

CASEY SMITH
Nov 5th, 2019

Casey Smith, US Army (ret)

Deer Hunt - 2019

I recently had the incredible opportunity to get out and enjoy everything that Causey Springs has to offer. I was selected to hunt on the property for mule deer as a disabled veteran. To me, hunting is so much more than pursuing the animals in hopes of a harvest. It's embracing nature in its rarest form. Watching the sun come up, hearing the birds chirp, and seeing the animals running around. In today's world, opportunities like that are becoming increasingly harder to experience. Lands are being sold into developments, houses and cabins are now occupying what use to be wild habitat. This property is a hidden gem, and the entire organization will always have my complete and total gratitude for allowing me to experience it for an entire week.

From the moment I arrived and met Paul Anderson at the main gate, to the time I left, I was treated like family. Jim taking us around in the side by side and Linda cooking us incredible meal after incredible meal! It's not often talked about how therapeutic the outdoors can be; especially, for the veteran community. Post-traumatic stress disorder is the leading cause of veteran suicide to the tune of 22 veterans every day. I think organizations like this that allow veterans to come out and enjoy the lands, and have time to completely de-compress, will be one of the primary solutions to combating the epidemic that is veteran suicide. From the bottom of my heart, I genuinely and whole heartedly give you my thanks. I will forever cherish and look back fondly on my time spent on the ranch.

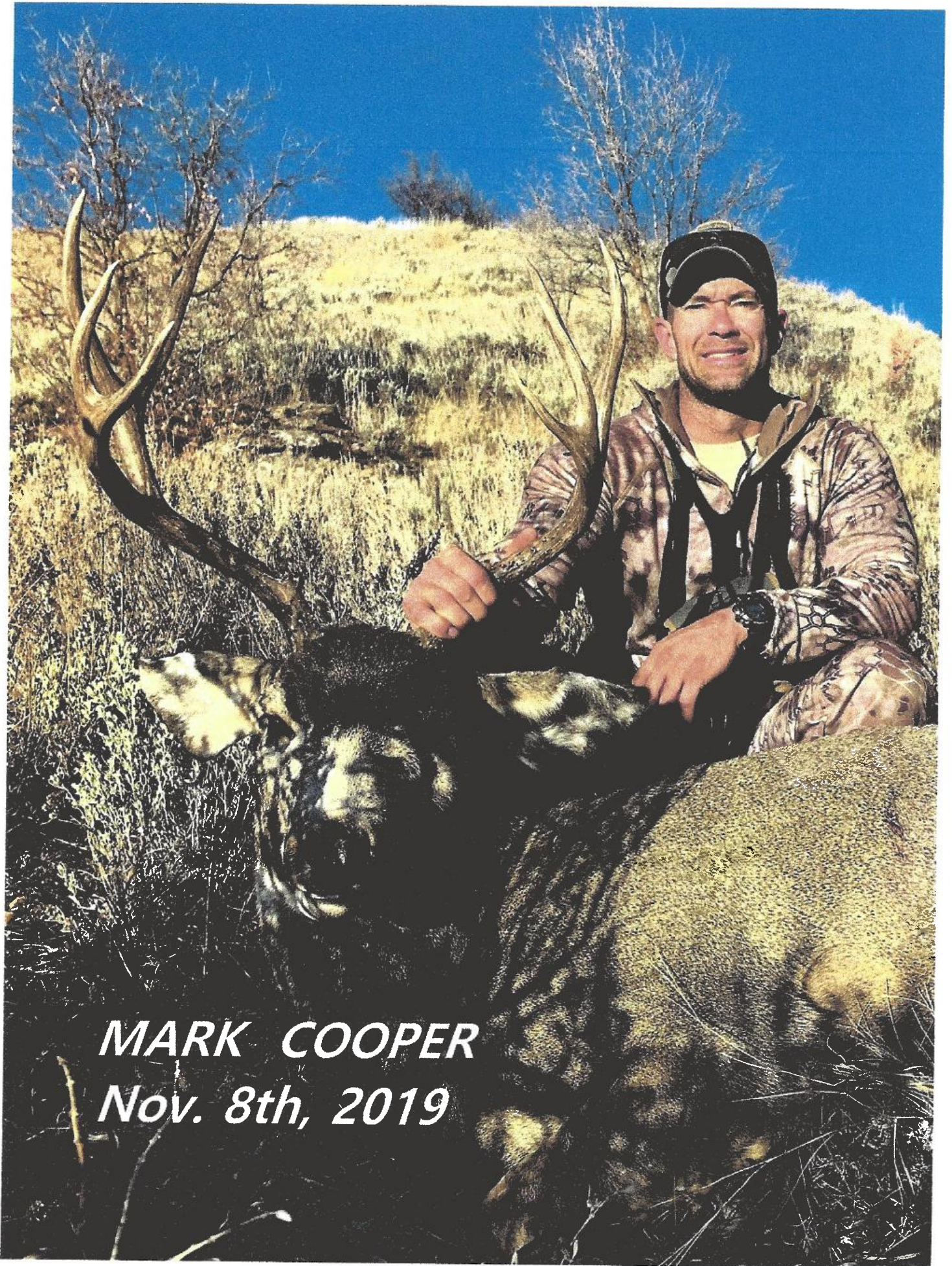
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SGT. Casey M. Smith (ret.)

