



## Annual Report 2021

### About WRS

The Walter Reed Society is a tax-exempt 501[c] [3] organization incorporated in the District of Columbia [EIN 52-1961196]. It was organized exclusively for charitable purposes in 1996 to benefit Walter Reed Army Medical Center and its educational, patient treatment and research activities. In 2011 the Society transferred its activities to Bethesda, Maryland to support the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC).

Membership is strong at about 670 members. Anyone is welcome to join the Society especially all friends of the former Walter Reed Army Medical Center and National Naval Medical Centers, the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

The Society's mission is to assist service members, active and retired, being treated at Walter Reed and their families in response to unmet needs during their care at the medical center. We also sponsor activities and fund projects and goods that enhance patient care services and support the welfare and morale of service members, families and the staff at Walter Reed. All of this is accomplished through membership and the generous support of corporate and private donors.

The Society adopted a new mission statement at its annual meeting in 2019 through vote of the membership in attendance. This new mission statement expands the Society's mission to include military health care facilities in the National Capital Region (NCR) as well as collaborating with non-profit partners in the NCR, such as the American Red Cross.

The mission statement adopted in 2019 can be found on our website: [www.walterreedsociety.org](http://www.walterreedsociety.org).

## **PRESIDENT: Year In Review**

As everyone knows, 2020 was a very unusual year because of the coronavirus pandemic. Life as most of us knew it changed in many ways. The Society was not exempt in these changes. Unrelated to the virus, the Society moved its office from the campus at WRNMMC to space rented from and co-located with the Henry M. Jackson Foundation in Bethesda, MD. Also during the year the Society had its “permission to operate” suspended by the Naval Support Activity Bethesda (NSAB). This action was taken by the NSAB because of the Society’s sale of memorabilia with unauthorized use of official federal government logos as well as communication misunderstandings between the Society and the NASB. This action taken by the NSAB did not effect our assistance to patients, families, and staff at WRNMMC. While this action would have effected our sales and social activities held at the hospital the restrictions related to the pandemic precluded any sales or social events during almost all of 2020 to include the Society’s Annual Meeting in May, the planned reunion on the old WRAMC campus in October and the Holiday Gathering in December, as well as any sales in the hospital. The Society’s permission to operate was restored in early 2021.

Members of the board of directors are normally elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting; however, as mentioned above there was no Annual Meeting in 2020. One new board member, COL (Ret) Avery Davis, was added to the board and will be approved by membership at the next opportunity (see November 2020 newsletter). Despite the pandemic, board meetings continued to be held via conference call every two months. Additional conference calls were added as needed. All board members are volunteers and serve with NO remuneration for the many hours spent conducting Society business at meetings, online and by teleconference. Any Society members interested in serving on the Board are urged to contact the president or the Society office as there are several Board openings.

The Society’s board of directors underwent significant changes in 2020 with the departure of three long-serving members and the deaths of two who were still serving. MCPO (Ret) John Frankenberg, VP Finance, died in November 2020 after a long battle with cancer. COL (Ret) Vandy Miller, VP Programs, also still serving the WRS died in February 2021. Those retiring from the board were COLs (Ret) Fred Brand (VP Development), Fred McLain, (Secretary), and LTC (Ret) Linda Anderson (VP Projects). The Society mourns the passing of Vandy and John and gratefully thanks all these individuals for their dedicated service to our work.

Two newsletters were published in 2020 to coincide with the Society’s meetings to keep members and friends apprised of our current activities and plans. We are still attempting to put together an electronic mailing list for those members who would prefer to get their newsletter electronically.

During 2019 the Society began making plans for a reunion on the grounds of the historic Walter Reed Army Medical Center. That planning continued in 2020 until it became obvious the pandemic would preclude with any social get together. At this writing, the decision has been made to target 2022 for this event.

A few years ago the WRS instituted a partnership 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. It is anticipated that the equipment, a portable video display (PVD), 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 posttraumatic stress disorder and brain injuries. To date, MISSION M4 has donated one PVD to WRNMMC and one to Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu. MISSION M4 was developed through the efforts of Linda Wolf, a local real estate agent with a heart to help military children. Linda's fundraising efforts are separate from the WRS but the Society has assisted MISSION M4 with receiving her donations, bookkeeping and accounting. To learn more about MISSION M4, visit: [www.missionm4.org](http://www.missionm4.org).

We owe special gratitude to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center personnel for their collegiality and support; the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences for their support and use of their facility; the American Legion Post 41 for use of their facilities for our meetings and monthly dinners for wounded, ill, or injured and their families in conjunction with the Helping Hometown Heroes organization. We look forward to continuing to work with all organizations with a similar mission to ours.

We continue to owe special thanks to COL(R) Janet Southby, President Emerita for her continued outstanding support, advice and overall excellence in service to our Society and our beneficiaries.

The Society is fortunate to have Hermalene Taylor as our administrator. She has brought experience, energy, and innovation to the position and we very much look forward to continuing to work with her.

