

Walter Reed Society, Inc. Newsletter

ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2017

President's Message

By Retired Army COL John Pierce
WRS President



John Pierce

On Sept. 20, 2017, several members of the Walter Reed Society board of directors met with CAPT Mark A. Kobelja, MC, USN, the new director of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, CAPT John R. Rotruck, MC, USN, chief of staff, and CMC Sean L. Brown, senior enlisted leader, as well as several others of the senior leadership staff. The Society requested the meeting to introduce CAPT Kobelja and his staff to the Society and its work. It was a pleasure to meet with them and present information on the activities of the Society. Our information was well received with CAPT Kobelja commenting that the Stages of Healing music program sponsored by the Society receives more positive comments from patients than any other hospital program.

Several months ago the Society's board of directors started holding a conference call, every other month, to supplement our bi-monthly face-to-face meetings. These conference calls have been well attended and are used to discuss individual topics at length. An outcome of the call on attracting new members was to place an advertisement in "The Journal", published weekly for the hospital staff and patients.

Last year COL (R) Brian Foley, USA, our First Vice President initiated a new program with the American Health Information Management Association Foundation for the WRS to provide scholarships to veterans, their spouses, and spouses of active duty in pursuit of a degree in health information manage-

ment. See the article later in this newsletter about this successful program. Thanks Brian.

CAPT (R) John Gallicchio, USPHS, is our VP for Communications and has done an excellent job updating the Society's website. Take a look at: www.walterreedsociety.org Thanks, John.

We have two new Walter Reed Society holiday ornaments this season. Images of both are displayed in this newsletter. One is of the American flag draped over the walls of the Pentagon after 9-11 and the other is of the new medical facility at Fort Belvoir. Both will be available for purchase at the Holiday meeting in December at USUHS or can be purchased on-line.

Thanks to all the board members for their work and to everyone who supports the Walter Reed Society.

WRS Holiday Gathering

You are invited to the Annual Membership Gathering of the Society to celebrate the holiday season. Please encourage others who may be potential members to attend.

Come socialize with our members and enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres and entertainment.

**Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017
2 – 5 p.m.**

**Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
Dining Room
4301 Jones Bridge Road
Bethesda, MD
\$30 per person**

RSVP by Dec. 11, 2017

Call (301) 571-1580 or email walterreedsociety@verizon.net and pay at the door or mail a check to Walter Reed Society, 8901 Wisconsin Avenue #303, Bethesda MD 20889-5600.

Holiday casual attire recommended.

In case of inclement weather call (301) 571-1580.

Vehicle drivers who do not have DoD identification are required to enter through WRNNMC Main Gate on Wisconsin Ave.



Wounded Warrior Creates Symbol of Appreciation



Steven Luu

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to thank all those gathered, board members, distinguished guests, and friends for allowing me to share my story of the Walter Reed Society.

My name is Steven Luu, and I am a wounded warrior that is still in the process of healing. For me the journey has already taken years and the road ahead remains long. During my treatment, my therapists have helped me discover that making art would help alleviate my symptoms. I now paint or produce art regularly through glass fusion.

My treatment is helping me stay calm and to rebuild self-confidence through art. This may sound easy, but it was complicated for someone with my symptoms. I needed to be off-post to begin reintegrating with the outside community. I also have transportation challenges. Fortunately, Susan Hill, an instructor at the Glass Art Center in Glen Echo, agreed to accept me as a student. My treatment team also contacted the Walter Reed Society for support. Without any hesitation, the Society sponsored me to attend glass fusion lessons for 12 months at Glen Echo.

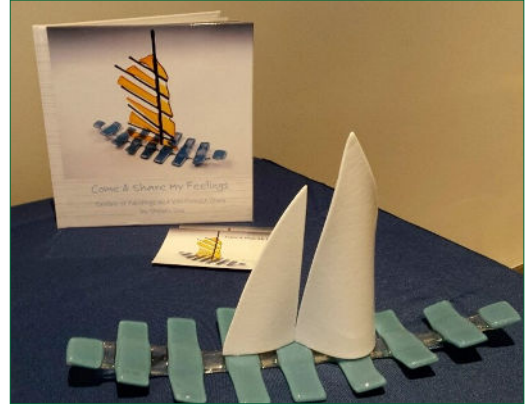
At the beginning, I had a difficult time getting back and forth to the lessons. I got lost a few times while changing buses. However, soon I developed more confidence and slowly adapted to traveling off post. My teacher, Sue, also spent a lot of time helping me with glass. I have since discovered my creative side and decided to pursue a degree in fine arts. I will begin a program at George Mason University this fall.

I would like to share another story about the Walter Reed Society. I spend a lot of time at Walter Reed. Like, a lot. That makes me one of the biggest beneficiaries of the live music that the Walter Reed Society provides throughout the facility. It has always been very peaceful to hear music playing in the lobby and patient waiting areas.

