

## Groups Partner to Offer Outdoor Experiences for Disabled Veterans, First Responders Got Your 6 Fishing and Outdoors For Our Heroes collaborate on their work to show "gratitude for sacrifice"

Long-time outdoor groups, <u>Got Your 6 Fishing</u> (GY6F) and <u>Outdoors For Our Heroes</u> (OFOH) announced in April they joined forces. The groups organize and provide for outdoor activities, including fishing and hunting, to injured first responders and military veterans who have selflessly served their country and communities.

"As separate groups, we have been serving the veteran community in western Washington for several years," said **Jason Brown, president and founder of OFOH**. "We always shared information, our veteran base and advice. Working with the same goals and mission to serve our heroes by offering no-cost outdoor experiences, we decided to merge so we could share our many resources that directly live up to our mission of 'United We Stand, Divided We Fall.'"

The all-volunteer, donor-funded organizations ensure men and women have a burden-free outdoor experience that supports healing and improves quality of life. GY6F serves veterans through fishing and OFOH serves heroes through its hunting and outdoor adventures, all at no cost to participants.

"We know that nature and the abundant activities and quiet it provides can be a healing force in a person's life, particularly in the lives of those who have sacrificed serving our country and put their lives on the line to serve and protect their communities," said **Ryan Caldwell, founder of GY6F.** "Our mission to support our heroes hasn't changed. In fact, it's actually been made stronger by our groups joining together to provide support for our heroes in the best way we know how – through nature."

In September, the now-combined groups hosted a week-long moose hunting trip near Delta Junction, Alaska. Six deserving disabled veterans were drawn randomly for this limited special permit opportunity. It was a "bucket-list" trip for many of the participants, who were supported by volunteers from OFOH and GY6F.

Both Brown and Caldwell say the work they are doing is about showing gratitude for the sacrifices made by veterans and first responders.

"As a team, we simply want to continue to give back in ways that are meaningful and offer healing experiences to those who have given us so much," they said.



## **About Outdoors For Our Heroes and Got Your 6 Fishing**

Jason Brown, president and founder of <u>Outdoors For Our Heroes</u>, is a Navy Veteran that served from 1994-1998, avid hunter, outdoorsman, athlete and dedicated supporter of America's armed forces. Brown is a successful tenured production manager, having worked with established companies such as Washington State Department of Transportation and Vigor Marine as well as other organizations. In his role with Outdoors For Our Heroes, Brown is determined to provide the resources and business acumen needed to build strategic partnerships and enable fully supported hunts for our service-connected disabled veterans.

**Ryan Caldwell, founder of** Got Your 6 Fishing, is a combat wounded veteran who has served the country through multiple deployments around the world. After being medically retired, Caldwell sought solace in the peaceful waters of Puget Sound and its tributaries. He began to invite other veterans to join him on these excursions and quickly figured out they find it as cathartic as he does. Ryan has provided over 1,000 fishing trips. With your help, he can continue to provide this much needed therapeutic recreation for other veterans and active duty military.