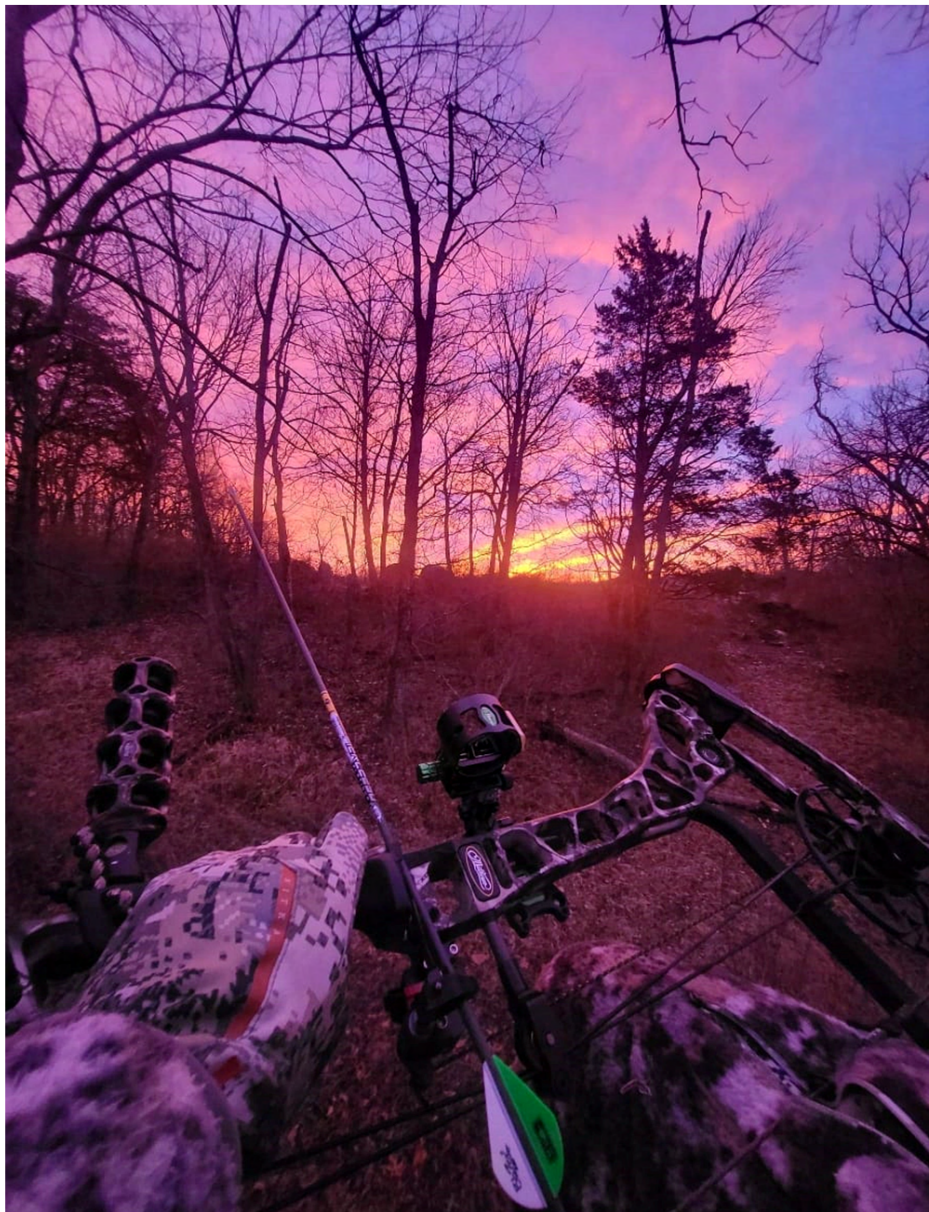




## NOTES FROM THE FIELD: Dec. 2023 - Mar. 2024



A beautiful early morning sunrise at the 12th Annual SW Ohio Ducks and Bucks Hunt. Photograph courtesy of WWIA Guides, Jake Whipkey and Derek VanBuren.

WWIA proudly hosted eight spectacular world-class events for our Heroes from December through March that included fishing, hunting for deer, quail, waterfowl, as well as the beloved woodturning event. There were also some exceptional fundraising events held to help us further our mission and outreach. We could not be more grateful for the incredible fundraising efforts that take place throughout the year on behalf of WWIA and our combat-wounded veterans. The dedication and selflessness of our patriotic supporters is second-to-none, and we thank you all for not only telling others about the work we are doing together, but for showing them first-hand through your thoughtful actions and your generous giving. You are truly changing hearts, minds, and lives! We remain grateful and humbled by your support, and are proud to call you our partners and friends. Thank you! 💜

---



## EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

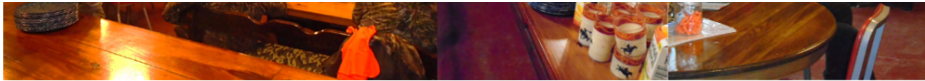
---

### 10th Annual DoubleCreek TN Rifle Deer Hunt

*December 1-3 Hohenwald, TN*







Four of our Purple Heart Heroes traveled to scenic Hohenwald, Tennessee to take part in the 10th Annual DoubleCreek Lodge TN Whitetail Deer Rifle Hunt. Upon arrival and once settled in, everyone was given a quick tour, and then enjoyed an amazing homemade dinner of brisket, mashed potatoes, honey carrots, and salad with their Hosts and local volunteers while everyone got to know one another over great conversation and laughs. The remainder of the evening was spent relaxing around the firepit and talking about the next day's hunt.

Our Heroes rose at 4:00am, grabbed a hearty breakfast, then met up with their local guides. There was a discussion about safety and ethical hunting, then everyone headed out to their respective hunting spots before daybreak. The morning light gave way to rainy weather, so the decision was made to hunt from ground blinds. Although there was a great deal of deer activity and two nice-sized bucks were seen, their distance prevented a reasonable shot from being made. Our Heroes broke for a well-deserved lunch as well as a quick nap and then loaded back up into the side-by-side ATV's to return for an afternoon hunt. Unfortunately, there were no deer taken, but everyone's spirits remained high and they had an enjoyable time in the field. They headed back to get cleaned up and there were plenty of smiles and stories shared over dinner, which consisted of sausage pasta, salad, and garlic bread. After some relaxing post-dinner downtime, stand and blind locations for the next morning's hunt were discussed and changed up, then everyone turned in for a good night's rest.

Another early morning was welcomed by our Heroes as they feasted on a breakfast of cheese and egg muffins, biscuits and gravy, homemade donuts and bacon, then the Heroes proceeded to their designated places full of anticipation for another great day in the field. The morning hunt was fruitful, with an impressive eight-point buck taken by one of our Heroes. Following lunch, there was a great deal of deer activity, and another doe was harvested. After the evening hunt and another wonderful dinner, the deer were processed and placed in coolers for the trip home. The Heroes, Hosts, and guides spent time talking about their incredible visit to DoubleCreek Lodge over the past few days and how grateful they were for this opportunity.

Our appreciation and thanks to Dennis Reynolds and Shelley Cohen for another outstanding event. We are honored by your impeccable dedication and care of our Heroes year after year. Additional gratitude to the local volunteers, guides, and donors who go above and beyond to make this event possible for our combat-wounded veterans. Special recognition and thanks to WWIA Lead Associate Chris Ritchie for his support and assistance throughout this memorable mission.