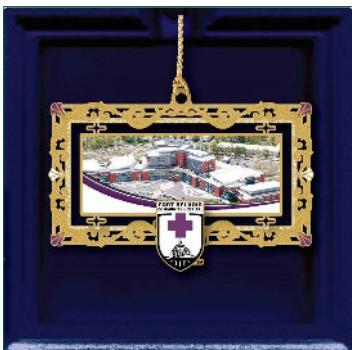
My parents also appreciate everything the Society has done for me. They live in California and they want me to tell you “thank you” for helping me while they are far away. When I was 8 years old, my parents, my brother, and I escaped from Vietnam on a small, crowded boat. After spending 7 years in a foreign refugee camp, we entered the United States as refugees. Ever since, I have felt a strong association with boats.

I would like to present a gift to the Walter Reed Society. I made it myself using glass fusion techniques. It is called the “Walter Reed Society Boat.” As you can see, the sails are in perfect condition. Somehow, the boat is going to travel far. I just want to say thank you so much for all you’ve done and letting me share my story.

*Sincerely,
Steven Luu*



Glass boat created by Steven Luu and presented to the Walter Reed Society as symbol of his appreciation.



New Holiday Ornaments

Images of the two new Holiday Ornaments. The one on the left is a picture of the new medical facility at Fort Belvoir and the one on the right is the American flag draped over the walls of the Pentagon after 9-11. Both can be purchased at the holiday event next month or on the WRS website at www.walterreedsociety.org

Both can be purchased at the holiday event next month or on the WRS website at www.walterreedsociety.org



Scholarships Available for Warriors

By Retired Army COL Brian Foley
WRS First Vice President

The Walter Reed Society (WRS) has provided \$10,000 to the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Foundation to provide health information management scholarships for: veterans, the wounded, ill and injured, (WII), the spouses of veterans and WII, the spouses of active duty members and surviving spouses. Applications for scholarships for school year 2018 increased to 21, up from last year's 13. Awards have not been made as of this

date for 2018 scholarships; there were five awards last year and we anticipate more being awarded this year.

An increasing number of health information organizations are aware of the unique talents and skills veterans bring to health care. Veterans transition with many technical and common employability skills and make excellent healthcare employees; allowing organizations to address many workplace and workforce challenges facing them in the ever-changing health care and health information landscape. Combining a health information scholarship program with veterans is a win-win situation.

WRS Honors Valued Supporters

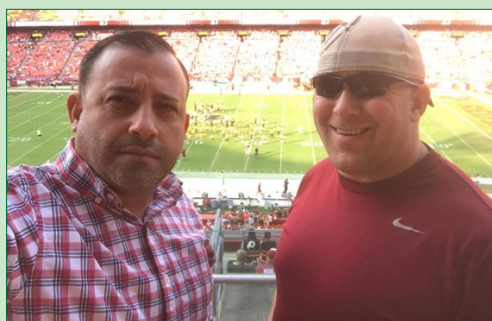


The Combat Medic Statue is presented by members of the Walter Reed Society to John Longenecker, President Longenecker and Associates, for being generous and long time supporters of the Society.

The event took place at the Benevolent Summit held at WRNMMC an event attended by many former NFL players.

Those pictured are left to right: Michael Early, Ricky Ray, President DC. Chapter Former NFL players, Colonel (R) Vandy Miller vice president WRS Inc., Colonel (R) John Pierce, president WRS, Spain Musgrove, center back row, John Longenecker, Carlton Kammerer, liaison for sports and recreational activities WRS, Calvin Snowden, Otis Smith, with Rufus Brown and Steve Atwater kneeling in front row.

Enjoying the Game



Donald Trost of TechSource, Inc. in Los Alamos, New Mexico, donated his Washington Redskin tickets to the WRS. SGM (R) Dan Bullis, VP of Patient Services, arranged for several wounded, ill or injured patients and family members to attend the games. Pictured above and to the left are wounded warriors and their family members enjoying a game.



WALTER REED SOCIETY, INC.
8901 Wisconsin Ave. #303
Bethesda, MD 20889-5600
Phone: 301-571-1580
www.walterreedsociety.org

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
SUBURBAN, MD
PERMIT NO. 2307

The WRS Officers

Elected Officers

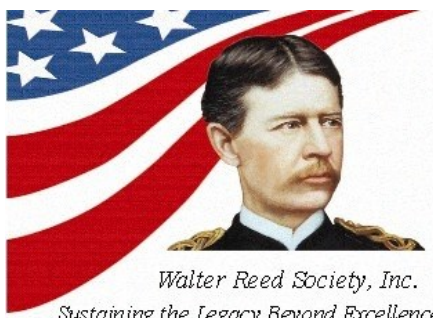
President, *COL (Ret.) John Pierce*
First Vice President, *COL (Ret) Brian Foley*
VP of Communications, *CAPT (Ret) John Gallicchio*
VP of Development, *COL (Ret.) Fred Brand*
VP of Membership, *COL (Ret) George Turiansky*
VP of Patient Services, *SGM (Ret.) Daniel Bullis*
VP of Programs, *COL (Ret.) 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, *CAPT (Ret) John Gallicchio*
Administrative Assistant, *SFC (Ret.) Debra Washington*
Liaison Sports and Recreation, *Carlton Kammerer*
Newsletter, *TSgt (Ret.) Andre Nicholson*

Office of Distinction

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



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: Semi-annual

Submissions: Submissions can be sent to 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.