



**H**ow can we help? This is where we, the *'Elks of Alaska'*, come in. What a great opportunity we each have to share our great state and all of the recreational opportunities that we mostly take for granted. And let us not forget our obligation to our nation's veterans; "So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them".

Our seventeen Elks Lodges are strategically spread across this vast state and each geographical location has something special and unique to offer for recreation and rehabilitation for our Wounded Warriors.

And more importantly we can, each of us, share ourselves. By giving of our own personal time and befriending these special individuals whom have given so much of themselves to insure the protection of our Land of Liberties. We can open our hearts and our Lodges and make these special men and women feel welcome and appreciated. We can spend some time with them and take them fishing, hunting, rafting or just enjoying the spectacular sights of our beautiful state. We can treat them to a lunch or dinner at the lodge and hold a special evening in their honor. Our options to share are endless and only limited by what we do not take the time to do.

This year, the Alaska State Elks Association President has introduced, and the membership has adopted, the **ASEA Wounded Warrior Project** as a Worthy Project whose goal is to raise, at minimum, \$3.00 per Alaskan Elk. These funds will be presented to the National Wounded Warrior Project for the purpose of offsetting travel and housing costs associated with bringing small groups of Wounded Veterans to Alaska for much deserved rest and recreation which is a part of their rehabilitation, both physical and to assist them with getting back into the mainstream of living and enjoying life.

- If you would like to make your monetary, tax free, donation for this Worthy Program, mail to or contact your local lodge.
- If you would like to help host a group of Wounded Warriors to your lodge or area, please contact your local lodge or one of our State Wounded Warrior Committee Members or Alaska State Elks Association President.



#### **ASEA Wounded Warrior Committee**

Jan C Jonker, ASEA President ~ 907-235-5302

Al Nagel, State Chairman ~ 907-696-1634

Bob Johnson, West District Chairman ~ 907-487-1954

James Hastings, Central District Chairman ~ 907-357-1043

Duane Vilandre, East District Chairman ~ 907-747-8837

For more information about the **Wounded Warrior Program** visit their web site at: [www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org).

For more information about the **Alaska State Elks Association** visit our web site at: [www.alaskastateelks.org](http://www.alaskastateelks.org)

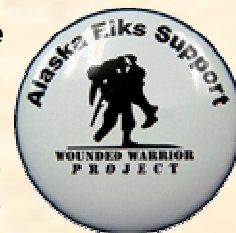
## **Welcome To The Wounded Warrior Project Supported By Alaska Elks**

### **The beginning.....**



**T**he **Wounded Warrior Project** began when several individuals took small, inspired actions to help others in need. One night while watching the evening news, veterans and brothers were moved by stories of the first wounded service members returning home from Afghanistan and Iraq. **They realized that something needed to be done for these brave individuals** beyond the brass bands and ticker tape parades. They wanted to provide tangible support for the severely wounded to help them on the road to heal both physically and mentally. What they viewed as a small contribution compared with what the warriors had sacrificed, is now WWP's signature program; **WWP backpacks delivered bedside to wounded warriors**. Since it's inception, many additional programs have been added.

### **Alaska Elks Embrace the President's Challenge.....**



**I**n May 2007, the seventeen Elks Lodges, comprising the 7,000+ members of the Alaska State Elks Association, recognizing the importance of and need for providing assistance to our returning veterans whom have given so much in the ongoing defense of our Freedom and Liberties unanimously embraced the ASEA President's challenge and adopted the **"Alaska Elks Support Wounded Warrior Project"**. This project seeks to raise a minimum three dollars per Alaskan Elk to be presented to the national Wounded Warrior Project for the purpose of defraying travel and housing costs for groups of Wounded Warriors to travel to Alaska and enjoy the recreational opportunities that we who reside here take for granted and which is a part of their rehabilitation program. **...Let's All Step Up And Do Our Part...**

*"The greatest tragedy is being forgotten....."*





## The Mission

To raise the awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of severely injured service men and women, to help severely injured service members aid and assist each other, and to provide unique, direct programs and services to meet their needs.

## WWP Programs

Through the generous donations of private citizens, organizations and corporations, wounded warriors are provided opportunities that ease the transition to civilian life. This support is also complemented by both grass-roots and national events hosted for the wounded Warrior Project by volunteers and organizations nationwide. Your help will further enable us to contribute positively to these programs and the people they affect.



## WWP Disabled Sports Project



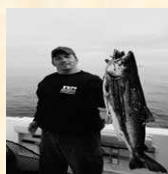
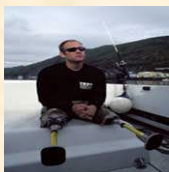
Adaptive sports help wounded service members rebuild confidence and reclaim an active, athletic life. Together with Disabled Sports USA, the program not only helps these men and women regain their physical strength but also serves

as an outlet to foster friendships and reinvigorate their spirits. Activities include golf, canoeing, water skiing, snow skiing and rock climbing.



## WWP Outdoors

Through activities such as hunting, fishing, archery, boating, and camping, lifelong lessons and hobbies are taught and learned that wounded warriors can enjoy with friends and family, without the need for special equipment or ongoing training.



## Patient and Family Support



Our services don't end when our patients are ready to check out of the hospital. Programs such as Peer Mentoring Internship, and Warrior to Work are all designed to help serve the long-term needs of our dedicated service men and women. From stipends to employment assistance programs, all

wounded warriors are offered access to these valuable services. Specifically, the WWP Alumni association is an avenue for communication, networking, sharing and camaraderie beyond the borders of the hospital room.

### Family Assistance

Injury can create an added financial burden on wounded warriors and their families. During rehabilitation, help with necessary expenses for families of the wounded, including housing, food, child care, and transportation costs to the hospital is provided so the service member does not have to recover alone.

### WWP Peer Mentoring

WWP will be partnering with the Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors on a peer mentoring program entitled Survivors Offering Assistance in Recovery (SOAR). SOAR is a program designed by The Phoenix Society and a national committee to provide training to burn survivors or their family members who want to volunteer to help others whose lives have been touched by a burn injury. Besides our formal peer mentoring program, WWP provides and fosters opportunities for peer interaction and mentoring at all of our various sports and recreational events where WWP Alumni can meet, support, and inspire newly injured warriors

### Coping with Combat Stress Seminars

WWP has held a series of two-day seminars entitled "Coping with Combat Stress". These free, two-day events offer workshops and sessions for service members who are transitioning into civilian life from Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. The seminar is designed for both disabled and able-bodied service members who are understandably dealing with the effects of combat stress while reintegrating back into civilian life.

### WWP Intern Program

The Wounded Warrior Service Excellence Scholar Program offers veterans who have been severely injured in the line of duty the opportunity to put their unique skills and experience to work while earning a stipend to help pay for living expenses during enrollment in college, and that will not affect any retirement or disability benefits. WWP Interns work in helping other injured service members by bringing their experience of recovering from an injury to their peers. They serve as a benefits counselor, work as a peer mentor, help lead adaptive sporting events, and work with WWP staff in accomplishing organizational goals that benefit wounded service members.

### Warriors to Work

Getting injured veterans back into the work force is a primary focus for WWP. This program helps wounded warriors find occupational direction and possible employment based on their skill set, interests, and employment opportunities. WWP works with outside groups to develop tools that can be utilized by both disabled applicants as well as employers looking to hire qualified applicants.

Benefits counselors work with severely wounded service members immediately upon their return to the States. Counselors provide guidance and help to navigate government benefits available to military personnel and their families. They also help build connections between wounded warriors, establishing a stateside network of peers to provide the necessary assistance, friendship, and inspiration.