



# Leaving a

# Legacy

You don't have to be rich to make a lasting impact, but it takes some effort, planning and courage to truly leave a legacy.

*By David R. Bue, PF's Vice President of Development*

It's not every day we ask ourselves, "What is my legacy?" But once in a while, perhaps after the passing of a close relative or longtime friend, we take a moment to step back and ask ourselves this important question.

When we are young and career-focused, our mind is often on learning and earning. It is often later in life when we focus more on returning. Through this returning, we gain the opportunity to create a legacy that will outlive us and benefit the world when we are gone.

It is true that your good work and good deeds live forever in the hearts and minds of those you impact along the way. In fact, those are the things that bring greater meaning and purpose to what you do every day. When we see our professional career as more than a money-focused endeavor, we begin to grasp how we can make a difference among colleagues, family and the world around us. This brings much greater satisfaction than social status or material possessions.

The reality is that you have no control over when you will pass, but you do have some control over how your assets will be handled after death and the legacy you leave. When you think about leaving a legacy, there is generally one of three goals you likely want to accomplish: 1) passing on something of value to future generations; 2) leaving something of yourself for others to remember; and 3) creating memories of



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significance for your family. Unfortunately, many people do not realize that, through the thoughtful planning of their estate, they have the potential to multiply those efforts after they are gone.

This is what makes estate planning a step of such immediate importance in our lives. It gives you the choice, while you are still living, to determine the who, what, when, where and how of your estate. It allows for substantial savings when dealing with taxes, court costs and attorneys' fees. It also helps your family and friends avoid the burden and financial confusion that often occurs. In many cases, it's also possible to use some planning strategies to increase the size of the estate, while also benefiting the family members and charities you cared about during your lifetime.

Admittedly, estate planning takes effort, time, courage and decision making. You can wait until tomorrow. But what if tomorrow does not come? There are many sound reasons for planning your estate today, and in doing so, you take a final shot at securing your legacy.


### You can help leave a legacy of conservation and tradition

Most everyone has fantasized about being a hero — perhaps by some great effort or accomplishment. Most of us, however, will never experience the roar of the crowd except in our dreams. If you share our passion for preserving and protecting America's upland habitat and our hunting tradition, become a conservation hero!

How do you become a conservation

hero? Many of us believe we do not have the financial means to support the conservation causes and organizations we care about. Through some careful planning and with the right guidance, however, all of us have the potential to be heroes in conservation and leave a carefully crafted legacy. In many cases, it's not a matter of “how much,” but rather that you make the effort. Indeed, you don't have to be rich to leave a rich legacy.

By working together, we can secure the nation's most important upland wildlife habitat and leave a legacy of abundant pheasant, quail and wildlife populations for future generations. But our window of opportunity is narrow, and in many places, it is beginning to close.

So, consider this question, “What do I want my legacy to be?” It's time to knock down those excuses and roadblocks. Leaving a legacy is not difficult. A measure of time, a dose of planning and some courage, together with your love for your cherished friends, family and causes will result in a legacy for future generations! 

**For more information on how you can leave a conservation legacy, or to discuss making a significant gift to Pheasants Forever, please contact David R. Bue, PF's Vice President of Development at (218) 340-5519 or [dbue@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:dbue@pheasantsforever.org). Or, you may visit our Make a Lasting Impact web page at [www.pheasantsforever.org/legacy](http://www.pheasantsforever.org/legacy). Thank you.**

### Pheasants Forever: There to Help You

**Did you know that Pheasants Forever has the expertise and resources to help identify options for landowners to leave a conservation legacy? Elements of an estate plan are often fairly simple, but drafting them correctly is important. To that end, PF works with various financial specialists and estate planning attorneys who can help you develop a solid estate plan that will help make sure that when you are gone, your legacy will live on. To multiply those efforts of individual donors, PF is often able to leverage the value of private contributions to gain state and federal matching funds. Best of all — for those that are conservation-minded — PF has the tools and resources that may allow you to be a conservation hero.**