



# Walter Reed Society, Inc. Newsletter

ISSUE 15

APRIL 2019

## Message From The WRS President

By Col (Ret.) John Pierce,  
WRS President



John Pierce

This winter has been a wet and gray one but with spring around the corner hopefully the warm sun will be out soon and winter just a memory. The Washington DC area is beautiful in the spring with trees and flowers blooming everywhere. I think those of us who live here are all looking forward to it.

Despite the dreary winter the WRS board continues to work to support the wound-

ed, ill or injured and their families who receive care at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Our donors continue to be faithful and we are extremely grateful.

The board and Society want to thank Maj. Gen. Ron Place for being our guest speaker at the Holiday Gala last December. General Place, an Army colorectal surgeon, is the director of the Defense Health Agency National Capital Region Medical Directorate and shared his views on the future of military healthcare and the military healthcare system. Thank you General Place.

As you are all aware the Walter Reed Society newsletter has always been in hard copy. This will not change anytime soon but we are in the process of trying to develop an electronic mailing list of our membership. We have e-mail addresses for some of you but not nearly all. If you have an e-mail address and would be willing to share it with the Society please do so by e-mailing us at [walterreedsociety@verizon.net](mailto:walterreedsociety@verizon.net). Please indicate in your message whether or not you would like to receive our newsletter electronically when that time comes.

As mentioned in the last newsletter we have continued our effort to increase the Society's visibility in the military community by taking out advertisements in military-centric periodicals. Last year, we purchased ads in "At Ease Mid-Atlantic Military Life" and will do so again this year.

This newsletter contains an article about the partnership between the Walter Reed Foundation and Mission M4. I think you will find it very interesting to learn of this partnership and its efforts to improve care provided to our patients.

As always, thanks to all our volunteers for their efforts on behalf of the wounded, ill or injured cared for at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and on behalf of the Society. I hope to see you at our annual meeting in May.

### RESERVE NOW

#### WRS Annual Meeting

You are cordially invited (all members, perspective members and guests) to the Walter Reed Society's Annual Meeting. Brunch will be served.

**When:** May 5, 2019

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Dining Room

4301 Jones Bridge Road  
Bethesda, MD

**RSVP:** April 30, 2019 call (301) 571-1580 or email [walterreedsociety@verizon.net](mailto:walterreedsociety@verizon.net)

**Cost:** \$30

**You can pay at the door or mail a check to:**

Walter Reed Society  
8901 Wisconsin Ave. #303  
Bethesda, MD 20889-5600

Call (240) 997-9243 in case there is an issue entering the gate

**\*Dues can be paid at the Annual Meeting**



# Friday Night Dinners

One of the Society's most successful events is the monthly sponsorship of the Aleethia Foundation's Friday Night Dinner at American Legion Post 41 in Silver Spring, Maryland. The dinners provide the wounded, ill, or injured and their families a chance to get away for the medical center environment and enjoy a night out with great food and entertainment. See the collage of photos to the right.

Comments from service members and family:

- *Amazing as always. Thank you*
- *As always, great time, food and company.*
- *Great food! Great music! Really appreciate getting away from Walter Reed.*
- *Thanks for the great food!*
- *Wonderful food and great music!*
- *Fabulous...Thanks*
- *Food was awesome. Thank you so much!*
- *Great food (especially the green bean casserole).*
- *Awesome hospitality and kindness.*
- *Once again ...good people, food and atmosphere.*
- *Great atmosphere and company. Food was amazing and the band was rockin!*
- *Fun music! Loved the Southern food!*
- *You guys are awesome.*
- *Amazing food! Love you all!*

For more about Aleethia check out their website at: [www.aleethia.org](http://www.aleethia.org) or their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/AleethiaFoundation/>



## Donation to WRS



LTC (Ret) John Wetterau, WRS Treasurer; CSM (Ret) Don Thomas of Pioneer Services; COL (Ret) John Pierce, WRS President accept a check for \$5,000 from Mid-Country Bank of Bloomington, Minnesota, and its military division.





## Mission M4, Not Impossible

By Col (Ret.) John Pierce,  
WRS President

The Walter Reed Foundation is a relatively new organization affiliated with the Walter Reed Society, but the Foundation is separate from the Society.

While the Society focuses primarily on the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and its patients and families, the Foundation has a similar mission but is national in scope and available to benefit any military facility and its patients and families.

A new project that the Walter Reed Foundation has undertaken is in conjunction with MISSION M4 (Military MRI Minus Medication).