United States Army

19th Special Forces Group





MARK COOPER
Nov. 8th, 2019

Marc Cooper, US Army:

Deer Hunt – 2019

When I got word in April of 2019 that I was selected by Hunts for the Brave to participate in a deer hunt on the Bastian Family's ranch on the Causey Springs CWMU, I had been going through some very hard times at home. It was very difficult for me to see the forest for the trees some days and things got very bleak. I'm not saying I was going to be a veteran statistic; I'm too stubborn I think for that, but things were just very hard. This tag meant a lot to me and set my eyes on the horizons of November which helped to carry me on through some difficult times. It was also going to be memorable because this hunt was over my 40th birthday, so I'd be in the field doing something I love when I turned 40!

When I arrived at the property, it was every bit as beautiful as I imagined it would be. Jon Leonard dropped us off with Jim and Linda and within minutes I could feel of their warmth and generosity. Jim is an absolute stud, and I hope to take his knife making class this year. Being around Linda was like being around my own grandmother, and I enjoyed every minute of her company as well as her fantastic cooking. The property itself is rugged and beautiful, and I loved seeing so many healthy deer roaming around, as well as moose. I personally didn't see any elk, but we saw recent trail cam pics of elk and big cats which was very cool.

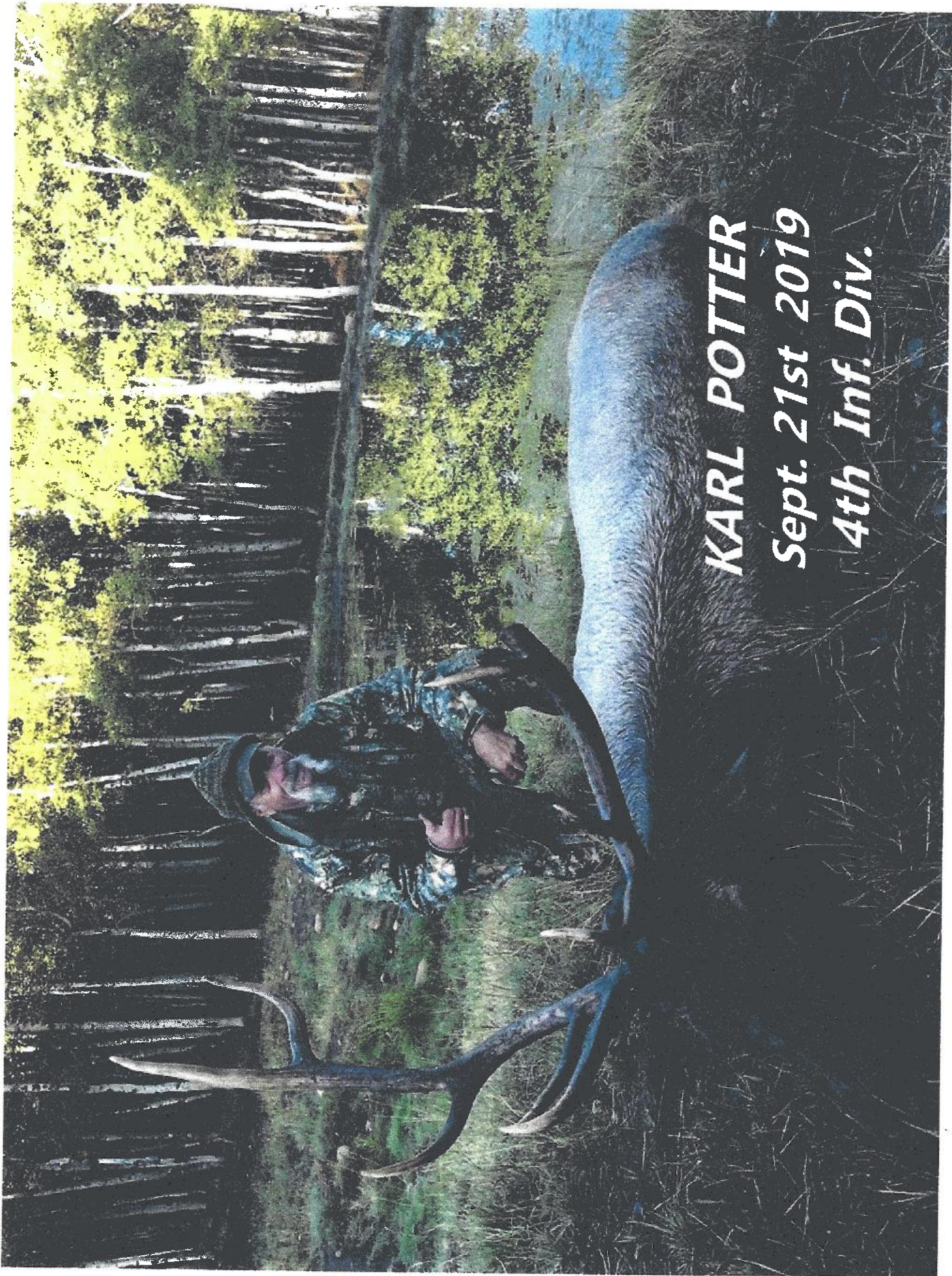
For 5 days, we watched deer and moose, traveled around some gorgeous country, ate outstanding food, took naps, and caught up on movies, "lol", one of the most fun and relaxing hunts I've ever been on!

I'd like to thank the Bastian Family for graciously allowing such an excellent organization like Hunts for the Brave to utilize their property for this adventure. It meant a lot to me, and no doubt means a lot to all the veterans who have had or will have the privilege to hunt it!

Respectfully,

Marc L. Cooper





KARL POTTER

Sept. 21st 2019

4th Inf. Div.

Karl Potter, US Army (ret)

Elk Hunt – 2019

My name is Karl Potter. I was one of the very lucky, and I hasten to add, GRATEFUL, September 2019 elk hunters with Hunts for the Brave.

I wish to extend a very heartfelt and appreciative, huge THANK YOU to the Bastian sisters. The opportunity to be allowed on their huge and beautiful property was amazing! As a wounded Viet Nam Veteran, it did my heart good to know people like the Bastian family cares for other human beings. God Bless them.

