

## President's Message



John Pierce

### WRS OFFICERS

**Elected Officers**

**President**  
COL (R) John Pierce

**First Vice President**  
COL (R) Brian Foley

**VP Communications**  
CAPT (R) John Gallicchio

**VP Development**  
COL (R) Fred Brand

**VP Membership**  
COL (R) George Turiansky

**VP Patient Services**  
SGM (R) Dan Bullis

**VP Programs**  
COL (R) Vandy Miller

**VP Finance**  
MCPO (R) John Frankenburg

**VP Projects**  
LTC (R) Linda Anderson

**Secretary**  
COL (R) Fred McLain

**Treasurer**  
LTC (R) John Wetterau

**Appointed  
WRS Advisor**  
Mrs. Rose Mologne

**Administrator**  
Hermalene M. Taylor

**Liaison Sports and Recreation**  
Carlton Kammerer

**Office of Distinction  
President Emeritus**  
Maj Gen (R) Enrique Mendez

**President Emerita**  
COL (R) Janet Southby

For those unable to attend our annual meeting last May, it is important for you to know our Society's mission statement has changed to expand our activities to other military health care facilities in the Defense Health Agency National Capital Region Military Health System. WRS board of directors recommended the change and it was accepted by the membership. Each request for support will be reviewed and appropriately determined by the WRS board of directors.

No surprise to any, summer is turnover time in the military and it has been significant in the leadership of military medicine in the National Capital Area. Army surgeon Ronald Place who spoke at our last Holiday Gala has been promoted to Lieutenant General and assigned as Director, Defense Health Agency. Army physician Colonel Andrew Barr is the new director of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Navy nurse Captain Cynthia Judy has been assigned as Director, Fort Belvoir Community Hospital and Navy Medical Service Corps Captain Mary Seymour is the new Commanding Officer of the Naval Support Activity Bethesda. Society leadership met with Captains Judy and Seymour to introduce them to our work. We plan to meet with Colonel Barr soon.

All who attend our annual and holiday meetings and many who are unable to join us know Debra Washington, our outstanding, long-time administrative assistant. Debra has looked to retire for some time and it finally happened with the hiring of Hermalene Taylor.

Hermalene who is a Red Cross Volunteer at Walter Reed comes to us with a wealth of experience in government and private work; the Society is fortunate to have her as our administrator. We heartily thank Debra for her years of dedicated work and wish her the very best in her retirement.

Save-the-Date of October 4, 2020 for a reunion on the historic Walter Reed Army Medical Center campus. Plans are in the early stages and details are few but the date is firm so put that Sunday on your calendar to return to the old campus to renew friendships and memories.

As always, thanks to all our volunteers and donors for their efforts on behalf of the wounded, ill or injured as well as their families being cared for at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and other Department of Defense facilities in the National Capital Area. I hope to see you at our Holiday Gala in December.



### *'Tis the Season*

Join us for our Holiday Gathering

Sunday, December 8, 2019 ~ 1 - 4 PM

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences  
(USUHS) ~ Dining Room

4301 Jones Bridge Road, Bethesda, MD

\$30 per person ~ Check or money order payable to:  
WRS, 8901 Wisconsin Avenue, #303, Bethesda, MD 20889

RSVP by December 1st

301-571-1580 ~ walterreedsociety@verizon.net

In case of inclement weather, call WRS office

*Holiday Attire Suggested*

## Walter Reed Society, Inc.

### Walter Reed Society Annual Meeting May 2019



Colonel Rodney Gonzales, Interim Director Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, addresses the Annual Meeting of the Walter Reed Society. After serving as Interim Director at Ft Belvoir, COL Gonzales returned to his full time position as Chief of Staff, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Gold Star Mother, Tamela Bussard of Memphis, TN speaks at the Annual Meeting of the WRS. Her son, SSG Nolan Barham, died of suicide at Ft Bliss, TX. He had completed three combat tours in Afghanistan and Iraq.