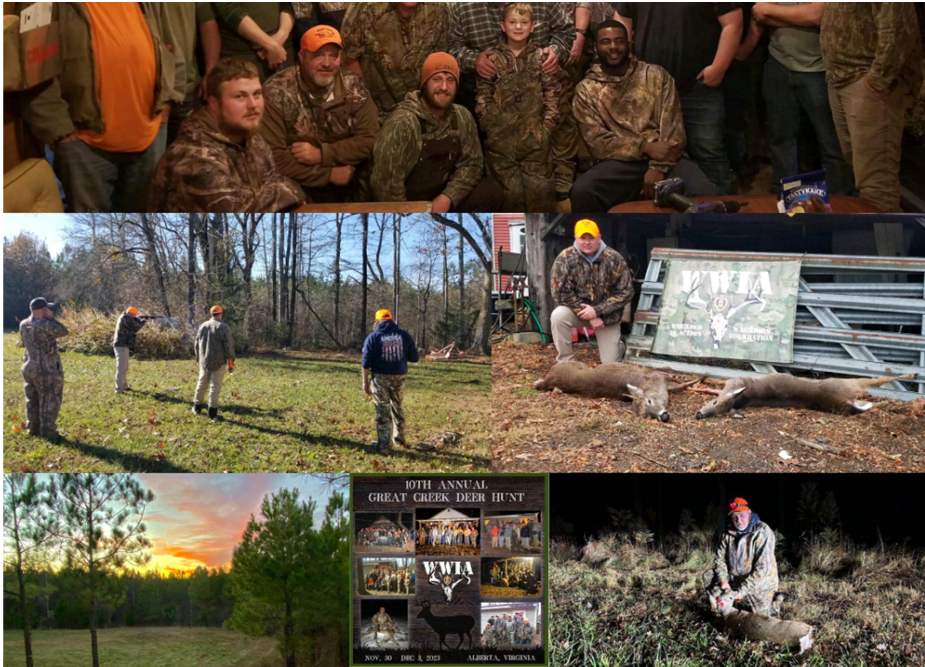
*"We showed up on 1 December, and the meet and greet was awesome. We met each of our guides and the farm was gorgeous. We hunted for two days and had great fellowship, meeting friends for life. The volunteers were awesome. Ms. Shelley and Mr. Dennis were the best Hosts. Thank you to WWIA and Chris for a great opportunity to get together with some of the best people in Tennessee."*

---

## 10th Annual Great Creek Hunt Club Deer Hunt

**November 30 - December 3    Alberta, VA**





Four of our Purple Heart Heroes gathered in Alberta, Virginia, to take part in exceptional deer hunting, camaraderie, and fun at the 10th Annual Great Creek Hunt Club Deer Hunt. This four-day excursion allowed for outstanding hunting opportunities from stands, blinds, and even with the assistance of dogs. After our Heroes arrived, they settled into their accommodations, received a safety briefing, and had time to familiarize themselves with their weapons in addition to getting in some valuable practice at the shooting range. A few of the Heroes decided to get into their deer stands and have a quick evening hunt. They spent the remainder of the evening relaxing over dinner and getting acquainted with their fellow Heroes and Hosts.

Our Heroes loved their time in the field and were successful with multiple deer being harvested over the course of their stay. Everyone raved about the opportunity to hunt with dogs, and were grateful for the camaraderie, expertise, and skill provided by their local hunting guides. This trip proved to be just what our Warriors needed, giving them an ideal balance of excitement and relaxation in a beautiful and serene environment. After their daily hunts had concluded, there was lots of downtime to fellowship, talk about shared experiences around the dinner table, and to build new friendships while sitting around the campfire. The food served throughout this event was second-to-none, as they enjoyed meals such as Brunswick stew, homemade spaghetti, bacon-wrapped venison, and a traditional southern boil.

This exceptional event would not have been possible without the generosity and support of Hosts Andy Wilson, the Great Creek Hunt Club, and their amazing event supporters. Additional appreciation and thanks to Pat Wilson, Karl Solos and [Colonial Honda](#), [Portabellas Restaurant](#), Mike and April Woody of [Bon Air Exteriors](#), Mike Tripp, and Dwayne Hawthorne. Thank you all for honoring our Heroes with your time, talents, hospitality and care. Special recognition and thanks to WWIA Guide Tim Spence for his tremendous leadership and support.

*"This was a great weekend. We were treated as one of the guys and part of the family from the get-go. They bent over backwards to get us everything we needed anytime we needed it. They did everything in their power to get us on animals. The hospitality was first class. This event was special, they let us be one of the guys and allowed us to reconnect and relax. This was a great and rewarding experience and was truly needed."*

---

## 5th Naples New York VFW Big Buck Hunt



## December 7-11 Naples, NY



The 5th Annual Naples New York VFW Big Buck Hunt proudly welcomed three of our Purple Heart Heroes to Naples, New York to experience top-tier deer hunting over 5 days. Our Heroes arrived at the cabin, got settled into their accommodations, and gathered around the table for a delicious meal of scalloped potatoes with ham that was generously provided by local residents. After lunch, everyone was able to sight in their rifles and get in some target practice before heading out for a quick evening hunt. Although some deer were seen, none were close enough for a good shot. Later that evening, our Warriors headed over to the Naples VFW for an exceptional welcome dinner where they feasted on venison bites, smoked venison chili, fried wild caught fish, cornbread, and a plethora of dessert options. It was a wonderful time spent with kind and gracious people from the local community who went out of their way to show their gratitude and appreciation for our Heroes.

The first morning of hunting was fantastic! Everyone arose early, grabbed a quick breakfast, some coffee and dispersed to their assigned tree stands. The deer were on the move right away and two nice young bucks were harvested just minutes after sunrise. The deer were taken back to camp and processed by volunteers from the [James R. Moore VFW Post 8726](#), then everyone grabbed some brunch before heading back out for more hunting. The deer remained active throughout the evening and Hero Roy harvested a respectable doe. Our Heroes returned to camp after a successful day in the field. They enjoyed a delicious fish fry courtesy of the VFW while chatting about their exciting day and sharing laughs and stories late into the evening.

The next morning, everyone headed over to Nunda, NY to hunt at a new property. Just as the day before, the deer were plentiful and active with our Heroes harvesting a total of seven deer. The deer were taken to the processor and dinner was had at a local Naples restaurant..... It was a long but fruitful day of hunting, and our Heroes welcomed a well-deserved night of rest and recovery.

The forecast called for rain on their final day in New York, but two of the Heroes



The forecast called for rain on their final day in New York, but two of the Heroes decided to try and get in one hunt early morning and one after lunch. There were a few opportunities, but no deer were taken. Nonetheless, it was a great time, and the Heroes were grateful to get back out before the inclement weather moved in. That evening, the [James R. Moore VFW Post 8726](#) hosted a magnificent banquet dinner in our Heroes honor. It was the perfect exclamation point to a wonderful time spent in New York.

As our Heroes headed home, they each left with coolers full of deer meat, new friendships formed, and memories that will resonate for years to come. This event would not have been possible without the generosity and outstanding efforts of Hosts Rick Sawyer and Jason Perry. Additional recognition and thanks to the River Road Hunt Club, Steve Mehrlrose, Conner Mann, [Canandaigua VFW Post 7414](#), [Penn Yan Elks Club #1722](#), Becker Poultry, [Redwood Restaurant](#), [Luigis Pizza](#), Josh Verhague and Tim Fay of the [NY Conservation Officers Association](#), Glen Sawyer, Billy Martin, Brett Pierce, Dan Berryman, Steve and Jeanette Ducker, Maxfield Hose Company, [Pooler Enterprises](#), Todd Carpenter, and [Moose Lodge 2030](#).

