combination of fishing and hunting for our Warriors with the assistance of skilled local guides. Our Warriors were able to bow hunt for trophy whitetails, hunt for ruffed grouse, woodcock, and geese, and fish for the elusive and mighty Wisconsin muskie. Their time in the field, on the water, and around the dinner table was memorable, as they shared stories, laughter, and life experiences with one another. The hunting was exciting and top-notch, but the bonds formed between brothers was without question the highlight of the trip. This event would not have been possible without the selfless support of the local community and the following individuals and business: Colonel (Retired) Arthur Kandarian, Bob Bolz, Mike Reed, Tom Schenk, John Carlson, Don Angelo, Pat Fisher, Casey Williams, Chad and Travis DeLeasky; [Club 13](#), [Ross's Sport Shop](#), [Kim's 3-Mile Corner Bar](#); [Hides for Heroes](#), [Waupaca Foundry](#), and the [River's Edge Bar](#)! Our continued thanks to the Tomahawk Wisconsin [VFW Post 2687](#) and the [Veterans Administration](#) for their amazing support to our combat-wounded veterans. High praise and appreciation to WWIA Guide Jake Whipkey for his leadership, and hard work throughout the event.

"Over the last few years, I began to understand the power of memories and the joy that they can bring to you during dark times. Wounded Warriors in Action is a Foundation that provides those memories to men that desperately need them. The bonds that are created while making these memories and the men and women who support WWIA are heroes in my book. Jake, John, Art, Casey, Steve, Don, Isaac, Jeff, Pat, the DeLeasky brothers and everyone that I forgot to mention, thank you for adding to the good memories I can tap into to pull myself out of those dark places. God Bless you and your families!"

Club 13 10th Annual Rib Cook Off Fundraiser

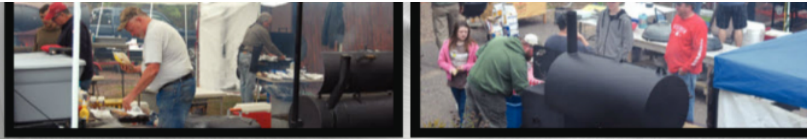
October 3 Phillips, WI



**10TH ANNUAL
RIB COOK OFF**

**BENEFITTING THE
WOUNDED WARRIORS IN ACTION FOUNDATION**





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HAMMERSTROM AUTO BODY
POLACEK IMPLEMENT



SATURDAY OCTOBER 3, 2020

HWY 13 NORTH, PHILLIPS, WI

[Club 13 Restaurant and Lounge](#) recently held their 10th Annual Rib Cook Off fundraiser in Phillips, Wisconsin. This was a great opportunity for people to come out for a great cause while enjoying delicious ribs, food, and fellowship. A portion of the proceeds were graciously donated to WWIA, with an impressive \$2,770 raised. Our gratitude and thanks to Mike and Joan Reed, owners of Club 13 Restaurant and Lounge for their outstanding generosity and support of WWIA throughout the years. Additional thanks to the employees of Club, the outstanding cooks, and the local community patrons for coming out to show their support for WWIA and our Heroes.