### Donors, Gifts and Contributions

John Longenecker (front row, center) is thanked by Walter Reed Society president COL John Pierce, USA (Retired) for the very generous gift of \$25,000 from the Longenecker Family Charitable Fund to the Society in April 2019. Also pictured on the front row are the Walter Reed Society's VP, Programs COL Vandy Miller USA (Retired) left, and Carlton Kammerer, the Society's Liaison for Sports and Recreation, right. Others pictured on the second and third rows are members of Longenecker Associates. Mr. Longenecker has been a long time and most generous donor to the Society.



## Issue 16

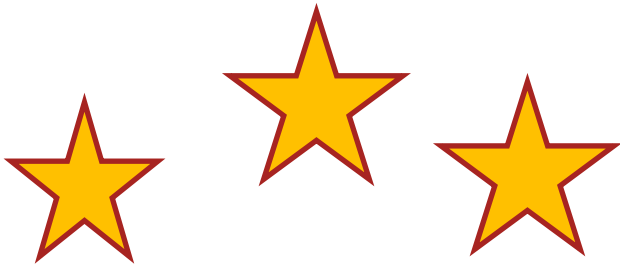
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### Hail and Farewell...

I cannot believe we are saying this but Debra Washington has retired from the Walter Reed Society. Debra has been our very loyal and long-time Administrative Assistant. Without her hard work and constant dedication we would not be where we are today. So we say: Thank You, Thank You, Thank You to Debra and wish her nothing but the very best in her retirement.



*Debra Washington pictured with General David Petraeus, USA (Retired).*



### ...Welcome Aboard



The Society is very pleased to announce that Hermalene Taylor has joined the Society as Administrator. Hermalene will be filling Debra Washington's role as our only part-time staff. She is a Red Cross volunteer at Walter Reed and brings an extensive background in the government and public sectors. She holds a BA degree from Fisk University and an MA from Howard University. We are more than happy to have her join us. Give her a big Walter Reed Society welcome when you see her at our events.

## Walter Reed Society, Inc.

### Wreaths Across America

*The Walter Reed Society has designed a holiday collectible featuring Wreaths Across America to honor veterans.*

National Wreaths Across America Day is observed annually on a Saturday in December as designated by Congress and abroad.

Almost two million wreaths are placed on headstones by volunteers each year. The wreaths symbolize a commitment to remember our nation's veterans.



Made in the USA, it is colorful, two-dimensional, and gift-boxed for \$15 each. Already, the Wreaths Across America organization purchased 250 of these for their supporters and volunteers.

Wreaths Across America's mission to Remember, Honor and Teach carries on throughout the year.

In 2006, the Civil Air Patrol and others helped facilitate wreath-laying at over 150 locations across the U. S. and formed as a non-profit in 2007.

Information printed from Wreaths Across America. For more info go to: [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org).

### Notes of Appreciation...



Hammered Dulcimer

This work has been released into the [public domain](#) by its author, [Pearson Scott Foresman](#). This applies worldwide.

**FUN FACT:** Dulcimer—this percussion-stringed instrument—means “sweet song” — derived from Latin *dulcis* (sweet) and Greek *melos* (song).

Director, Stages of Healing — a Society-funded music program — shared a thank you note sent to Certified Music Practitioner Karen who plays her hammered dulcimer for WRNMMC patients.

July 3, 2019

Dear Karen - The highlight of my stay with my sister at Walter Reed was your hammered dulcimer music. We enjoyed listening and singing together ...there was joy...in her face...I asked about the music program at Walter Reed where I could make a donation and no one...knew anything about it. Please send me the name and address of the organization that supports the music at Walter Reed . —Sincerely, MN

## Walter Reed Society, Inc.

### Notes of Appreciation...

#### Thank You from Salute Military Golf Association (SMGA) New England

John F. and Carlton K.,

I look forward to Carlton's emails and calls every Spring with a big smile because I know what a treat it is for our SMGA New England Members to play in the Bunzl Tournament at The International GC. Jason's comment in his email about the Colonel keeping him laughing on the course says it all. We should call the event The Bunzl Great Escape because that's what it is for one day. Thank you so much for all you do for the Walter Reed Society.—Jerry S. SMGA New England

Carlton,

Again, thank you for the opportunity to spend a day with my brothers playing golf at a beautiful course. The Colonel (Vandy Miller) is a character for sure and it was a pleasure to spend the day with him. We laughed and we sucked at golf. But most of all we were able to forget our troubles and live in the moment for a few hours and that's what we enjoy the most. Thank You!! This is a great event ...I like the potential new title "Great Escape" too! —John



Pictured (left, center) Carlton Kammerer, WRS Liaison, Sports and Recreation, is presented a Combat Medic Statue for his many contributions to the Society. Carl, a former Washington Redskin, is flanked by his long time friend and golfing partner COL Vandy Miller (left) and WRS president COL John Pierce (right).

