

Wounded Veterans Share Quality Time Together in the Great Outdoors

Pheasant Hunt Unites Wounded Veterans

ZAMORA, Calif., March 17, 2016 /[PRNewswire-USNewswire](#)/ -- Think back for a moment to your childhood. Did you have a favorite or special place? For many of today's adults, the answer would be in the great outdoors with family and friends. Nothing could be truer for wounded veterans who recently shared quality time together at Quail Point Hunt Club during a Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) Alumni pheasant hunt.

"This serves as a release for me and makes me feel whole," said Army veteran Russell Baldwin, who grew up enjoying the outdoors. "I grew up hunting and fishing, and this event reminds me of hunting as a boy, with my dad and brothers-- before I joined the military."

The WWP Alumni program creates support through shared experiences and brings injured veterans together to build camaraderie. By bonding through events and programs, wounded veterans learn they are not alone. The Alumni program is one of 20 direct, life-saving programs and services offered free of charge to wounded service members, their caregivers, and families.

After injured veterans listened to a thorough safety brief and received appropriate ammunition for the day, they put on their hunter orange hats. Teams of experienced and new hunters formed, each with a hunting dog and a field guide who led them toward their assigned area on the 2,000 acre, natural cover preserve.

Air Force veteran and WWP Alumnus, Jamie Albertson, is a new hunter and appreciated being able to learn, apply, and improve his skills during the hunt. "I struggled to hit anything at first, but the volunteer guide remained positive and supportive," he said. "I was able to take what I learned and improve throughout the day."

Outdoor activities, such as hunting, can provide a connection with nature and with others. While Alumni bonded, they rotated multiple shot turns as birds were flushed out by the dogs.

Jamie attended the hunt to assist with his recovery and to overcome social anxiety. "This is a different type of event and located farther away than any of the other WWP activities I've attended," he said. "So it was a great opportunity to meet more wounded warriors while trying