Mercer Muskie Madness

October 16-17 Mercer, WI

OUR SINCERE THANKS

MERCER MUSKIE MADNESS



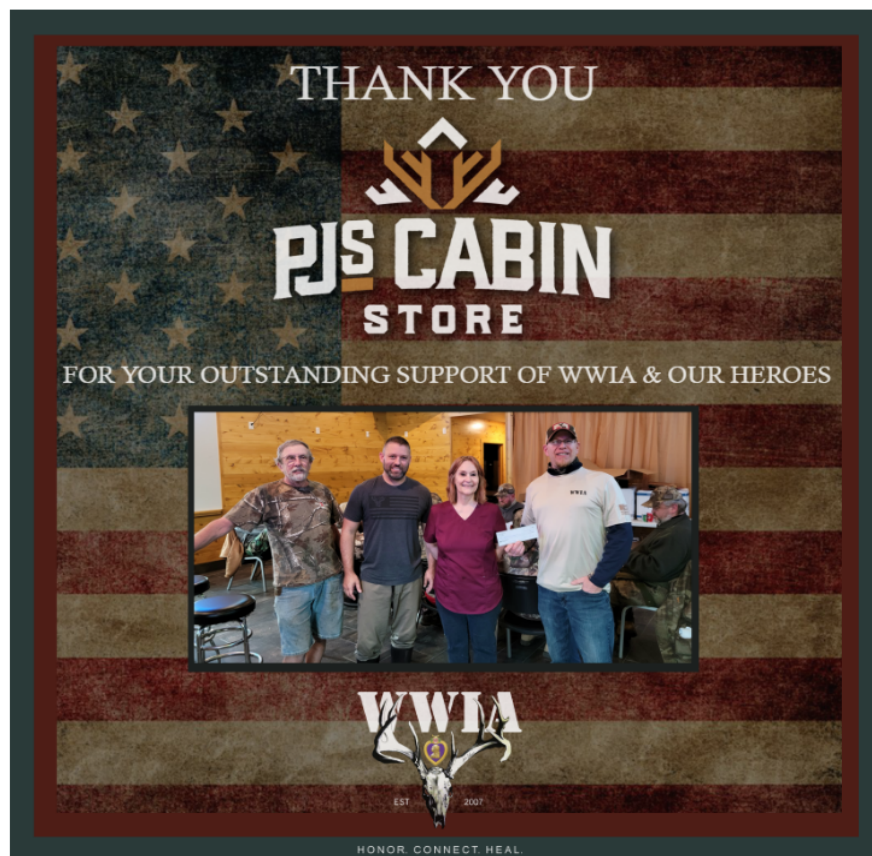
OCT 16-17 2020

HONOR. CONNECT. HEAL.

MERCER, WI

The 2020 [Mercer Muskie Madness](#) was a huge success! A total of 37 teams participated with 26 fish caught. A great time was had by all coming together for a great cause. Our sincere appreciation and thanks to Wayne and Missy Riebe, owners of the Gateway Lodge for hosting this annual fundraiser and for their tremendous support of WWIA and our Purple Heart Heroes. Additional thanks to WWIA Associate Brian Eisch for attending this special event, to all the outstanding volunteers and participants, as well as all of these amazing sponsors: [The Gateway Lodge and Resort](#), [Donner's Bay Resort](#), SS Sport, [Boulder Marine](#), [Northwoods Accents](#), [Turtle Flambeau Flowage Association](#), [Turtle River Trading Co.](#), [St. Croix Rods](#), Storm Radio Station, Jeff Gibson, [Badger Liquors](#), [Rollie & Helen's Musky Shop](#), [5 Star Marketing & Distribution](#), [Beaver's Resort](#), [Bobber Down Guide Service](#), [Mercer Chamber of Commerce](#).

PJ's Cabin Store "Bucks on the Wall" WWIA Fundraiser



We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to [PJ's Cabin Store](#) in Solon Springs, Wisconsin for their recent donation of \$3,000. This generous donation is the result of their annual "bucks on the wall" fundraising effort by PJ's where patrons put dollar bills on the ceilings and walls. At the end of the year, those bills are collected, tallied, and donated to WWIA. These funds will go to support the local Bayfield Cast and Blast event, currently celebrating its 8th year of serving our combat-wound veterans. Thank you to Patrick J. Foat, owner of PJ's Cabin Store, and to the amazing Northwoods community for your patriotism and support of WWIA and our Purple Heart Heroes throughout the years.

Help Support WWIA and our Heroes with Your CFC Pledge!

September 21, 2020 - January 15, 2021



Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) season is officially underway! 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 appreciate your support in advance and for all you do to help us spread the message and mission of WWIA. We thank you in advance for your consideration and for your faithful support as you partner with us.

WWIA October Spotlight





This month, we proudly introduce you to Mark Broda. Mark proudly serves as a Guide for WWIA and enjoys helping lead and facilitate his fellow Heroes on events across the country. We are honored that Mark has agreed to share some of his thoughts and experiences with us and hope you enjoy getting to know another member of our WWIA family.

Mark, can you please give us a brief introduction and tell us a little about yourself and your family?

Hello, my name is Mark Broda and I am a native Hoosier currently residing in Avon, Indiana with my wonderful wife Kate, my 15-year-old son Cullen and our lovable golden retriever, Murphy. I entered the United States Air Force in 1992 and completed an extended enlistment in 1996 as a Survival Equipment Specialist, aka Parachute Rigger. The majority of my enlistment was spent at Shaw AFB in SC, although I did do a few stints in the Middle East, which is where I was wounded in 1996 at the Khobar Towers bombing.

Coming back home to Indiana, I completed a Bachelor of Science in Computer Technology from Purdue University and have been in the IT field ever since. I am currently an IT Project Manager with the Department of Veteran's Affairs with just over 17 years of service. I love the fact that I get to continue serving my country by serving my fellow veteran brothers and sisters at the VA.

I've always enjoyed the outdoors and although my hunting interests seem to be dwindling as I get older, there is nothing more enjoyable than wetting a line and soaking in mother nature!

How did you first get involved with WWIA?

Oddly enough, I ran into Lt. Col. John McDaniel at Reagan International Airport waiting on a flight. As we stoked up a conversation and he gave me his card I said I had just read about his organization in the Purple Heart Magazine. He asked why I read that publication and I just said "well, as a Life Member they send me the magazine so I feel obliged to read it!" We chatted some more and he invited me to get on the website and sign up after I returned home and I was blessed with the Foundation taking me up to the Northwoods of Wisconsin for a fishing event. On that event I had an overwhelming feeling of needing to get involved in their mission! Ever since, I've been trying to bring value to the organization in any way I can.

