

Member's Loss Creates New Hope for Conservation & Hunting Heritage

Last November, Finney Co. Chapter member Tim Telinde was one of my hosts for a story I was doing for Pheasants Forever Journal on his chapter. Like often happens, we connected like brothers during the two days I was in western Kansas (the story will be printed later this year). Later, I learned his son, Mitch, 18, was killed on January 9 in a car wreck.

The death of Tim's son inspired him to

ed to do something in memory of his son. Being in the outfitter business, he thought that a youth hunt would be in line with what his son might have wanted," said Christensen, who is a member of Pheasants and Quail Forever.

"So, putting together the memorial youth hunt in his son's name would bring more kids outdoors and let them enjoy the thrill of the hunt that his son had always enjoyed. This was Tim's



found the Mitch Telinde Memorial Youth Hunt to help pass on his son's love of wildlife, habitat conservation and hunting. The event was a great success, with over 30 youth attending the memorial hunt.

Mike Christensen, Director of Outdoor Mentoring, Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters, said, "The idea for the Mitch Telinde Memorial Youth Hunt came after Big Brother Shannon Selstedt took his Little Brother Casey on a pheasant hunt with Tim, only a couple of weeks after the accident. Shannon and Casey had a great time on the hunt. As Tim talked about the hunt, he related how he had come close to canceling. It had only been a few days since they had lost Mitch. He wasn't sure how well he might handle having another young hunter in his charge. But Tim said that it had been a great experience for him, seeing Casey get his first pheasant and the companionship that Shannon and Casey enjoyed on the hunt."

"Then, Tim gave me a call. He want-

way of passing it on."

The Mitch Telinde Memorial Hunt was part of the Pass It On program, which was started in 1999 by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. It wanted to boost the plummeting sales of hunting and fishing licenses. Anticipating that mentoring would play a crucial role in recruiting young hunters, state officials persuaded Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sedgwick County to adopt the program.

So, in the end, one man's heart-breaking loss turned to hope for the youth who attended the Mitch Telinde Memorial Hunt. Those youth, and others in the future, will, in turn, someday grow up and take their youth into the fields and forests to learn one of man's most ancient skills—and hopefully become conservationists in the process. Thanks then Mitch, for inspiring others. We're certain your legacy will live on in the prairie you once shared with your father.



Tim Telinde, member of the Kansas Finney Co. Chapter, and son Mitch (left). His son's sudden passing in January inspired Tim to start a memorial PF youth hunt to help keep the nation's hunting and conservation tradition thriving (left photo).



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