



## MESSAGE FROM MARSHA

### **WOUNDED WARRIOR WILDLIFE AND RECREATION ACT**

The men and women of the Mountain Post have been defending the principles of our nation since 1942 with valor and honor. Unfortunately, many men and women returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan bear the emotional and physical scars of their service for our freedom and security. Since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom nearly 5,000 servicemen and women have been wounded in Afghanistan, and more than 32,000 service men and women have been wounded in Iraq.

Many of these heroes have suffered devastating physical injuries and traumatic brain injury. The most severely wounded of these soldiers may be assigned to the United States Army Wounded Warrior Program. A medical program that provides personalized local support, assistance in day-to-day activities and long term recovery decisions and comprehensive counseling for each soldier.

Under the leadership of Major General David Perkins and Colonel Robert McLaughlin the Fort Carson Wounded Warrior Battalion was established in 2007. Fort Carson's Wounded Warrior Program assists nearly 50 severely wounded soldiers and their families' annually. These heroes represent the most severely injured from Fort Carson and will require assistance from the Army for the rest of their lives. I was honored to visit the Wounded Warrior Unit at Fort Carson and saw first hand the amazing support for our troops by Colonel Keenan, Lieutenant Col. Grantham, Edward Butler, Joe Fowler and their dedicated staff. These amazing individuals provide hope, assistance and a hand up for the brave men and women who have returned home with wounds inflicted by an enemy of a long, dangerous and deadly war.

Many of these warriors find relief in the great-outdoors, either fishing, hunting or skiing. These outdoor recreational activities provided a brief recess from the day-to-day rehabilitation activities, endless surgeries and excruciating pain from their injuries. The soldiers that participated in the program enjoy the crisp, fresh air, magnificent views of Colorado's pristine landscape, magnificent wildlife and companionship of a fellow hunter and soldier.

Over the past 5 months I have been working with Tim Mauck and Director Remington of the Colorado Division of Wildlife on legislation that would allow the division to waive the \$500 big game license fee for these heroes. This month I will be sponsoring legislation to establish the Colorado Wounded Warrior Wildlife and Recreational Act establishing recreational programs for our severely wounded heroes of Fort Carson, Colorado. This is one more opportunity for the citizens of Colorado to honor the men and women of the wounded warrior program for their enduring sacrifices and hardships as a result of their duty for our liberties and freedom.

*Marsha Looper*

Colorado State Representative (R) HD#19  
Website: [WWW.GOMARSHA.ORG](http://WWW.GOMARSHA.ORG), 719-238-5600  
Email: [MarshaLooper@gmail.com](mailto:MarshaLooper@gmail.com)