Why do you choose to be a WWIA Guide on our events?

The most important reason I choose to be a WWIA Guide is that I have witnessed first-hand what the great outdoors can do for someone! So many of our Purple Heart Heroes had (or still have) an affinity for the outdoors and have lost touch with it due to their injuries and exposure to traumatic events. Our events give them the opportunity to reconnect with it and

to do so with other veterans that have had similar experiences themselves. By being a Guide, I get to be a part of that connection. I get to assist in bringing them an experience in which they can lay their burdens aside and have an awesome time that hopefully has lifelong impacts with new lifelong friends and support.

In addition, I'm a very social individual and as a Guide I get to interact with so many people, from our incredible Heroes to our gracious Hosts, as well as supporters and volunteers. I thoroughly enjoy using that interaction to make a positive impact, on all of them.

What has been the biggest benefit for you since becoming involved with WWIA?

This is two-fold for me. From an outward perspective, the biggest benefit is seeing the impact on our Heroes and building lifelong relationships with them. These benefits last so much longer than the events themselves. Seeing someone grow and overcome their difficulties is amazing and has a profound impact on me as well. From an inward perspective, I find that leading an event provides a recharging of sorts for me. Don't get me wrong, I'm usually beat by the end of an event, but I always return home centered, balanced and recharged to take on my own struggles. The overall benefits are really limitless when you really try to analyze it.

What is something you would like others to know about WWIA and your own experience with the Foundation?

This group of people are truly awesome, down to earth, friendly people! I have had some life-changing experiences with my own health and my relationships with family and friends have greatly benefited. If you have an opportunity to go on an event, definitely do it. The communities and volunteers that go out of their way, spend their own money, and take away time from their families and friends, to provide this for you is absolutely humbling! To witness first-hand the amount of appreciation, respect, and love people and communities show you on these events will change your life, give you hope, and convey a different appreciation for our great country!

What would you say to others who are considering getting involved with WWIA either as a Hero or in any other capacity?

I think the biggest overlooked benefit of the Foundation is the community impact. I bring this up not to overshadow our mission which truly focuses on our Purple Heart Heroes, but to bring to light the impact on everyone else that makes our mission achievable. On every single event I've ever been involved with there has always been a large community of supporters. From our Hosts that literally step up and create the event opportunities and fundraise, to the army of volunteers needed to execute an event. There is never a shortage of help, and let's not forget about the incredible staff we have that always make it happen. The other organizations that seem to always be there like the American Legion or the Military Order of Purple Heart, are realizing their own mission by supporting ours, and it's incredible. The local community and businesses are so welcoming and generous. There is nothing like seeing how patriotic our country is in person when what we see on television seems to be quite the contrary. WWIA provides people the opportunity to serve their country in a unique, gratifying, and fulfilling way!

I am so grateful to the WWIA for so many incredible memories and opportunities, I know it has made a definitive and positive impact on me personally and so many others! The value in the relationships alone is immeasurable. ~ God Bless America!





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:

Clayette Montee \$572.05 (via CARS vehicle donation)

James Tamlyn \$659.55 (via CARS vehicle donation)

Donations toward 11th Annual MO-KAN

Ducks & Bucks Hunt

AmWINS Brokerage of Florida \$2,500

Donations toward 7th Annual DoubleCreek TN Whitetail Deer Hunt

The NRA Foundation \$2,796

Donations toward 14th Annual Camp Hackett Events

River's Edge Bar \$1,822

Donations toward 6th Annual Eagle River Muskie

Chal-Lunge

The Nutty Squirrel \$500

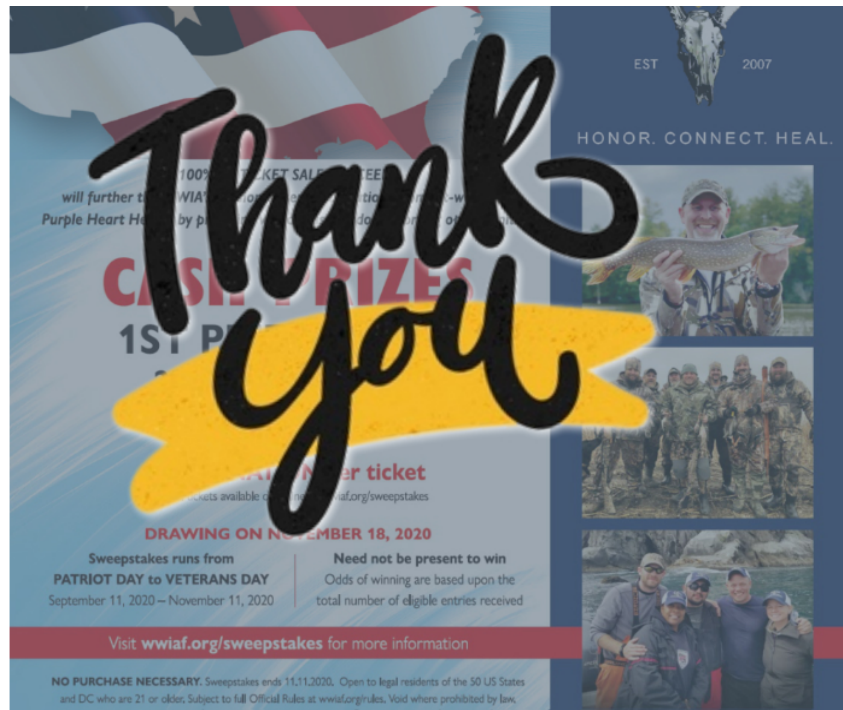
Donations toward 8th Annual Murphy Family and Friends Mississippi Hog Hunt