*"I had a great weekend experience. I loved the terrain and the people who hosted the event. I never knew how awesome New York State could be. Thank you very much for the experience. I will never forget it."*

---

## Inaugural Mid-Missouri Whitetail Muzzleloader Event

**December 28, 2023 - January 1, 2024    Fulton, MO**



What better way to end the year than with a new hunting opportunity for our Heroes. Four of our combat-wounded recipients converged on Fulton, Missouri to partake in 5 days of world-class hunting at the Inaugural Mid-Missouri Whitetail



Muzzleloader Event. Once everyone settled into their accommodations, greetings were exchanged, and a quick tour was given. Co-Host, Crystal brought an incredible homemade moose chili for lunch along with some additional sides. After lunch, Steve Maupin of H&G Outdoors presented each Hero with a new Traditions NitroFire Muzzleloader complete with scope, accessories, and ammo. These were graciously gifted by the owner of [Traditions Firearms](#). Greg Trowbridge of the local Whitetails Unlimited Chapter also gave the Heroes a gear bag that contained hats, knives, and a [Whitetails Unlimited](#) membership. Later that evening, everyone headed over to the [Owl Creek Gun Club](#) to zero their new guns and spend some time at the shooting range. The remainder of the night was spent talking about the plan for the next day's hunt and getting better acquainted.

Everyone rose by 5:30am and grabbed some snacks and coffee before heading out to meet their local guides and head to different farms in the area to setup for their morning hunt. A fresh snow had fallen overnight and although some deer were seen, no good opportunities were available. The Heroes and guides reenergized with some brunch consisting of a sausage, cheese, and egg bake and some French toast casserole. Then, plans were discussed for the afternoon's hunt, and everyone returned to their blinds in hopes of a successful hunt. Although there were multiple encounters with deer, turkeys, squirrel, and crows, no deer were harvested. Later that evening, everyone assembled at the [VFW Post 2657](#) to enjoy a delicious fish fry while sharing good hunting stories, and even better company. They returned to camp and the rest of the evening was spent having conversations and laughs before turning in for the night.

The morning of day two, our Heroes had a wonderful brunch prepared by Caroline that everyone raved about. Then, Crystal took some of the Heroes to a local antique shop that looked like a museum from a long-gone era. It was quite impressive and well worth a visit. By the time they arrived back at camp, the snow had given way to a beautiful sunny day. This encouraged greater deer activity, and as the Heroes hit the field, they were able to harvest two bucks and a doe. They returned to camp and quickly processed all three deer. After an awesome day of hunting, they shared a hearty meal with local supporters, volunteers, and their hunting guides perfectly prepared by Dave Young that included ribs, pork, steak, sides and desserts galore, as an entire table was filled with pies, cookies, brownies, and more sweets. It was a great day followed by a wonderful evening spent amongst new friends.

Our Heroes were up early for their final day of hunting as they got into their blinds full of anticipation. Unfortunately, the morning was relatively quiet with little to no movement across the area. Our Heroes were still all smiles as they returned for an early brunch and then headed out to set some coyote snares. By 1300, everyone was back in the field and ready to hunt again. The final evening found success with a nice doe and a dandy buck harvested. The two deer were processed at camp and then one of the local supporters, Tim, showed everyone how a champion racoon hound works. This final evening also happened to be the end of the year, and everyone turned in grateful for an ideal ending to their December and excited for a phenomenal start to 2024. The Heroes returned home with lots of venison, tall tales, a sense of peace and belonging, and new friendships to boot.

This phenomenal new event ticked off all the boxes for our combat-wounded Warriors and it was expertly conducted by Hosts Bryan McCown and Crystal Masek. Special thanks to the Underwood family, Greg Trowbridge of [Whitetails Unlimited](#), [VFW Post 2657](#), Steve Maupin of H&G Outdoors, John McGrath of [Owl Creek Gun Club](#), Scott Jordan of Jordan Taxidermy, Dave & Marcia Lamons, Arnie Staats, Josh and Jake Long of [Glovecon](#), Loretta Lewis, and Terry & Rae Gielau. Additional thanks to WWIA Guide Jeremy Smith for his contributions and assistance throughout the event.

*"As I write this, I had trouble deciding what to write. Often in life, we are faced with many challenges that are very difficult. Having served over 20 years in the army and being deployed in combat, I now face a new challenge. I received my VA rating and have a new job. Despite all of this, I am challenged to understand myself, to slow down and to find my love. WWIA has helped me connect to the true love I have of being in nature. Being able to share my experiences with others and knowing that they*

*understand is extremely helpful. Having a community that appreciates what we have done is validation of our service to this nation. As I continue to heal, to reflect, to share my life with others in the same community, I realize my stress and anxiety levels decrease. I found a piece that I have desired and sought after. My hope is that other PH Recipient can experience what I have with WWIA. This type of process works. The community cares, and there is healing here. Thank you, WWIA!"*

---

## 12th Annual SW Ohio Ducks & Bucks Hunt

**January 11-15 Franklin, OH**



The 12th Annual Southwest Ohio Ducks and Bucks Hunt welcomed six of our combat-wounded Warriors to Waynesville, Ohio to kick off the new year with some superb hunting, hospitality, and bonding between brothers over five days. This awesome event offered the right combination of relaxation, restoration, and quality time in the field for our Heroes as they were able to enjoy both waterfowl and whitetail deer hunting.

Our Heroes arrived at the resort, settled in, and spent time sighting in their bows and crossbows. Then, everyone gathered to target shoot skeet and shared their excitement about the upcoming hunts. They would not be disappointed as the next three days were full of archery deer and waterfowl hunting and there were some impressive harvests between them. The hunting was memorable, but the friendships made throughout this trip eclipsed everything else.

This event continues to raise the bar, and the experiences and memories made throughout these five days will carry-on for years to come. Our gratitude and thanks to Hosts Dave Studenka, Dan Doll, and the phenomenal Southwest Ohio team of supporters for putting on another top-tier event, and for proudly honoring and serving our Heroes over the past twelve years! This event would not be possible without the dedication and selfless support of so many wonderful people



and businesses. Thanks to the Fromley family, Ken Staubitz, Don Staubitz, Mark Caskey, Joe Turner, Steven Souder, Spud Fife, Sam Adkins, Judd Powell, Nick Peth, and to WWIA Pro Staffer [Richard Wright](#) for their outstanding efforts and support. High praise and appreciation to Jared Neal for use of his duck hunting property, to Sam Morgan for access to his whitetail deer property, to Tim Bilinski for his whitetail guide services, and to Dave Wittersteater and Joe Duvelius for the use of their RV's. Our sincere thanks to [Safari Club International Southwest Ohio Chapter](#), [Cabela's](#), Northern Kentucky/Cincinnati Juice Club, [Rooster's](#), [Celanese Corporation](#), Miller's Campground, and [B&B Carryout](#). Special recognition and thanks to WWIA Guide Jake Whipkey for his leadership and attention to our Heroes throughout the trip.

*"During this event I was blown away with the professionalism and dedication from all of the people involved in making sure we connected with each other and continued the healing process. This trip was very beneficial for me because it allowed me to grow as a person and it also allowed me to see that there are people that still care about veterans. This trip, I believe, will help me become a better person as well as a better husband and father. Thanks again for this wonderful opportunity."*

## 13th Annual NC OBX Fins and Feathers Event

**January 17-21 Currituck, NC**



Six of our Heroes traveled to the Outer Banks of North Carolina for some world-class waterfowl hunting, fishing, great food, and bonding time with their fellow Purple Heart recipients. Celebrating thirteen years of honoring our Heroes, this event encapsulates how a community can come together to serve and give back to those who have given so much on our behalf.

