

AMERICAN HEROES IN ACTION

January 2018

Newsletter

Issue 9

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Ralph, Heather and Jake with Heather's 1st bull elk

The Adventures of American Heroes

From the Founder

By *Dave Proffit*, President, AHIA



Ahhh winter time, sitting by the warm fire inside while the cold wind blows outside. Thinking of the past year and looking forward to the new year. One year ago, in early 2017, we decided to set some goals for the organization. In 2016, American Heroes in Action (AHIA) had provided 51 participants with 12 adventures in two states. AHIA set three goals for 2017. We wanted to provide 102 participants, or more, with 24 adventures, or more, in four states, or more. Our goal for 2017, was to double all the good we had done in 2016. In 2017, AHIA provided our heroes with adventures in North Carolina, Nebraska, South Dakota, Alaska and Colorado. Our goal was to have adventures in four states, and we had adventures in five. We met our goal of 24 adventures, mostly hunting and fishing trips, but there were also golf outings, whitewater rafting trips and more. Our goal was to provide adventures for 102 participants. We came up just a little short. Through the end of the year we had provided adventures for 93 participants. AHIA is a young organization, providing 93 participants with 24 adventures in five states is a pretty good year.

Early in 2017, we formed an Adventure Advisory Committee (AAC) to handle the logistics for all these adventures. The AAC is made up of seven

volunteers, all of whom are veterans. Without the help of the AAC, AHIA would never have been able to provide so many adventures to so many heroes.

All these adventures require money, and AHIA worked on joint fundraising raffles with American Legion, Post 23, from Aurora, CO. We also held our first two AHIA fundraising banquets, one in Denver and one in Colorado Springs.

Throughout the year we continued to recruit more veterans, fire fighters and members of law enforcement to join us on an AHIA adventure.

The AHIA accomplished much in 2017, and we are looking forward to an even better 2018.

You can follow the adventures of AHIA with each issue of the quarterly newsletter FREE with your annual membership. Pick out your free AHIA cap and get your membership on line at www.AmericanHeroesInAction.org

On the Cover—Heather's Elk

By Jake Miller

The photo on the cover shows, from left to right, Hunting Guide, Ralph Wilson, Heather Wolff, with her first elk, and Jake Miller, member of the AHIA Adventure Advisory Committee.



Heather's first elk was a nice 5 X 6 bull

Heather's Elk Cont'd.

Last October, American Heroes in Action (AHIA) was able to take Heather Wolff on a private land, guided elk hunt. Heather is a veteran of the United States Air Force, Security Forces, and is currently a US Air Force Academy Police Officer. Heather grew up in Georgia. After moving to Colorado, she saw her first elk, on a trip to Estes Park, and knew she wanted to hunt elk someday.

Thursday morning, October 26th, we headed for the Homestead Ranch near Crawford, Colorado. We arrived shortly after noon and were greeted by the amazing staff. During the check-in process, our main guides Levi McLeod and Ralph Wilson had some very exciting news for Heather. Thanks to the generosity of an AHIA supporter, Heather would now be hunting a bull elk instead of a cow elk, as she had expected. Her reaction to the news was priceless and already made the trip well worth the journey.

After confirming that her rifle was sighted in, the guides took us into elk country. We saw a small herd but with no shooter bulls. We headed back to the lodge to enjoy a delicious dinner, meet the rest of the staff and share some stories of our past military adventures and past hunting adventures.

On Friday and Saturday, Heather was surrounded by elk on several occasions. We covered lots of ground while observing the elk movements, their habits, and favorite sites to hangout.

Sunday, October 29th, was Heather's last day to hunt. The day started out like the other days, watching the elk herds moving through the aspen groves and disappearing into the hillside. However, on this day, Heather's luck was going to change. While we were getting into a blind by one of the ponds, Levi and Robert came racing down the trail with exciting news. They had spotted a shooter bull bedded down in some trees. We got in the truck and drove closer

to his location. Heather got out of the truck and was guided within shooting range. When the bull stood up, Heather delivered a perfect heart and lung shot. The bull walked only a few steps and collapsed. Heather just shot not only her first elk, but her **first** bull elk. The bull was a magnificent, big bodied elk, with an impressive 5X6 rack. After taking photos, Ralph, Levi, Robert, Carrie Anne, and Larry, took care of hauling and cleaning the elk. Sunday night's celebratory dinner was full of smiles and satisfaction, as well as few drinks and more camaraderie.

AHIA would like to thank the excellent and friendly staff at Homestead Ranch and thank our generous donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, who made this all possible for Heather.



While hunting the Homestead Ranch, Heather saw hundreds of cow elk and dozens of mature bulls, like this one.

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