



MINNESOTA ELK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

MnEBA Announces 3rd Annual Charitable Elk Hunt

Minnesota Elk Breeders Association (MnEBA), October 13, 2009 – Through the generosity of the Lake Superior Chapter of SCI, Access Point Technologies, Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch and Sportsman's Lodge, MnEBA is excited to once again sponsor a once-in-a-lifetime elk hunt for a very deserving individual. This is the second year in a row the MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt will be awarded to a veteran with Minnesota ties.

Sergeant First Class Tim Merkens, resides in Norman county in northern Minnesota. Tim has faithfully served his country for more than 20 years by first serving in the Navy for four years, then later in the Army for 16 years where he worked as a track vehicle mechanic. Sergeant Merkens served two tours of duty in Bosnia while in the military.

Life during the Army was not easy for Sergeant Merkens as he suffered three strokes during his time of service. He still deals with the long term effects of the strokes and experiences difficulty in speaking as well as fine motor skills. Being in the Army for these many years also took its toll on him physically in other ways. He has a very bad knee and other physical limitations.

However, these set-backs have not diminished his passion for his country. Sergeant Merkens is still very active in local veterans' activities, keeping up to date on what's going on and giving of his time and talents in any way he can.

Everyone involved with this project just want veterans such as Sergeant Merkens to know that they are deeply respected and appreciated. The Lake Superior Chapter of SCI is very active in offering a number of terminal youth hunts on a yearly basis and are working to expand their projects to this country's war veterans. President Dale Bruder explains, "Veterans so richly deserve anything we can do for them. We (SCI) are working to do more projects with veterans."

Steve Berhow of Access Point Technologies (APT) in Rogers, MN echoes these same thoughts. "Personally, I have been involved in hunting since I was a kid. I know it is a great experience for anyone who can be involved in hunting." Steve has owned a few elk over the years and boards them on a local Minnesota farm. Although he himself has not served in the military, his father and several family members have. "I am thankful to get involved with the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association in helping a veteran get an opportunity to hunt for a Bull Elk in Minnesota," he says. "We live in a country where none of us should forget the sacrifices that veterans have made for us and our country. So to help one veteran get a chance to hunt an elk in Minnesota is a pleasure and an honor."

Tony Beckel of Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch has been an active participant in MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunts for the past three years by offering not only a beautiful 900 acre hunting facility for the hunt, but also his guide services for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hunt a Minnesota elk. Tony's father is a WWII war veteran. Tony is pleased to "honor veterans for their years of service to this country" and has been instrumental in putting this project together.

Local businesses are also getting involved. Greg Hanum of Sportsman's Lodge has also been involved in years past and is donating lodging for Sergeant Merkens to help make his stay in Baudette a memorable one!

We wish Tim the best of luck in his upcoming hunt and offer our thanks, support and gratitude for his service to our servicemen and our country. Many thanks to all who have made this special project possible!