**John R. Pierce, COL, MC US Army (Ret), President**

## **REPORTS: COMMITTEES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Secretary**

This year, the Board of Directors continued active participation in events, projects, and activities surrounding the care of the wounded, ill, and injured patients, the staff that cares for them, and the facility where the care takes place. Because of the pandemic Society officers were unable to meet with hospital leaders to obtain their input and to receive ideas about how we can help.

Our committees continue to honor and support grant proposals within their spending authority, reporting these activities to the Board. Larger projects and proposals come to the Board for consideration, where they are discussed and most often approved. We will consider and support any rational proposal that supports the patients, their care givers, or the health care staff that provides their care.

Because of the restrictions of the pandemic, activities supported by your Society were limited. See the reports below for details of what was accomplished.

The Society continues to receive membership applications, some at the Life Member level, and typically, we will approve one to five new members at each of our Board meetings. At this time, we currently have approximately 670 members.

In summary, we continue to play an active role in the support of the wounded, ill and injured patients, their families and the staff that cares for them, and the facility that houses the world class medical and health care they are provided.

***Secretary, position is currently unfilled***

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### **Treasurer**

Donation income in 2020 showed an encouraging increase. Corporate & individual contributions totaled \$173,164, which was an increase of 18.3% from 2019. This allowed the WRS to maintain its support of the wounded, ill and injured soldiers and their families.

Support of activities/services for wounded, ill and injured soldiers and their families was again a priority. During 2020, the WRS provided grants to approved requests in the amount of \$26,827,

which was a decrease of 23.7% from 2019. Our committees have been very proactive in letting the medical community know that the WRS can be very helpful in areas where funding is not normally available.

Also during 2020 the WRS was able to support requests from the staffs at WRNMMC and Fort Belvoir Community Hospital (FBCH). Requests in the amount of \$58,510 were approved, which was an increase of 35.4% from 2019.

The WRS continued to receive CFC donations from areas around the country as a result of the 2019 CFC Fall campaign. Donations in the amount of \$1,443 were received in 2020, which was a decrease of 14.4% from 2019.

The WRS investment portfolio mirrored that of the general population. Investments showed an overall increase of 8.0% in 2020. Initial review of the start of 2021 looks promising for continued growth of the investments.

Sales of the WRS collectible items showed a decrease of 47.7% from 2019 to 2020. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, sales were prohibited in all hospital areas. Sales at the Annual Meeting and Holiday party were non-existent due to those events being cancelled. Another new ornament was introduced in 2020. The ornaments, stockings and afghans from WRNMMC, WRAMC and FBCH contributed to total sales of \$5,311, almost exclusively through our website.

The external audit of the WRS and WRF's 2019 financial statements was successfully completed in 2020. The external audit of the 2020 financial statements is currently in process and should be complete sometime in the summer of 2021. All required 2020 WRS document filings with governmental jurisdictions are in process of completion.

**John Wetterau, LTC, US Army (Ret), Treasurer**

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**First Vice President**

The Walter Reed Society (WRS) has been providing funding to the American Health Information Association (AHIMA) Foundation for Health Information Management (HIM) Scholarships to the spouses of active-duty military, veterans and their spouses, wounded warriors and

their spouses and surviving spouses. Since 2015, the WRS has funded scholarships at the associate, bachelor's and master's levels. The scholarships were awarded to two 2 students during 2020:

A **Veteran** with four years of military service. Currently, he is a graduate student at Indiana University-Purdue University where he is enrolled in the dual-degree master's program for Health Information Management and Health Informatics. His professional goal is to improve healthcare interoperability and the exchange of information among healthcare organizations.

*This scholarship saved me from getting additional loans,” he says. “Thank you so very much for helping veterans like me during times like this.”*

A **Veteran's Spouse** is a registered nurse currently enrolled in the master's program for Health Informatics and Information Management at the University of Mississippi in pursuit of patient wellness. She is committed to ensuring proper documentation in the continuation of patient care. *“Health information management is a vital aspect of healthcare,”* She is grateful for the Scholarship: *“As a working mother, this scholarship will relieve a lot of financial strain. Being a veteran's spouse is an honor itself and being able to apply for this scholarship was a tremendous honor.”*

### **Brian Foley, COL US Army (Ret), First Vice President**

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### **VP Finance**

The VP for Finance serves as the Chairman of the Finance and Investment Committee and has responsibility for oversight of the Finance and Investment Committee's preparation of the annual budget of the WRS.

Our requests for support of the wounded, ill or injured and hospital staff decreased due to the pandemic. All requests received are reviewed by our VP Patient Services, Dan Bullis, SGM, USA (Ret) and VP Projects, Avery Davis, COL, USA (Ret), to ensure that they are appropriate before being approved by either their committees or the full board.

We believe with a conservative portfolio as mandated by WRS By-Laws further points to long term stability for the WRS in the out years.