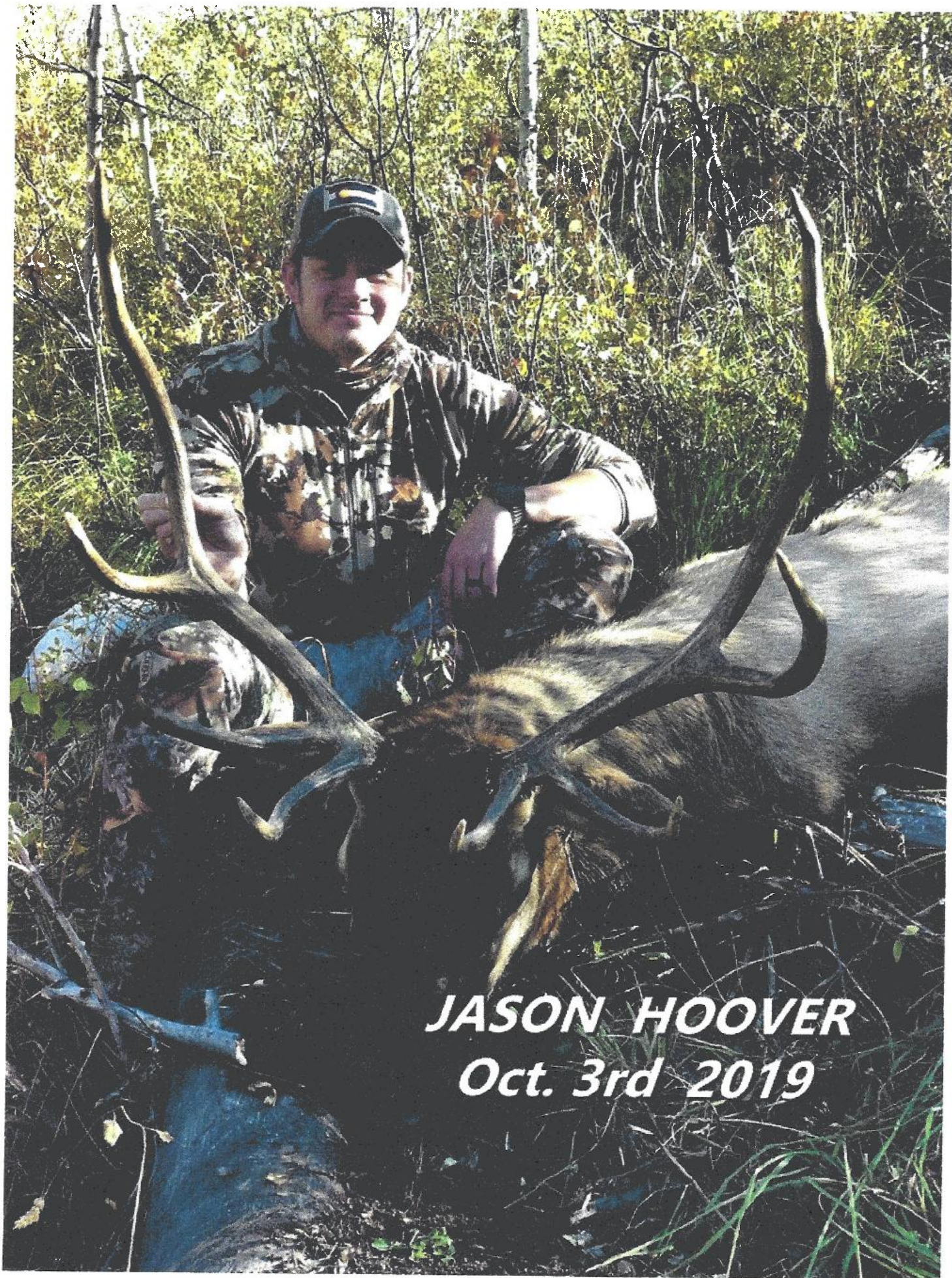
I was allowed a great privilege to be not only allowed on their property, but rewarded with a great 5 point bull elk as well! I was treated so great by the entire full circle of caring people. I cannot express my sincere gratitude enough!

Again, I wish to express so much admiration to the Bastian sisters. Thanks you so very much!!

Best regards,

Karl Potter





JASON HOOVER
Oct. 3rd 2019

Jason Hoover, US Air Force

Elk Hunt – 2019

Thank you so much for the opportunity to hunt Utah this past season. I did the bull elk hunt in early October. As someone who grew up in Colorado and has spent the last 13 years chasing elk, this hunt was top notch. The opportunities were plentiful and the scenery on the ranch was beautiful. For me, hunting is an opportunity to get away from the hustle and bustle and just reset. This hunt allowed me to accomplish that and much more.

It was a great experience to be able to get out and see bear, moose, deer, and elk. The guides were fantastic and very experienced, and all the people involved in the hunt and Hunts for the Brave were a pleasure to be around. I left the hunt with my first bull elk, and a freezer full of meat. I truly appreciate the opportunity, and I look forward to being able to be in future hunts from a volunteer perspective.

Thank you so much for your generosity and the opportunity to take a bull elk.

God Bless!

