



NEWS RELEASE: Monday November 22, 2021

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Vietnam Veteran Harvests Bull Elk

Minnesota Elk Breeders Association (MnEBA), November 22, 2021 – Keith Frantsen thought he would never hunt elk again. While friends and relatives continued to encourage him to travel with them out West to hunt elk, physical limitations caused him to pass up the opportunity. What this Vietnam veteran did not know, was that his childhood friend Denny Suelflow was working behind the scenes to make the dream of hunting a bull elk again a reality for Keith. Both would embark on a trip neither of them will soon forget when earlier this fall Keith was chosen to harvest a magnificent bull elk courtesy of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association and Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch.

A Windom, Minnesota area U.S. Army Veteran, Keith served in the 1st Infantry Division and ¼ Cav while serving in Vietnam from July 1968-September 1969. While there he sustained injuries to his left hip via shrapnel. Since then, he has had both knees and both hips replaced, triple bypass and a pacemaker.

Keith was stunned when contacted about being selected as the 2021 recipient of the MnEBA Charitable Elk Hunt. He simply could not believe that he would have an opportunity to harvest a bull elk in the physical condition he was in. He was beyond excited and grateful to be chosen.

The hunt couldn't have been more perfect for Keith. His good friend Denny accompanied him on the hunt one early November morning. Keith spotted the bull in the distance the first day but was hoping to harvest the bull with a crossbow and was never able to get close enough to release a shot. He wasn't sure they would see the bull the second day, but they tried a different blind and had better success eventually finding the bull just 150 yards away. Keith made the decision to use his firearm instead of the crossbow and after the smoke cleared, he had taken the bull with one shot! After taking time to enjoy the moment and snap photos, they brought the bull back to the facility and hung it up to be quartered and put in coolers for transport back to his local processor the next day.

When Keith looked back at his hunt experience three weeks later, he was still smiling from ear to ear. "I don't know how I could have had more fun. I still can't get the grin off my face," he said. "This was absolutely a super trip." Keith is already enjoying the meat from his hunt and is working to have the head caped and mounted. Denny shared similar sentiments saying, "This experience was just fantastic for both of us."

MnEBA would like to thank everyone who generously supported this year's hunt including Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch, Denny Suelflow who transported the bull to the hunt facility and also accompanied Keith on his trip and Splendor Ridge Elk Farm who helped cover the cost of the bull, lodging, meals and processing.

MnEBA offers our heartfelt thanks, support and gratitude to Keith Frantsen and to all United States military men and women for their dedication and service to our country.



Keith Frantsen