

Edward J. Fisher, President
LEEK Hunting and Mountain Preserve
Colonel (ret) U.S. Army
PA Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee Hearing on
Veterans' Issues
February 25, 2015

Chairman Vulakovich, Minority Chairman Costa, and Members of the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee. Good afternoon, I am Edward Fisher, retired Colonel U.S. Army, and President of LEEK Hunting and Mountain Preserve.

We sponsor six hunts a year in addition to bringing families in for separate retreats. We start fundraising with our annual Open House/Live and Silent Auction with vendor displays to be held in June 19-21, 2015, and continue with our other scheduled programs. Currently we have six hunting programs throughout the year; 1. Coyote Hunt February 21st, 2015; 2. Spring Gobbler May 27-30 2015; 3. Pheasant Hunt September 24-27, 2015; 4. Blackpowder Deer and Pheasants October 21-25, 2015; 5. Bear and Pheasant November 20-25, 2015; 6. Antlered/Antlerless Deer December 9-13, 2015. Small game and fishing opportunities are usually in conjunction with the other activities. Our future plans include building Dunham Hall where families can begin the healing process together. During each of these programs we provide all clothing, weapons/knives, outdoor equipment, housing and food. Every hunt requires a great deal of coordination to determine the level of care for our wounded veterans; we can go from an ambulatory warrior to one requiring a wheelchair and special adaptive equipment.

All donations go directly to support our mission. We are a non-profit (EIN: 26-4097451), 501 (c) 3 all-volunteer organization that assists veterans with disabilities, facilitating their participation in outdoor recreation activities. We work very closely with groups such as Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Disabled American Veterans, American Legions, Warrior Transition Units, and others to provide outdoor events for disabled and/or injured servicemen and women, many of whom are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. The success of our program is due to the generosity of individuals and businesses. The programs we offer are medically documented in aiding the recovery process and healing of our wounded heroes. We always welcome support for such items as hunting and fishing gear, meals and other items to show our appreciation for the participants. We have recently completed the Master Sergeant Thom Maholic 1,300 yard Shooting Range and Staff Sergeant James Hackemer Warrior Pavilion. Our next venture continues with completing a trap range, constructing new ADA compliant walkways and fund raising for future construction of Jason Dunham Hall for our returning wounded veterans and their families. Just being associated with these wounded veterans shows true American Spirit and support to those who have given so much and asked for so little in return. We have four of the action track chairs and one Action TrackStander that were at the Great American Outdoor Show last week. These tracked wheel chairs can be sponsored by an organization or corporation with their logo displayed on the back and can be showcased at their business, these chairs can range from \$13-18K dollars.

LEEK continues to expand its services and handicap hunting facilities, paving projects throughout the property as well as creating handicap accessible guest quarters. We are dedicated to this worthy cause because we want to give back to those who have served. Providing our veterans with a wholesome experience while letting them know they can still participate in activities they enjoyed prior to their injuries. Since LEEK is a volunteer-run organization, it was important to have the community's backing. We have partnered with the Patriot Guard Riders, DAVs, American Legions, VFWs, local and national businesses as well as churches who provide several meals a day for the visiting veterans. The warriors show up for the week and are provided with all equipment to include hunting and fishing licenses for every planned activity. Without the support of our community and corporate sponsors, we would not be able to host the veterans. We plan on continuing to expand our services in order to meet a commitment to America's disabled veterans.

LEEK is comprised of 278 acres and has another 32,315 acres available nearby for their use to allow a wide range of recreational activities. My contact number is listed below.

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