Jason Hoover





MIKE JONES

2018

Mike Jones, US Army (ret)

Deer Hunt – 2018

To the Bastian Family:

My name is Mike Jones. I was able to hunt on the Causey Springs with Hunts for the Brave, and wanted to share my experience with you:

I grew up hunting and cherish every moment I have had, spending time with friends and family outdoors, hunting, fishing, and camping. I spent 18 years in the Military, and was medically retired due to injuries I sustained while serving in Afghanistan. I had a long recovery and had to find hobbies to keep me engaged and active to maintain mobility and peace of mind. I decided that I was going to get back into hunting and fishing again, because that was the only place that I truly felt at peace. The first year that I drew a general season Utah deer tag since retiring, I couldn't have been more excited, until I realized just how beat up my body was from my years of service. I had walked only about 200 yards from my 4 wheeler, and on the way the back, my body was giving out on me. I really didn't think I was going to make it back. I finally did make it back, and decided that the one thing that I absolutely loved to do was going to have to be given up. A year went by and I was contacted by Jon Leonard, and he told me that a great family wanted to help Veterans and provide hunting opportunities on Causey Springs. I was hesitant, but finally accepted.

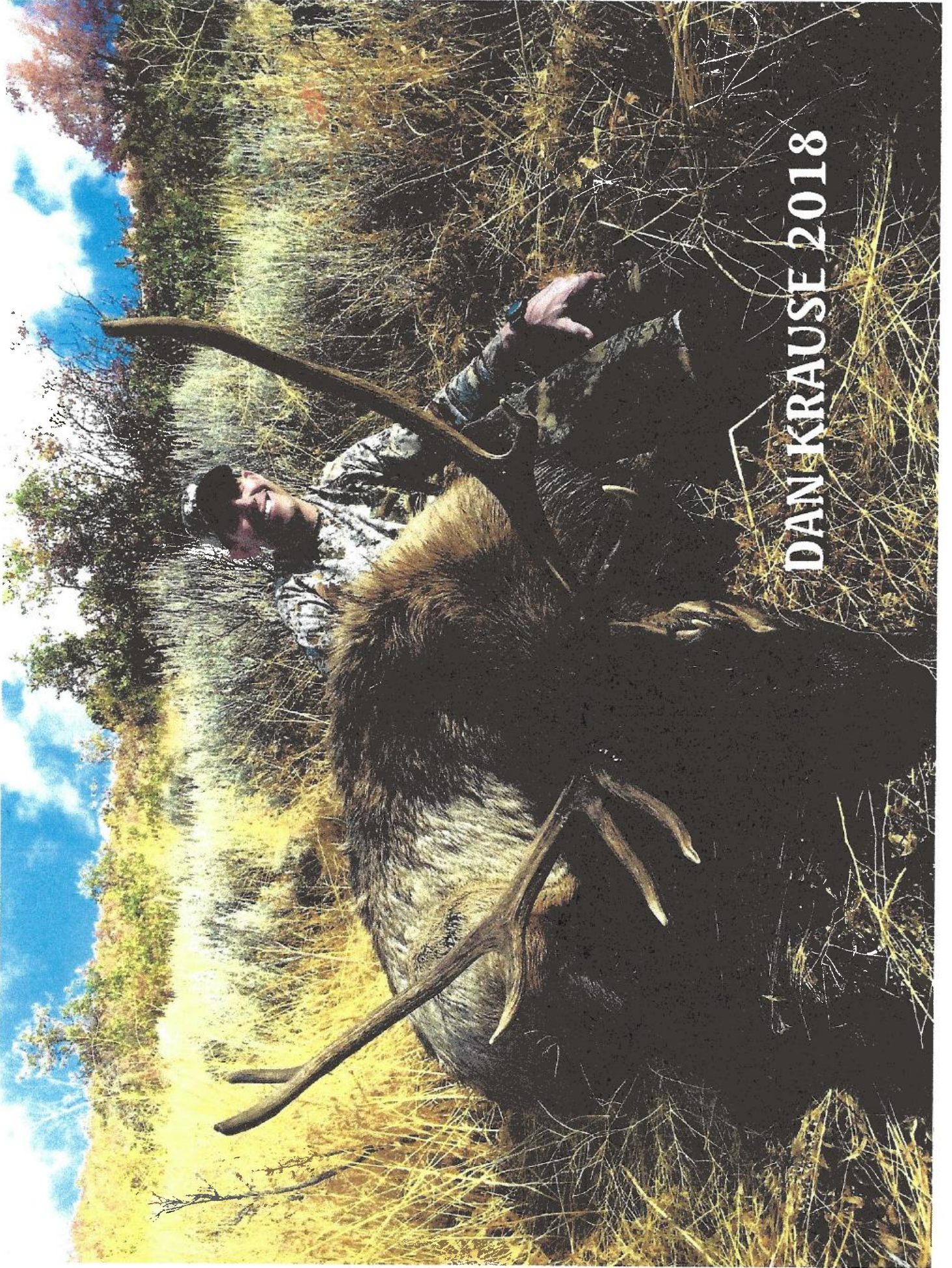
My time on the Causey was truly life changing! The country, animals, fresh air, and friends made, can never be replaced! The unknown therapy that you provided was absolutely priceless! I can never thank you enough!