This was evidenced by the tremendous outpouring of appreciation and gratitude shown to our Heroes throughout their stay. An example of this remarkable community involvement was shown as our Heroes arrived in Currituck as the [NC Patriot](#)



involvement was shown as our Heroes arrived in Currituck, as the [NC Patriot Guard](#), [Currituck County Sheriff](#), [Currituck County Fire Department](#), a local Jeep club, and hundreds of members of the local community gathered to welcome, honor and show their appreciation for our Heroes. They were given a large and memorable escort through town as members of the local community lined the streets, waving flags, holding up signs, applauding, cheering, and expressing their appreciation to our Heroes for their tremendous service and sacrifice. It was an incredible way to begin this memorable event and our Heroes were moved by the outpouring of care and the displays of gratitude and patriotism from this remarkable community.

The accommodations, food, and hospitality extended to our Heroes could not have been better. Our Heroes had an extraordinary time in the field hunting and harvesting duck and geese. They also had a great time on the water fishing for yellowfin tuna courtesy of [Hitman Sportfishing](#). As great as the hunting and fishing were, our combat-wounded Warriors appreciated the outstanding camaraderie, stories, laughter, and friendships made throughout the course of this event. This was unquestionably the highlight for everyone involved.

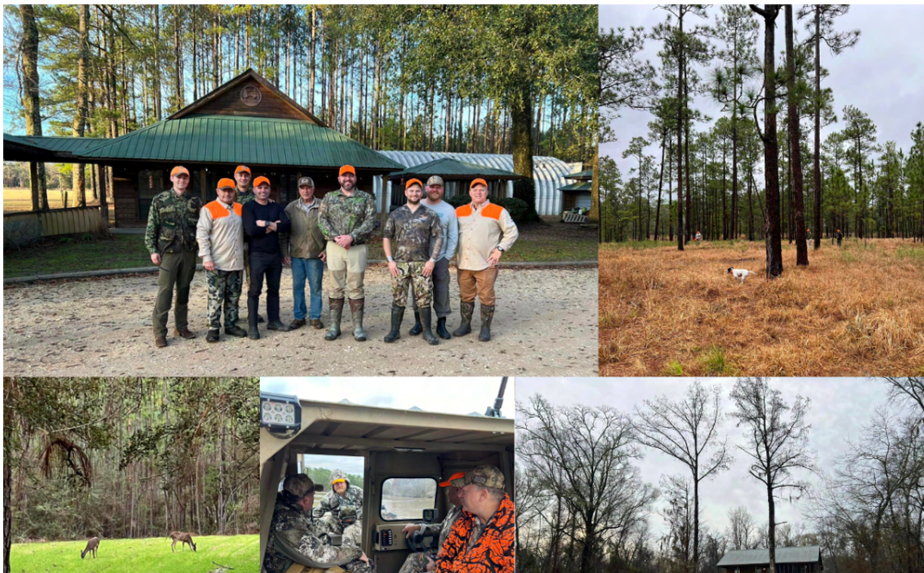
We would like to express our appreciation to all the stellar local businesses, restaurants, and community members that graciously served and honored our Heroes throughout their stay. Special thanks to Hosts Larry Beasley, Tim Brown, and Tim Spence for putting on another world-class event for our Heroes, to Brook Sparks for her fantastic coordination and support year after year, to the Kavanaugh's for their hospitality, to Chef Wes Stepp ([NC Coast Grill & Bar](#)) and his team for their culinary masterpieces, and [Holly's Creative Confections](#). Recognition and thanks to WWIA Guide, Nick Fox, and WWIA Lead Associate, Allen Pippin, for their contributions and care throughout the event.

*"This is my first time with WWIA, and I wasn't really sure what to expect. I am a kind of a stick to myself kind of guy, so I was a little nervous about it. I was met with open arms and made to feel comfortable from day one. The welcoming ceremony and ride in were amazing. It was great to see patriotism is still alive and well. Everyone went out of their way to make us all feel appreciated and special. I also met a guy here that I deployed with to Iraq and Afghanistan, what luck, it's such a small world. It was a great opportunity to talk about and remember people that I hadn't thought of in over 15 years. It was good to actually talk to someone and have them know what the hell I was talking about. This organization is such a great tool to get people like me out, talking with other veterans with similar experiences. Without WWIA these past few days of conversation wouldn't have been possible. I will definitely be recommending these events to other Purple Heart veterans."*

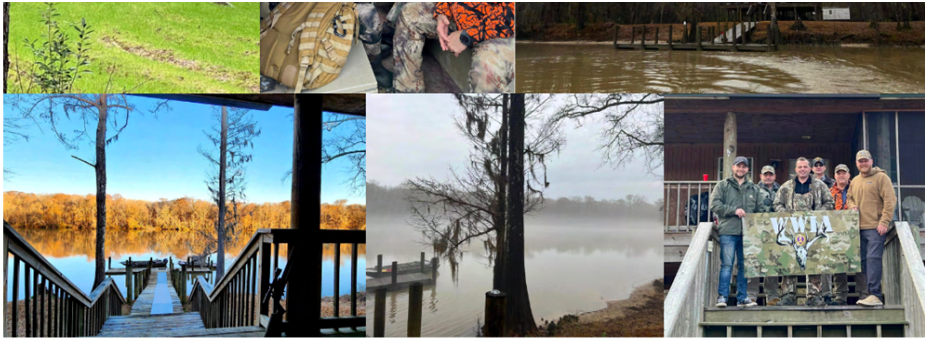
---

## 7th Annual Long Leaf Alabama Deer & Quail Hunt

**January 26-29 Bay Minette, AL**







Four of our combat-wounded Warriors journeyed to scenic Bay Minette, Alabama to enjoy four outstanding days at the 7th Annual Long Leaf Alabama Whitetail and Quail Hunt. Once arriving at camp, everyone was able to confirm and zero their weapons before going to the hunting blinds for an evening hunt. A nice doe was harvested the first evening, raising the excitement level and setting the tone for a great start to the event. Later that evening, everyone enjoyed a wonderful dinner along with great conversations as they got to know one another before turning in for the night.

Everyone woke early on Saturday for a quick breakfast, but unfortunately rain moved into the area, dampening their opportunity for a morning hunt. Nonetheless, our Heroes simply pivoted and decided to shoot skeet from the covered front porch and had an absolute blast. Later that afternoon, they headed out to the Davis Lake Quail Preserve for some guided hunting. Our Heroes broke up into two groups with their guides, conducted a safety briefing and ensured everyone knew the proper weapon orientation. This was an exceptional time as there was no shortage of quail harvested between the two groups. Our sincere thanks to Hamilton Smith, owner of [Dennis Lake/Hamilton Smith Deer and Quail Hunting Club](#) and his incredible guides for volunteering their time and expertise at the quail preserve. After a memorable day, everyone headed back to the lodge for another wonderful dinner, much-needed relaxation, and some quality fellowship. They spent the remainder of the evening sharing stories over dinner and planning for the upcoming day's hunt, then called it a night, exhausted from excitement of the day.