Mark Broda \$500

2020 WWIA Sweepstakes

September 11 - November 11, 2020





We would like to extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to everyone who participated in the WWIA Sweepstakes and congratulations to all our winners! (Official winners list can be found [here](#) (winners list will be posted once the winners have been verified and contacted per official rules). We are grateful for your incredible generosity and tremendous support of WWIA and our Heroes, thank you!

Share Your WWIA Experience with Others!



NONPROFIT

WWIA is honored to have been rated a top-rated nonprofit in 2020! Thank you to everyone who took time to share your experience and feedback to help us achieve this wonderful honor over the past 6 years! If you haven't shared your own WWIA experience, would you please consider leaving us a review? We sincerely appreciate your support of WWIA & our Purple Heart Heroes. Click [here](#) to share your own WWIA story and to read what others have had to say. Thank you!

Order from Ammo.com and Help our Heroes!



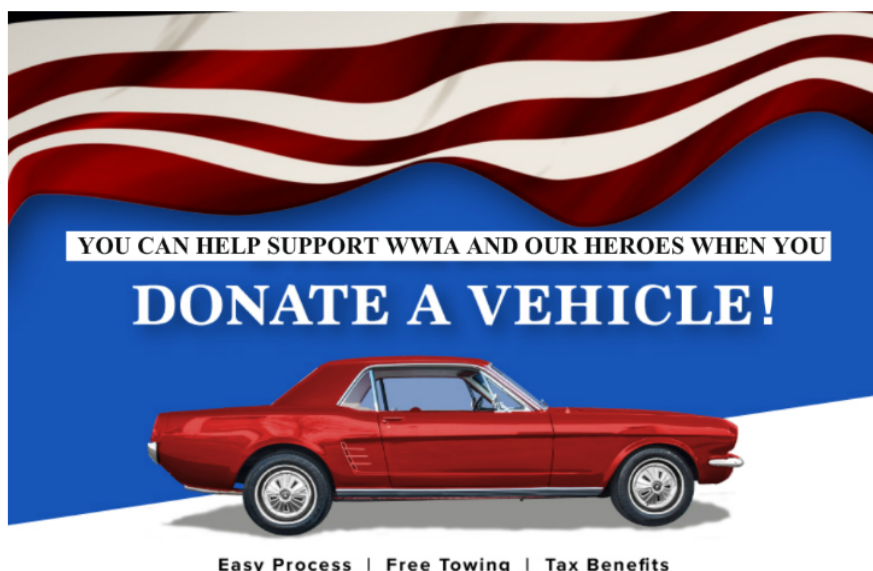
When it comes time to order your ammunition, please consider ordering from [Ammo.com](https://ammo.com). Ammo.com has partnered with WWIA, so whenever you purchase your ammo from them, they graciously donate 1% of your entire purchase back to the Foundation. Ammo.com has donated an incredible \$15,498 since last year through their Freedom Fighter program! All you have to do is select WWIA as your preferred "Freedom Fighter" option from the drop-down menu at checkout. And right now, you can also save 20% off 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](https://ammo.com) for their tremendous support and to everyone who chose WWIA as their "Freedom Fighter" designation when ordering previously. We are honored by your support of WWIA and our Heroes and applaud your outstanding patriotism!

Shop and Support WWIA Through Amazon Smile!



You can help support WWIA whenever you shop at Amazon through the Amazon Smile program! Simply click [HERE](#) to be taken to the Amazon Smile page, select Wounded Warriors in Action Foundation as your preferred charity; and anytime you shop at Amazon a portion of your purchase will go to support WWIA and our Purple Heart Heroes! Be sure to tell others, as it's a simple way to support us while shopping.

Help Support WWIA Through Your Vehicle Donation!



1-855-500-RIDE



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!

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!

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)

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