Bastian Family: Thank you for providing light at the end of a very dark road! Thank you for giving me hope! Thank you for what you have done for other Veterans! And thank you for your continued generosity!

Sincerely,

Mike Jones





DAN KRAUSE 2018

Daniel Krause, USMC

Elk Hunt – 2018

Sir or Ma'am:

My name is Daniel "Dan" Krause. I am a Sergeant Major in the United States Marine Corps. In October of 2018, I had the honor to participate on an elk hunt with Hunts for the Brave at Causey Springs. It was one of the most memorable weeks of my life. The property is breathtaking and the facilities are top shelf.

I was able to harvest a bull elk on the fourth day of my hunt. An elk hunt was a "once-in-a-lifetime" event for me especially on property like this and with a nice hunting lodge to boot. However, the most important element of the hunt was the experience. As a veteran, who spent considerable time in the hospital due to combat wounds sustained; having the ability to still hunt and enjoy the wilderness is priceless.

I must say that Jim and Linda Sigg are the most important part of the experience. You couldn't have two better people running the hunts and the lodge. I have seen them both on two other occasions since the hunt. The friendships I've gained from Hunts for the Brave and the Causey Springs team will be lifelong.

I truly thank the Bastian Family Foundation and everyone involved with the support to Hunts for the Brave and the support to our veterans.

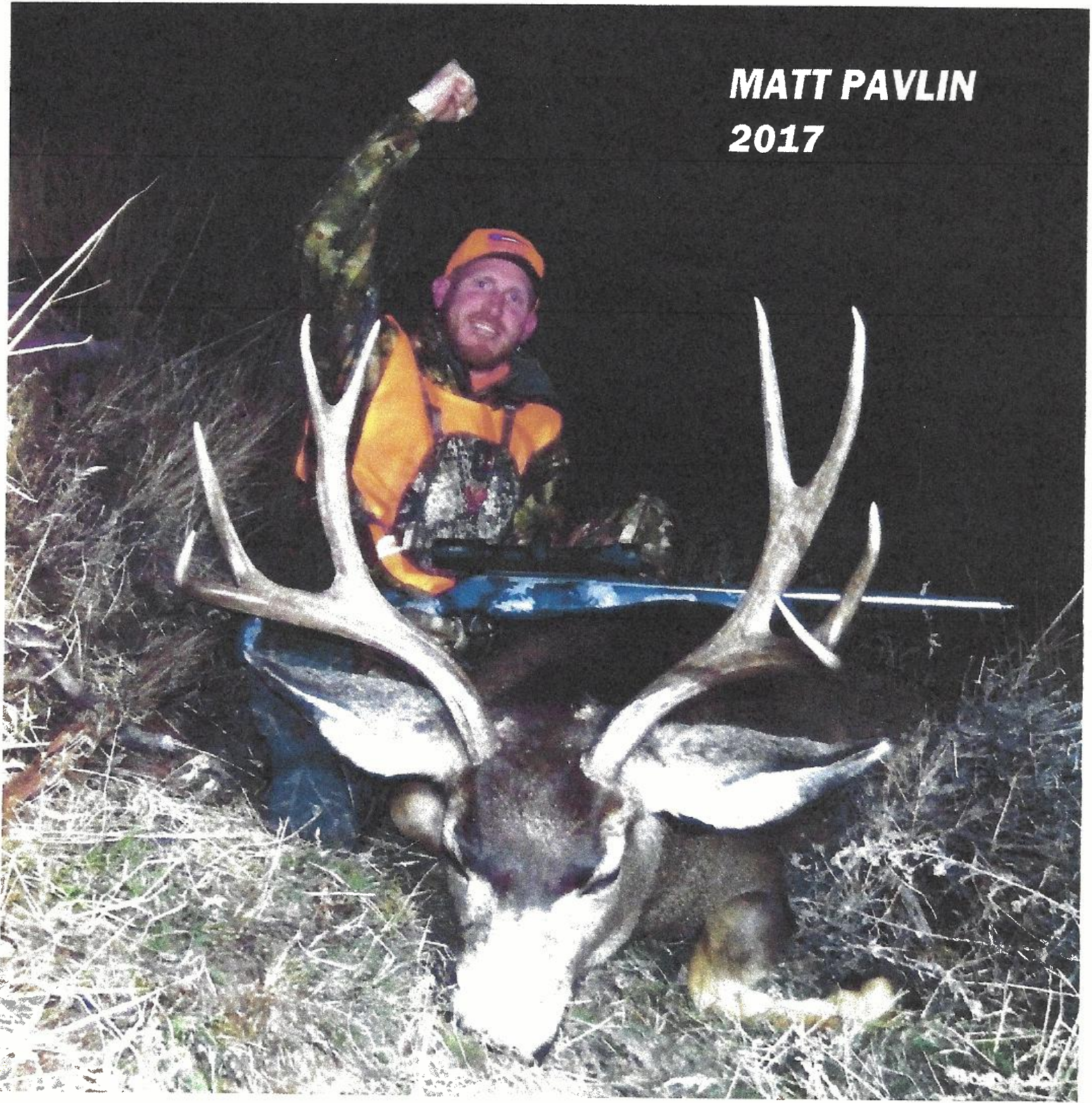
You will never know how much your generosity changes veterans lives for the better!