Our Heroes rose with anticipation the next morning and made their way to their respective hunting spots. There were deer seen throughout the morning and a nice buck was harvested along with a respectable doe. The harvested deer were taken to [Stockton Deer Processing](#) where their harvests were packed for our Heroes to take home with them. The last evening was spent sharing a meal together as everyone reflected on the incredible time spent in Alabama and sharing their gratitude for the memories and friendships that were made. We applaud and praise Host Andy McMillan, his family, and friends for hosting another spectacular event. Additional recognition and thanks to WWIA Guide Matt Brannon for his stellar support and attention throughout this event.

*"I want to thank this organization and volunteers for putting on an amazing event. This event was just what I needed, mentally. Just being able to relax and connect with everyone was so therapeutic. I truly felt like family the entire time from the beginning to the end. As a veteran, let alone a wounded veteran it's such a breath of fresh air to see other vets like me, realize that they are not alone. This experience was so helpful in many ways, too many to count."*

---

## 10th Annual Wisconsin Woodturning Event

**February 4-9 Kronenwetter, Wisconsin**





Proudly celebrating a decade of honoring and serving America's combat-wounded veterans, the 10th Annual Wisconsin Woodturning event brought four of our Heroes together over six days to learn a unique and valuable skillset. Woodturning is not only enjoyable, but therapeutic, as it reduces stress and anxiety, improves mood, fosters concentration and connection, as well as increasing creative expression. Our Heroes were instructed in the art of woodturning and fashioned beautiful handcrafted wooden items, including plates and bowls, fancy round boxes, spinning tops, game calls, wands, cups, candle holders and rolling pins. The number of items crafted by the Heroes was impressive and the quality was exceptional. The camaraderie among the entire group was fantastic, and their ability to share experiences and stories throughout the event only added to the bonds formed among these brothers. The time spent in Wisconsin during this event will be remembered forever, not just from the things that were learned or the items crafted, but importantly, the new friendships that were formed.

Our heartfelt recognition and thanks to Tony Kopchinski for graciously hosting our Heroes and for his incredible hospitality and guidance throughout this event and over the years. Our appreciation and gratitude to Tony's friends and fellow instructors: Jeff Manor, Al Daul, and Bob Stavran for sharing their time, knowledge, and skills with our Heroes. Additional thanks to Man of Honor Society, Curt Day of Wausau Tax and Accounting, Kathleen Anderson, The Bar, Mike Piel Focus Financial, Patrick Bradley of My Family CFO, Mark Petitt, John Chance, and to Mike Banderob for his contributions, support, and assistance.

If you want to learn more about this unique event, a local news station, [WSAW-TV](#) previously featured Tony and his woodturning event on their broadcast. This news [segment](#) gives a wonderful look behind the scenes at this exceptional mission and how it positively impacts the lives of our combat-wounded veterans. Be sure to check it out [here](#).

*"What an amazing experience! I had the best time learning a new skill. I've never turned wood before but feel very proficient now. Jeff helped me throughout the week and always insured I was safe, learning, and having fun. Tony was and is such an amazing and genuinely kindhearted man. This whole trip and experience has given me a mental refresh and a few new friends. Thank you so much."*



## 2024 WWIA Southern Vermont Chapter Florida Fishing

February 16-18 Punta Gorda, FL



We want to recognize and express our sincere appreciation to Mark Hamilton and Kristy Keir, and to Mike and Debi Davenport from the [WWIA Southern Vermont Chapter](#). Mark and Kristy were our honored guests at our 2024 Southern Vermont Chapter Punta Gorda Fishing Excursion, held February 16th-18th, and were accompanied by Vermont Chapter President Mike Davenport and Vermont Chapter Treasurer Debi Davenport for a weekend full of sun and fun. Mark is an entrepreneur, owning and managing several successful businesses, including Hamilton Home Improvement and East Road Market and Deli. He is also a contractor and an avid outdoorsman. Kristy is a proud kindergarten teacher and she and Mark are engaged and plan to marry this coming July 4th! (Congratulations!)

This exciting all-inclusive trip was held at Fishermen's Village in Punta Gorda, Florida, and was offered as a raffle prize during the 2023 Southern Vermont Chapter Fundraising Dinner where their community raised \$71,835.08! This weekend excursion included lodging, a full day of fishing, fresh southern and seafood dinners throughout their stay, shopping, and some time spent enjoying the sights around beautiful Punta Gorda.

Mike, Mark, and WWIA Founder and CEO, John McDaniel, hit the water and had an awesome time as they caught a variety of fish while sharing stories, laughs, and enjoying great conversation throughout the day. They brought in some nice Jack Crevalle, snook, and speckled sea trout during their time together. None of this would have been possible without the expertise and guidance of Captain Mike Downs, from [Task Force Fishing Charters](#). Captain Mike is a Florida native who also serves as a Charlotte County Marine Operations Firefighter-Paramedic,

and he did a spectacular job putting everyone on fish. Thanks to Mike, it was a memorable and outstanding day on the water. While the gentlemen had their fill of fishing, Kristy and Debi enjoyed a day visiting boutiques, specialty shops, galleries, and restaurants. There was plenty more to do throughout the weekend and it was an exceptional time spent with some wonderful and faithful WWIA supporters.

We would like to honor and give special thanks to the entire WWIAF Southern Vermont Chapter for their stellar support and fundraising efforts throughout the years. The Southern Vermont Chapter is a WWIA Medal of Honor decorated patron, having raised over \$479,000 in support of our Heroes since 2013! JUST INCREDIBLE! We are humbled by your dedication and patriotism and honored by your tremendous support of WWIA and our Purple Heart Heroes! Thank you all! 🐟 🦞 🍷 🍴

---

## Hides for Heroes 2023 WWIA Fundraiser

*Waupaca, Wisconsin*



Please join us in recognizing and thanking Dave Hintz and the incredible [Hides for Heroes](#) team for their tremendous dedication and generosity on behalf of WWIA and our combat-wounded Purple Heart Heroes. As they do every year, Dave and his team worked tirelessly dropping off collection boxes, collecting them as they filled up, and then salted thousands of deer hides in preparation for sale. This is no easy task, especially during the winter months in Wisconsin! The monies from the sale of these hides are donated each year to WWIA to assist with local events at WWIA's Northern Healing Center, Camp Hackett in Phillips, Wisconsin. This was another record-breaking year, as the Hides for Heroes team donated an astonishing \$34,151.00! Wow! As a result of their selfless efforts and faithful support over the past 12 years, Hides for Heroes is a WWIA Medal of Honor