Carlton, I would like to once again Thank You for the invitation to golf at the...Bunzl Golf outing fund raiser, I personally had a great time. Jerry thank you as well !! — Rob SMGA Veteran



#### Administrator, Directorate for Behavioral Health, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center

May 8, 2019

The Directorate for Behavioral Health (DBH) holds an "All Hands" staff meeting semi-annually. We block schedules for half a day and use the time to provide training, distribute information, allow staff to address issues and ask questions, and recognize staff for their outstanding contributions. To start off the day on a positive note, we provide a continental style breakfast during the first hour to allow staff time to fellowship.

Our May 7th "All Hands" was a great success, largely due to the amazing continental breakfast we were able to provide courtesy of the Walter Reed Society. Your gracious donation allowed DBH to offer a variety of fruit, bagels, yogurt, pastries and refreshments to approximately 300 staff members. What a wonderful way to begin the day!!

Please accept our deepest gratitude for your continued support of this event. While it might not seem like a big deal, we've found that small gestures like this provide staff with a renewed commitment and rejuvenated spirit to continue the mission of caring for our nation's Heroes. Your support plays a key role in our success and there is no way to fully express our gratitude for your generosity.

## Issue 16

### Notes of Appreciation...

#### American Red Cross Senior Station Manager

The American Red Cross appreciates the partnership with the Walter Reed Society to provide Inner Balance systems to service members. With each device, we provide Walter Reed Society and American Red Cross literature.

Patients eligible for the devices enroll in a multi-week program at National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE). They have individual biofeedback follow-ups using the Inner Balance devices during Week 3 of their program. Thereafter, the patient decides if they wish to continue using the Inner Balance sensor. If so, they receive a Red Cross permission form signed by the staff at NICoE and come to the Red Cross office to pick one for their own use.

The Inner Balance system analyzes and displays the patient's heart rhythm, measured by Heart Rate Variability (HRV), which indicates how a patient's emotional state is affecting their nervous system. A small device usually placed on the patient's ear measures their HRV and sends it to an app on their phone. The device then guides the patient to use breathing and calming strategies they have learned in the NICoE program. The device is used primarily by patients with a traumatic brain injury, although the Pain Management Clinic is also exploring use of the device.

#### WRS VP Projects, Linda H. Anderson, LTC USA (Retired) Recipient

Walter Reed Society,

On behalf of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Neurology Residency Programs (Adult, Child & Clinical Neurophysiology) thank you for supporting the Resident Retreat held on May 23, 2019.

Due to your generous gift we were able to not only provide a wellness day to our residents but three amazing challenging team building exercises and provide a safe environment for open communication sessions. We were able to revitalize and rejuvenate individuals that provide care to our most important commodity - Our Patients! The food was exceptional and much appreciated. It was truly a success due to your contribution and many of the attendees commented on the convenience of having breakfast and lunch provided to them.

From WRNMMC Department of Neurology (Adult, Child & Clinical Neurophysiology) Residency programs we would like to again thank the Walter Reed Society for funding this event.

Feedback from these devices is overwhelmingly positive. Each time a patient picks one up, they are very grateful for the ability to take one home. We have also heard from NICoE staff who indicate, "Thank you for helping to provide the opportunity to practice EmWave biofeedback and Inner Balance skills from home. I know that the patients greatly appreciate it!" Red Cross thanks the Walter Reed Society for their partnership.

## Walter Reed Society, Inc.

### Notes of Appreciation...

#### WRS VP Patient Services SGM Dan Bullis USA (Retired) Recipient

SGM Dan Bullis USA (Retired) receives an annual thank you note from the father of a soldier he and the Society assisted many years ago. During deployment, the soldier attempted suicide and was sent to WRAMC for treatment. While at WRAMC, military leadership pressed court martial charges for conduct unbecoming an officer. Ultimately, the devastating circumstances for the family were appropriately resolved.

