

My name is Mario Rodriguez, and I am 64 years old. My nickname is Mito, and I go by that name with my family and close friends. I am blessed with a wonderful family! I have been married to my wife Olympia Rodriguez, for forty years. I have two daughters and six grandchildren.

I retired from State Farm Insurance nine years ago, after working for the company for twenty-two years. Prior to working for State Farm Insurance, I worked for ten years at two different school districts, in the Athletic Department and the Physical Education Department.

I have been hunting for forty-two years. I have always enjoyed being active outdoors, and love God's gift of nature. I went hunting with my son-in-law, Narciso Gonzalez. He has always had my best interest at heart, and I love him like a son. Narciso is the one that made it possible for me to have the hunt of a lifetime!

I shot my deer on November 11, 2016 with Joebucks Whitetails Outfitter, Joey Longoria. On that day, Joey and I climbed the blind at 2:30 in the afternoon. We saw several bucks, of which I was ready to pull the trigger on. Every time I would see a buck that I thought was a shooter, Joey would tell me to wait for a bigger one. At that moment I thought to myself, how can there be any buck bigger than what I have seen? To my surprise, at about 5:30 in the afternoon, Joey, who was sitting to the left of me, told me not to move, and said to me, there is your buck! Take it! I slowly turned to my left, allowing Joey to move out of my way. At that moment, I saw my monster buck standing on the open patch of land. I slowly moved my chair to the left, at which time, my "elbow rest" bean bag fell to the floor. I carefully took aim, and took a deep breath, but, I was hesitant to shoot, because the buck was at a 90 degree angle. I still took the shot, even though considering the circumstances. The buck was 100 yards away. I shot, and missed! But to my amazement, the buck did not move! I reloaded my rifle, and took another shot. The buck turned around and walked away. Joey got off the blind to look for any signs of a "hit", yet none to be found. Joey came up to the blind, and told me that I had missed. We waited thirty minutes, and then I informed Joey of where I saw the buck heading into the woods. Joey found the deer tracks and followed them for 75 yards. To his amazement, there was the buck! When Joey returned to the blind, he told me that the buck that I had shot, was bigger than we thought. After the deer was dragged out to the road, to my amazement, I saw that I had shot the monster buck of a lifetime! The measurements of the buck scored 172 Boone and Crockett weighed 215lbs 11 pointer.

In conclusion, the reason that I am writing this story, is because I have Parkinson's Disease. This disease causes me to have limited motor abilities. I also have essential tremors that tend to magnify my Parkinson's symptoms. I have accepted that I have Parkinson's Disease, but, it does not have me! I love hunting, and will continue to hunt!