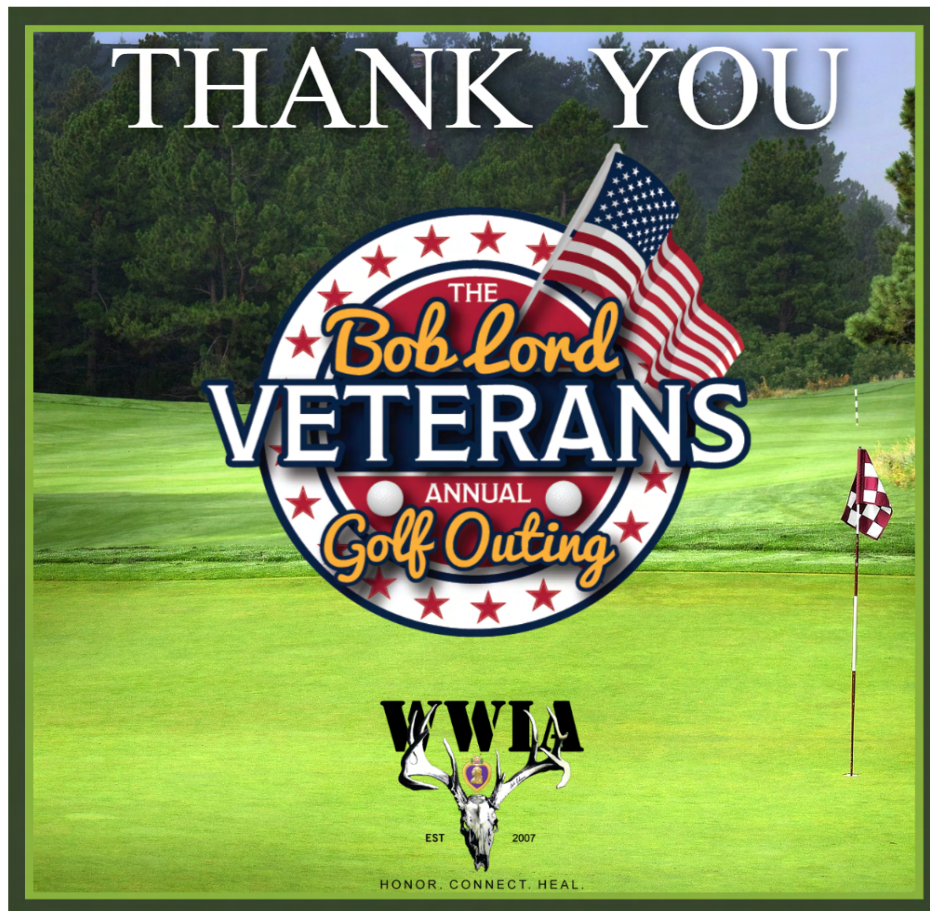


Patron, having graciously donated.....drumroll.....over \$186,000 to WWIA since 2012! INCREDIBLE!! We offer our gratitude and thanks, and salute Dave and the Hides for Heroes team for their remarkable work and support throughout the years! 🙌👏💜

---

## The 2023 Bob Lord Veterans Annual Golf Outing

*Indian Valley Country Club Telford, PA*



Our gratitude and thanks to The Bob Lord Veterans Annual Golf Outing for their incredibly generous donation of \$12,000 to WWIA. This outstanding annual golf tournament has been helping bring awareness and support to veterans for over 17 years. Graciously hosted by Mr. Bob Lord, a combat-wounded Vietnam Veteran and Purple Heart recipient, this event brings in over 100 golfers, civilians, and volunteers for a great time and a great cause. WWIA is humbled to have been chosen as a recipient of this long-standing charitable golf tournament. This donation will go toward supporting the annual Pennsylvania Cast & Blast event, which has been serving and honoring our Heroes for 10 incredible years!

High praise and appreciation to Bob Lord, Ryan Cantwell, John Choyka, and the [Indian Valley Country Club](#). Additional thanks to all the amazing volunteers, organizers, generous sponsors, and the teams and players who participated. Thank you once again for your tremendous support of WWIA and our Purple Heart Heroes. 🏌️👏

---





## **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:**

Eleanor Irvin \$7,000  
Lana Giving Fund \$5,086.40  
Widen Enterprises \$5,000  
Rosamaria Walling \$2,184.56 (via CARS Vehicle Donation)  
Jeff and JoAnn Carter Fund \$2,000  
Steven Meranda \$1,600.21  
LaCasa Del Sol \$1,500  
Good Life RV Resort \$1,500  
Joe and Julie Maslanka Fund \$1,500  
Hayes Bryan \$1,075  
Lynn Phimister \$1,000  
Oblander Gereghy Charitable Trust \$1,000  
Nelson Holt \$1,000

### **Donations toward 12th Lake Erie Trophy Walleye Fishing Event**

American Legion Dewey-Howlett Post #103 \$5,000  
VFW Post 7491 Ohio Charities \$2,500  
Diversident Management, Inc. \$1,500  
American Legion Riders Post #103 \$1,000  
Prout Boiler, Heating, and Welding, Inc. \$1,000  
Leetonia Steel Erectors, LLC \$1,000

### **Donations toward 17th Camp Hackett Events**

Pete Faust \$1,000

### **Donations toward 12th Annual Bayfield Cast & Blast**

Dawn Menard \$5,000 (in Memory of Larry Menard)

### **Donations toward 9th DoubleCreek TN Archery Deer Hunt**

Highland Corporation Charitable Fund \$1,000

### **Donations toward 10th Kuneytown FLX Ducks & Bucks Hunt**



Waste Connections \$5,400  
Anonymous \$1,600

**Donations toward 9th Eagle River Muskie Chal-Lunge**

James and Shawn Stemper \$2,500  
Walkabout Paddle and Apparell \$2,333.57  
Three Lakes Cheese Haus, LLC \$1,200  
Peri & Mark Tennikait \$1,000  
St. Germain Community Church of Christ/UCC Thrift \$1,000

**Donations toward 6th Annual North Dakota Pheasant Hunt**

Douglas Sportsman's Club \$4,000  
Garrison Area Improvement Association \$3,000  
American Legion Post 91 Gaming Post \$2,000

**Donations toward 12th SW OH Ducks & Bucks Hunt**

Ken Staubitz \$1,921.70

**Donations toward 13th MO-KAN Bucks, Ducks, & Trapping**

Arch Insurance Group \$5,000  
Scott & Misty Jensen \$5,000  
Howden Specialty Insurance \$4,804.70 (in honor of Ryan Van Meter)  
Anonymous \$3,000  
Greater Kansas Community Foundation  
Victory GMC \$2,500  
Nodaway Valley Bank \$1,000

**Donations toward 2nd Alabama Turkey & Hog Hunt**

Marshall County Legislative Delegation Fund \$5,000  
Marshall County Longbeards of Alabama \$1,000  
Sand Mountain Pest Management, LLC \$1,000

**Donations toward Inaugural NY Tuna & Striper Fishing**

A.D. McCann Foundation \$10,000

---

**Our Gratitude and Thanks to Our Friends  
and Partners at Fisher House!**





We would like to recognize and thank our friends and partners at [Fisher House Foundation](#) for their exceptional support of WWIA and our Purple Heart Heroes. Fisher House is a WWIA Medal of Honor Patron and has graciously provided over \$337,000 in airline flight tickets to our Heroes through their incredible Hero Miles Program. Phenomenal!

Their valued 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.

You can help support WWIA and Fisher House Foundation by donating airline miles. This is a great way to give back that makes a real difference. To get started, simply scan the QR code in the graphic below or click [here](#) to go to the Fisher House Foundation Hero Miles donation webpage. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration.