Dear Dan,

It is that time of year again, so I thought I would take a few minutes to bring you up to date on our daughter's situation. She continues to work as a Community Health Nurse Practitioner...[and] started work at a new Outpatient Organization in June... to provide services to Medicare patients and low-income folks. She enjoys the work and her colleagues...She continues to kayak and...completed a Kayak Safety Rescue Course...[and] her trusty guard dog is happy...I will close by telling you that none of this could be possible without your support and assistance. I will be forever in your debt because you took the time to care about my daughter when she needed it...you are what a Sergeant Major should be. I cannot thank you enough for your efforts...and all of the other Veterans you took care of in the same manner...I [also] appreciate the assistance you arranged from the Walter Reed Society. It made a real difference. — A Thankful Dad

September 13, 2019

Dear Commander Bullis,

It was a pleasure meeting you during the September 6th Friday Night Dinner for the Troops at American Legion Post 41. Your organization's unwavering support for our nation's wounded, injured and ill service members was humbling to witness. The troops had an opportunity to relax for a few brief hours away from the hospital — just enjoying the evening with their families and battle buddies. I can honestly say that everyone in attendance...enjoyed the meal, camaraderie and engagement with...American Legion and Walter Reed Society members in attendance. Thank you...for your selfless support, patriotism and generosity. The DAV team...[looks] forward to continuing...the important relationships with both American Legion Post 41 and Walter Reed Society. — E.R. DAV Executive Director

#### INFORMATIONAL NOTE...

**DID YOU KNOW...** Walter Reed Society participates in the COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN — the federal government's annual charitable fundraiser. Please encourage families, friends and co-workers to consider WRS when making their contributions. As members, your support enables the Society to continue the programmatic work and assistance outlined in our mission. Your generous donations and membership are greatly appreciated. — **CFC # 38118**



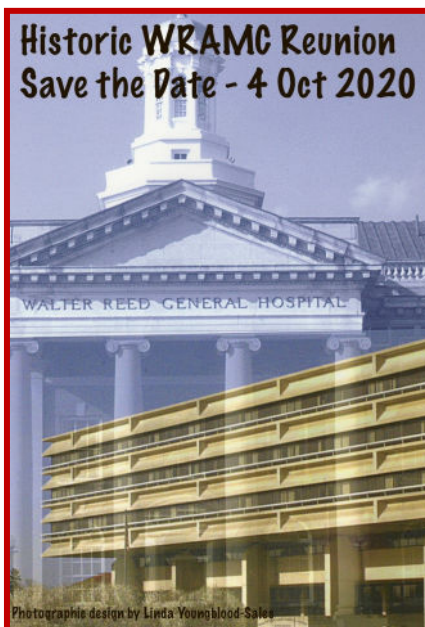
WALTER REED SOCIETY, INC.  
8901 Wisconsin Avenue, #303  
Bethesda, MD20889-5600  
Phone: 301-571-1580  
[www.walterreedsociety.org](http://www.walterreedsociety.org)

**MEMBERSHIP CONNECTIONS...** We are developing an electronic mailing list of our membership. Please share your email address with us and indicate your interest in receiving our newsletter electronically in the future. Thank you. Walter Reed Society, Inc. [www.walterreedsociety@verizon.net](http://www.walterreedsociety@verizon.net)

## Save the Date Historic WRAMC Reunion October 4, 2020

The Walter Reed Society will host a reunion on the historic WRAMC campus in the Rose Garden on 4 October 2020. See the Walter Reed Society web site for more details at: [walterreedsociety.org](http://walterreedsociety.org) or call 301-571-1580.

We are just beginning the planning process so check back with the WRS web site to see new details as they are finalized.



The campus is undergoing significant changes as Building 2, the Heaton Pavilion, or new hospital building has been torn down and others significantly altered. Delano Hall is a District of Columbia International School and Abrams Hall has been converted to senior and homeless Veterans housing.

Please note that it is not anticipated that any of the buildings will be open to us.