Thank you,

Dan Krause



MATT PAVLIN
2017



Matt Pavlin, US Air Force (ret)

Deer Hunt – 2017

My deer hunting experience with Hunts for the Brave was exciting! My hunting before this event was limited, and I would consider myself a novice. The knowledge I gained has helped me with my hunts after 2017. I really enjoyed Jim and Linda; it felt like being welcomed home. I got to share my stories from when I was in the military. As the past couple of years have passed, I have volunteered my time to help out on the property whenever needed. This hunting experience was my first big game hunt that I was successful. Whenever, I look at my mount, I always reflect on those hunting/scouting days with Jim and Jaden as well as my best friend. Such an amazing time and experience! I want to say thank you again!

Thanks,

Matt Pavlin





BRYANT JACOBS

2016

Bryant Jacobs, US Army (ret)

Deer Hunt – 2016

It's hard to put into words how much hunting at Causey Springs impacted my life. I was really nervous to go up and hunt with people that I had never met before. The whole drive up there, I was worried about what to expect. I got lucky because I knew Kevin Bongard, who lives right down the road, and I met him at his house before heading up the street. He told me that the whole family up there was amazing, and that calmed my nerves a bit. From the moment I met Jim at the gate, all my nervousness went away.

I was welcomed with open arms by everyone up there. Jim and Linda are so special to me, and are a huge asset to the whole hunting experience. As soon as I walked in the door, my life changed. Being disabled is hard enough, and the first night we talked about what I thought I would be able to do; then we made a plan. I never felt like anyone had to work around me. I felt like they were excited to work with me. That made all the difference in the world. My disabilities seemed to fade away, and we worked on my abilities instead. We had an absolute blast, and I learned so, so much from Jim and Linda!

Now, let's move onto Paul and his family. I met Paul up on the mountain, and my experience got even better. We hit it off great and made a friendship that I never expected. I was a pretty new amputee at the time, and we talked about what he could do to the cabin to make it more accessible for future hunters. We weren't just a "number" for him.

My hunt overall was a huge success. Not only did I harvest a buck, but I was able to learn how I could be a more successful hunter as well. This hunt helped me fall in love with the outdoors again, and I am forever in debt to everyone involved in this hunting experience. I didn't harvest my buck until the last night we were there, and I was fully prepared to leave without pulling the trigger. I had already learned a ton, made new friendships, and had an amazing experience. Harvesting a deer was just icing on the cake!

Thank you all so very much for making me part of the family, and for helping me learn that enjoying the outdoors was, and will forever be part of my life!

Sincerely,

Bryant Jacobs