The goal of MISSION M4 is to provide funds to upgrade individual military hospitals' MRI imaging suites with equipment that would render the MRI imaging sessions less stressful to children and adults needing an MRI. It is anticipated that the equipment, a portable video display, will decrease the need for sedation during the study.

This system has been shown to be helpful not only to critically ill children, but also to adults with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and brain injuries. Mission M4 procured and donated to WRNMMC a

portable video display for the MRI suite. A dedication ceremony for the equipment took place at the medical center (see photo). Special guest and speaker was Sen. Pat Roberts of Kansas, a Honorary Chairperson of M4 along with five other sitting U.S. Senators.

An additional location is being targeted for the next M4 equipment donation. Mission M4 is the result of a lot of hard work by Linda Wolf, a Northern Virginia real estate agent and friend to military children.

To learn more about MISSION M4, visit: [www.missionm4.org](http://www.missionm4.org).



**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony -** Thomas, a WRNMMC pediatric patient, hands the ceremonial scissors to CAPT Mark Kabelja, WRNMMC Director. To CAPT Kabelja's right are Franki Roberts, Sen. Pat Roberts, and Linda Wolf.

## Next Generation of Health Information Professionals

Through your donations to the WRS, the Society supports the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Foundation's efforts to benefit our uniformed service members through its Veterans Scholarship Program. The Veterans Scholarship Program was created to develop the next generation of health information professionals by providing financial assistance to both veterans and their spouses. The Foundation is excited to announce this year's scholarship recipients:

- The Spouse of an Active Service Member from Virginia, Associate Degree Tidewater Community College
- A Combat Veteran from Michigan, Bachelor's Degree Grand Valley State University

- A Veteran from Indiana, Bachelor's Degree Indiana University, School of Informatics/Health Information Management

AHIMA acknowledges that veterans offer distinctive capabilities and valuable skills developed through real-world, high pressure experience. Veterans have been found to be 4 percent more productive and 3 percent less likely to turn over than the overall civilian workforce. Research studies reveal hiring individuals with military experience is a smart business strategy.

These Veterans Scholarships are available to active duty spouses, veterans and their spouses and wounded, ill and injured and their spouses. <http://www.ahimafoundation.org/education/VeteransScholarship.aspx>



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## Address Service Requested

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## The WRS Officers

### Elected Officers

President, *COL (Ret.) John Pierce*  
First Vice President, *COL (Ret.) Brian Foley*  
VP of Communications, *CAPT (Ret.) John Gallicchio*  
VP of Development, *COL (Ret.) Fred Brand*  
VP of Membership, *COL George Turiansky*  
VP of Patient Services, *SGM (Ret.) Daniel Bullis*  
VP of Programs, *COL (Ret.) Vandy Miller*  
VP of Finance, *MCPO (Ret.) John Frankenburg*  
VP of Projects, *LTC (Ret.) Linda Anderson*  
Secretary, *COL (Ret.) Fred McLain*  
Treasurer, *LTC. (Ret.) John Wetterau*

### Appointed Positions

Advisor to the Society, *Mrs. Rose Mologne*  
Webmaster, vacant  
Administrative Assistant, *SFC (Ret.) Debra Washington*  
Liaison Sports and Recreation, *Carlton Kammerer*  
Newsletter, *TSgt (Ret.) Andre Nicholson and*

### Office of Distinction

President Emeritus, *Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Enrique Mendez*  
President Emerita, *COL (Ret.) Janet Southby*



The Walter Reed Society wants your email address. If you are willing to share it with us please contact us: [walterreedsociety@verizon.net](mailto:walterreedsociety@verizon.net). Please also tell us if you would like to get the Society's newsletter electronically when we get develop that capability.

**Title of Publication:** Walter Reed Society Newsletter  
**Address:** Walter Reed Society, Inc., 8901 Wisconsin Ave. #303  
Bethesda, MD 20889-5600 Phone: (301) 571-1580  
**Frequency of Publication:** Semiannual  
**Submissions:** Submissions can be sent to [walterreedsociety@verizon.net](mailto:walterreedsociety@verizon.net). Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Walter Reed Society, Inc. unless otherwise indicated.

## WRS Membership, Donations

Annual Dues \$25; Two-year Membership \$40; Life-time Membership \$500.

Your support enables the Society to sponsor activities at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and to assist wounded warriors and their families. Send dues and donations to The Walter Reed Society, 8901 Wisconsin Avenue #303 Bethesda, MD 20889-5600, along with your Name, Mailing Address, and Email Address. Please indicate: I do \_\_\_ do not \_\_\_ want my name and address in the directory distributed to members.