Our gratitude and thanks once again to Fisher House for your outstanding dedication, partnership, and faithful support in serving and honoring our Heroes throughout the years! 💜 ✈️

---

## **We Appreciate Ammo.com's Exceptional Partnership & Support!**



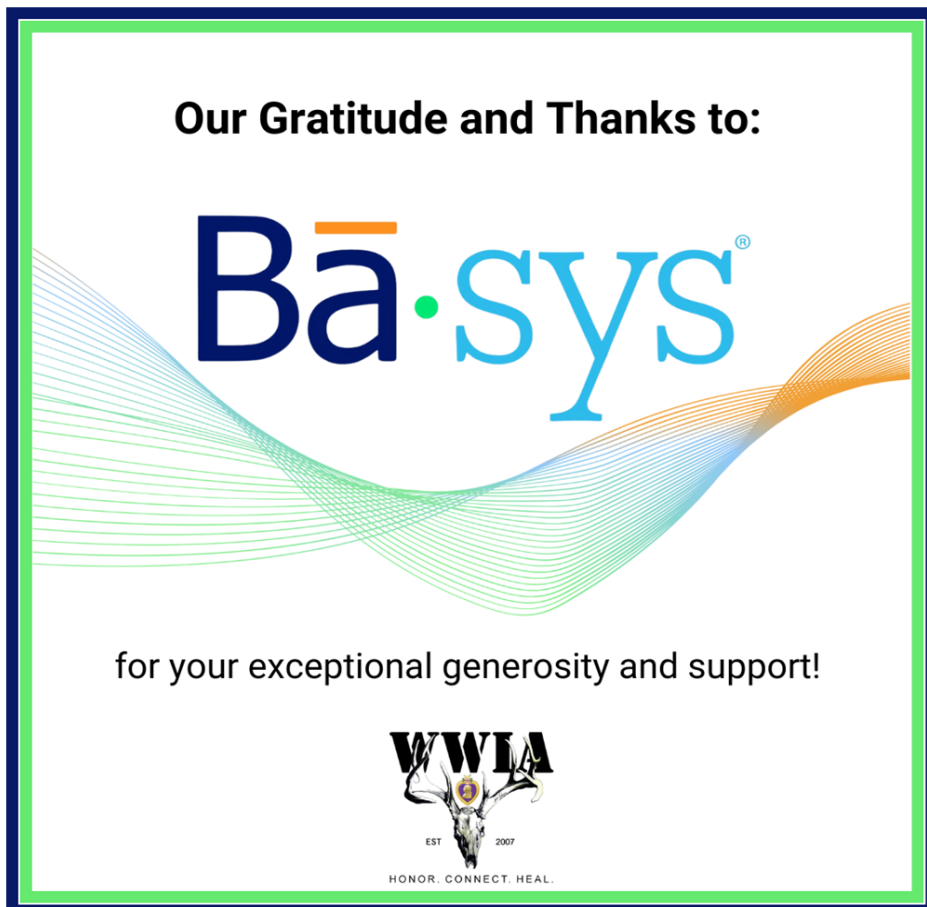




Please join us in recognizing and thanking our friends and partners at [Ammo.com](https://ammo.com) for their recent donation of \$10,525.64 to WWIA. These amazing Bronze Star Patrons have donated an incredible \$99,226.86 to WWIA and our Heroes since 2019 through their Freedom Fighter program. Wow! When it comes time to order your ammunition, please consider ordering from [Ammo.com](https://ammo.com). Whenever you purchase your ammo from them, they graciously donate 1% of your entire purchase back to WWIA. 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. We are honored by your generosity and partnership, and we applaud your outstanding patriotism!

---

### Recognition, Gratitude, and Thanks to Bā·sys!



Please join us in recognizing and thanking [Bā·sys Processing, Inc.](https://www.basysprocessing.com) and their outstanding employees for their incredible donation of \$10,500 to WWIA and our Purple Heart veterans. Bā·sys has a phenomenal program where they give

money to their employees to donate to the charity of their choice. We are humbled and honored that so many employees graciously chose WWIA as their charity recipient. Additional thanks to Kenny Thompson for helping educate and share the good news with others about the work WWIA is doing. This donation will go toward the local MO-KAN Ducks, Bucks, and Trapping Event. We truly appreciate Bā·sys and their employees for such a thoughtful and generous donation!

---

**What a Thoughtful & Gracious  
Donation From Cat 5 Jeepers!**



Please join us in expressing gratitude and thanks to the [CAT 5 Jeepers](#) for their incredibly generous donation of \$10,000 to WWIA. This donation will proudly support both the 2024 and 2025 North Carolina OBX Fins and Feathers events. Our sincere appreciation to the members of the Cat 5 Jeepers for their generosity, patriotism, and tremendous support of WWIA and our combat-wounded veterans!

---

**Thank You, HHA USA, for Your Outstanding  
Support and Generosity!**







Our gratitude and thanks to HHA USA for their incredibly generous donation of \$7,500.00 to WWIA. This thoughtful donation was raised through [HHA Sports, Inc.](https://www.hhasports.com), veterans/service members charitable organization, Operation [HHA USA](https://www.hhasports.com), which hosts archery shoots across Wisconsin to benefit military/veteran organizations like WWIA, and to bring the archery and veteran communities together. HHA is a valued partner of WWIA because we both understand how life-changing and healing it is to get our veterans into the great outdoors and to connect them with others. They have generously supported WWIA and other veteran service organizations since their inception, and we are honored to partner with them in helping bringing healing, restoration, and recognition to America's Heroes.

HHA Sports, Inc. has been leading the way in archery products & equipment for the past 40 years, and the past 14 as the leader in single pin technology, producing the award-winning line of American-made Tetra and Optimizer bow sights as well as arrow rests, stabilizers, and other high-quality archery accessories. Learn more about HHA Sports, their products, and Operation HHAUSA by visiting <https://www.hhasports.com>.

Our thanks again to Chris Hamm of HHA Sports and HHA USA, and the entire HHA Team for your outstanding patriotism and generosity!

## Thank You Advanced Welding Institute for Your Incredible Wine, Women, and Weld Donation!

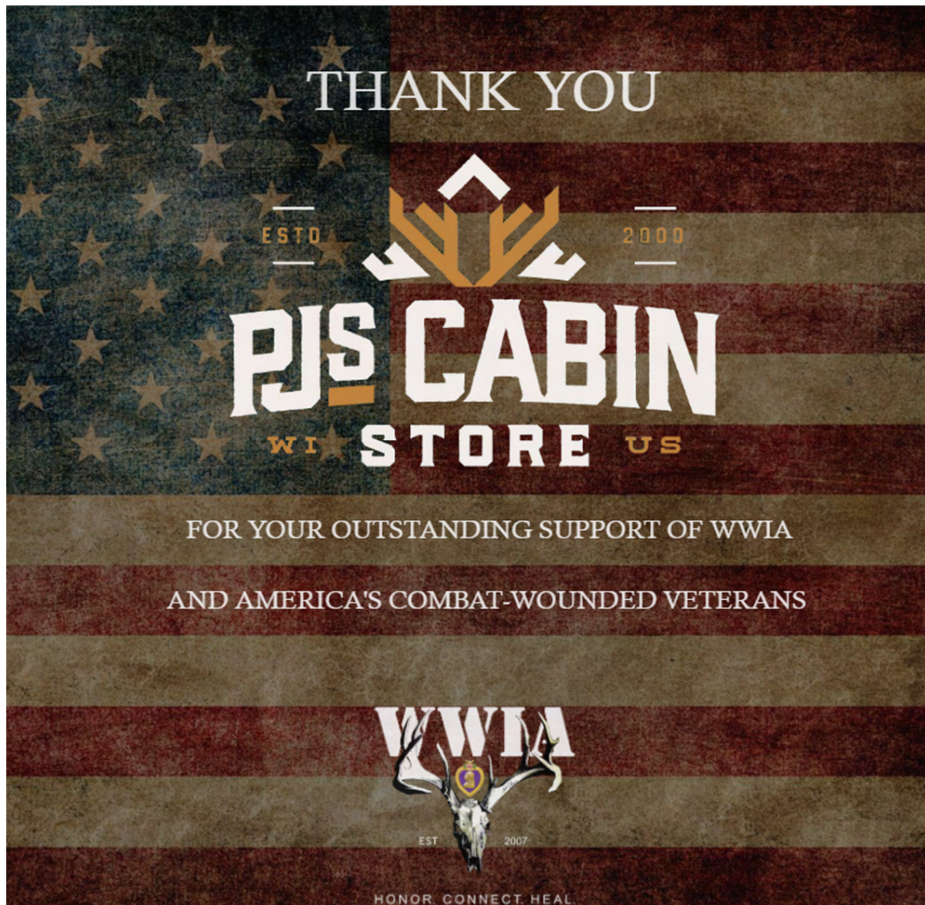






The [Advanced Welding Institute](#) (AWI) in Eagle River, Wisconsin held an awesome event called Wine, Women and Weld, while generously raising money to support WWIA and our combat-wounded Purple Heart Heroes. This super-cool idea brought 58 incredible women together to learn the art and skill of welding and featured delicious food, wine, camaraderie, and also included a raffle and auction. Through the generosity of the AWI and these wonderful women, a total of \$5,507.00 was raised! Incredible! This donation will go toward the upcoming 10th Annual Eagle River Muskie Chal-Lunge Event. Our sincere appreciation and thanks to Kathy Huber, Director of AWI, all the food and auction prize donors, the staff and volunteers who went above and beyond to make this event a record-setting and successful one, and of course the event attendees for their participation and generosity! 🍷

