

WOUNDED VETERAN (Continued from Page 18)

efforts to fund the prosthesis after he started a GoFundMe page.

“Someone on the board saw his page and we immediately had a meeting,” Sweeny said.

“It was a unanimous decision that all funds would be given to Phillips for his leg.”

Casey chose to get his prosthetic leg in Australia as the procedure differs from what is available in the United States. The decision increased the cost of the procedure.

“They have a prosthesis in the form of an implant,” Casey said. “It is modeled on the anatomy

of the body and doesn’t wear as much on your body.”

Physically, Phillips Casey is ‘whole again’ after his prosthetic leg was attached.

Emotionally, he has made powerful strides towards being ‘whole again’ through his involvement in hunting,

his outdoor pursuits and his determination not to let a day in Afghanistan affect his life negatively forever.

Today, Phillips Casey can look to his majestic mounted buck and know that there is no hindrance that will stop him from pursuing his liberties.

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warm that year, so he didn’t think twice about packing a sleeping bag.

Texas weather took a turn for the worse, however.

“We got there Saturday and Jason and I set up camp,” Lonnie says. “Then the temperature dropped below freezing.”

As a drastic change in climate set in, Lonnie only had a thin, small blanket to warm him and his son.

Lonnie describes the night as brutal.

The next morning as the trio

made breakfast, Jeff conveyed information that would have been useful the night before.

Jeff had extra sleeping bags in his truck.

Jeff said, “Oh by the way I have extra sleeping bags in my truck.

“Man, Jeff, he didn’t even tell us, we were so cold.”

That trip Lonnie bagged a trophy, 10-point buck and Jason, only 10 at the time, killed a doe.

“Then, there was this time when I went hunting and I shot one deer and found two.”

As the avid hunter was tracking

down his kill, the trail led to the discovery of two dead deer. He recalls being puzzled. Wondering if the bullet had gone through one and killed the other, or if the doe had already been dead.

“I know I killed the buck, the doe was just a bonus.”

He continues to tell of two separate trips where he was doomed for mishaps.

“I was coming out of the blind and got my pants caught on a nail or something,” he laughs. “Then, there was this time my friend wanted to be funny and stepped

on the gas and I fell into the cactus.”

Of course, Lonnie has to save the best story for last.

After an unsuccessful hunting trip, he was unloading his rifle and the gun accidentally went off striking the left side taillight.

“I’m glad I didn’t get stopped because the bullet severed the wires.”

He may have a run of bad luck when it comes to hunting. However, the stories will never get old and neither will the memories he has made with Jason.

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