### PJ's Cabin Store, Thank You for Your Tremendous Support!

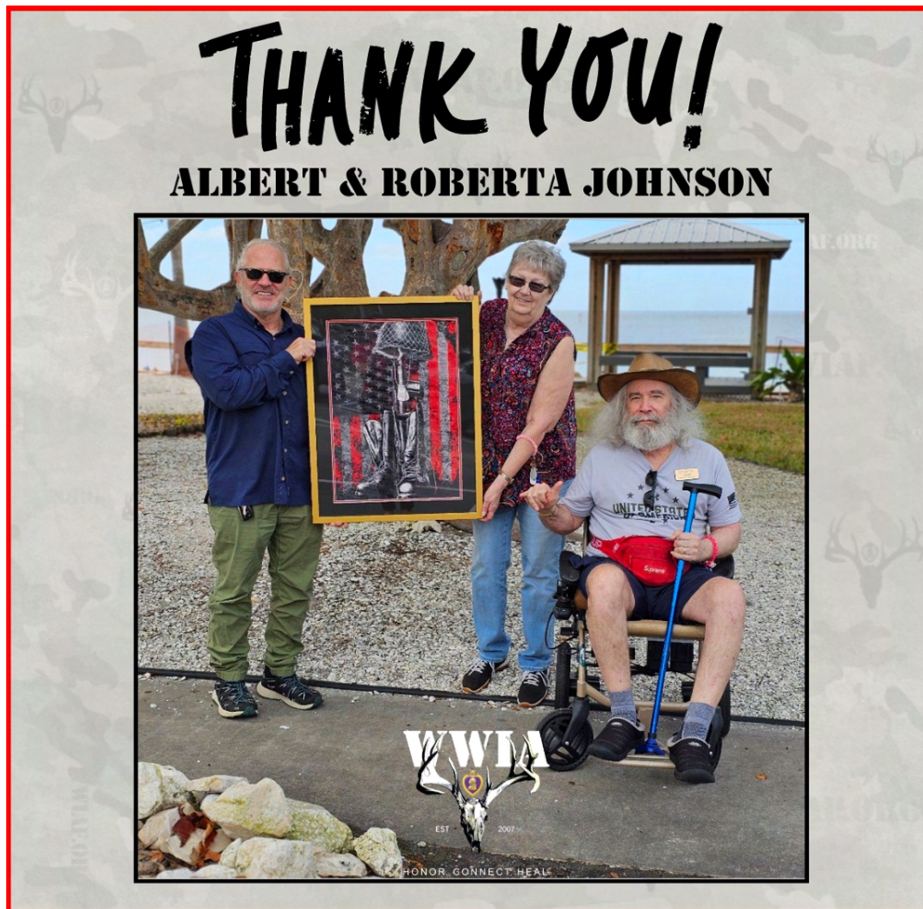


We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to [PJ's Cabin Store](#) in Solon Springs, Wisconsin for their recent donation of \$3,000. This generous



donation is the result of their annual "bucks on the wall" fundraising effort by PJ's. Patrons donate dollar bills by adhering them to the ceiling and walls. At the end of the year, those bills are collected, tallied, and graciously donated to WWIA. These funds will go to support the local Bayfield Cast and Blast event, which will celebrate its 12th year of serving our combat-wounded 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.

### High Praise & Gratitude to the Johnson's!



Please join us in recognizing and thanking two of our tremendous supporters and friends, Mr. and Mrs. Albert and Roberta Johnson. Albert and Roberta have been stellar supporters of our mission over the past few years and were kind enough to donate this beautiful framed diamond art picture to the Foundation. Roberta spent a great deal of time and effort working on this wonderful piece and it will find a special place at WWIA headquarters. They also generously donated \$1,000 to the Foundation. Our gratitude and thanks to Albert and Roberta for their outstanding support and generosity in helping us fulfill our mission to bring Honor, Connection, and Healing to our combat-wounded veterans. 💜

**Donate your Used Vehicle, Boat, RV, or Motorcycle to  
Help Support WWIA & Our Heroes.**





**YOU CAN DONATE YOUR OLD OR UNUSED VEHICLE AND  
HELP WWIA AND OUR HEROES!**

**WE ACCEPT CARS, TRUCKS, BOATS AND MORE.  
THE PROCESS IS EASY, THE PICK-UP IS  
FREE, AND YOUR DONATION IS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.**



Did you know that you can help support WWIA and our Heroes by donating your car, truck, van, SUV, boat, motorcycle, ATV, RV, trailer or airplane? Working or not, free towing, tax benefits, and helping support our combat-wounded veterans are just a few of the benefits of using the CARS vehicle donation program. 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! 🚗

---

**Have You Listened to the WWIA Podcast Yet?**







Have you checked out the WWIA Podcast yet? If you haven't given it a listen yet, what are you waiting for!? It's a great way to stay connected, go behind the scenes, and get to know more about the incredible people who are a part of our WWIA family. You can listen and download current and past episodes on our website by clicking [here](#). You can also find the WWIA Podcast on your favorite podcast service, such as iTunes, Google Podcasts, Spotify, etc. New episodes drop every two weeks. Be sure to share this with your friends, family, and those in your network! Do us a favor and please leave a review wherever you listen to the podcast. We've got lots of great episodes and guests coming your way, so tune in, subscribe, and enjoy! 🎧

## How Can You Help Support WWIA and Our Heroes?



Did you know that there are lots of different ways to help support WWIA and our Heroes? You can donate online, via mail, via PayPal, through vehicle donations, through shopping with our friends and partners, through workplace giving, through donor advised funds, legacy giving, on Giving Tuesday, and so much more! Click [here](#) to learn more about the many ways you can give and partner with WWIA in our mission to bring healing and restoration to our phenomenal combat-wounded Heroes. Thank you! 💜



Want to Learn More About WWIA? Visit Us Online!



Our website is full of information about who we are, how we serve our combat-wounded veterans, and how you can get involved. Visit us today! Click [HERE!](http://www.wwiaf.org)



SUBSCRIBE TO  
OUR NEWSLETTER



HELP SPONSOR  
A HERO



WAYS YOU CAN  
SUPPORT OUR MISSION





---

## Where to find us!



---

**Wounded Warriors in Action Foundation (WWIA)**

**206 Apollo Beach Blvd  
Apollo Beach, FL 33572**

**Phone: 813-938-1390**

**Mail: [info@wwiaf.org](mailto:info@wwiaf.org)**