Finally, the outstanding leadership of the WRS board of directors has made this solid financial future possible. We appreciate the members of the Finance Committee, Fred Brand, COL, USA (Ret) and George Hollborow, HMCS, USNR (Ret) for their support. In addition, the assistance of the WRS Treasurer, John Wetterau, LTC, USAR(Ret) has proven invaluable.

**John Frankenburg, MCPO US Navy (Ret), VP Finance, passed away in November 2020, this report is based on past years reports. *Position is currently unfilled.***

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### **VP Programs**

As previously mentioned, our usual in-person programs for Society members were cancelled for 2020 due to the pandemic. In addition, all the golf outings were also cancelled.

**COL Vandy Miller US Army (Ret) VP Programs. COL Miller passed away in February 2021. *Position is currently unfilled.***

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### **VP Communications**

The Covid-19 epidemic has temporarily kept us from carrying out some of the Society's traditional events such the Annual Meeting and Holiday Gathering, but the Society continues to go forward with its work to support wounded or injured service men and women and the hospital and staff at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, as well as other military health care facilities in the National Capital Region. Conference telephone calls and group emails have been one means for the Society's board of directors to meet, vote, and direct the Society's work. In particular, at the height of the epidemic, the Society made separate large cash awards available to the leadership of both the WRNMMC and the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital in Virginia to use at their discretion to meet emergencies caused by COVID-19.

Thank-you letters were sent in response to the approximately 19 large donations that were made to the Society since last April. In addition, numerous smaller donations of under \$1000 were received and acknowledged. Several donations were made in honor of the Society's close friends and board members Vandy Miller and John Frankenburg, who passed away in 2020 and early 2021. Vandy and John were cherished colleagues who contributed greatly to the mission of the Society.

This past year, website upkeep and maintenance have been ongoing. Website registration was renewed and security was further enhanced beyond the steps taken last year. Much work still remains.

Feel free to visit our website at [www.walterreedsociety.org](http://www.walterreedsociety.org) .

**John D. Gallicchio, CAPT (Ret), U.S. Public Health Service, VP for Communications**

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**VP Development**

From the WRS By-Laws: The Vice President for Development shall be responsible for coordinating fundraising efforts and insuring appropriate recognition of donors.

While this position has been empty since the departure of COL (Ret) Fred Brand, efforts have continued with fundraising via the Combined Federal Campaign with other board members picking up the issue. Recognition of donors continues via the efforts of the VP Communications, Society administrator and Society president.

**VP Development, *position currently unfilled***

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**VP Projects**

In 2020 we donated \$66,710 towards projects, events, and other support to improve morale among staff and patients at WRNMMC and FBCH. This represents an increase in support provided during 2019 by over \$24,000.00. Contributions again included ongoing support of the Nutrition Support Division for themed meals. Additionally, significant expenditures were made to the Department of Pediatrics for a mural on the inpatient ward and to the WRNMMC and FBCH gift funds respectively. We also made contributions to numerous morale welfare projects. The Society has also provided grants to the American Red Cross station at WRNMMC to support some of their programs.

The Projects Committee has undergone transition in the past year with the retirement of LTC(R) Linda Anderson and the appointment of COL(R) S. Avery Davis as VP Projects. His Committee looks forward to continuing to develop lines of communication with staff and the leadership at both WRNMMC and FBCH. The reputation of the Society continues to grow through service and dedication.



The Projects Committee has, and will continue to play an important role in enhancing that perception and preserving the legacy of Walter Reed.

**S. Avery Davis, Colonel, MC US Army (Retired) VP Projects**

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**VP Membership**

Membership Statistics June 2020 - April 2021

Current Total Member Count: 673

New members as follows:

- Life Membership - 11
- Annual - 4
- Two Year - 2
- Five Year - 4

**George Turiansky, COL US Army (Ret), VP Membership**

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**VP Patient Services/Warrior Family Support**

Fulfilling our commitment to our Wounded, Ill and Injured Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and family members continues as we honor and serve our brave heroes during their critical time of need. For twenty-five years we have been at the point of the spear when it involves providing direct assistance to our military family. We continue to coordinate with the many points of service at WRNMMC and Ft. Belvoir to ensure individuals are spared the added challenges that result in being financially challenged as one focuses on healing. There is much truth to the adage that suggests that “When a Soldier goes to War a family goes to War.” This is so visibly true when we meet with a service member in need and his/her spouse, children, Mom and Dad, siblings, battle buddies and others alongside them. Funding to have them here and provide for them while here is not always automatic, and there is another household that must be maintained “back home” and the bill collectors are not in position to understand the situation. Each time we are notified that a service member or family member is in need by a nurse, case manager, therapist, or member of the Soldier Recovery Unit (SRU) we immediately contact the individual and access the full needs of the individual/family and swing into action. We gather all of the facts involved and with a twenty-four hour turn around via email with our internal committee we agree

on a plan to remove one of the most challenging obstacles to the recovery. That of having to worry about a financial obligation that can't be met as you deal with your injury or illness. I have often said that my duties with the WRS are likely the most rewarding as I explain to a distressed service member and family that because of the generosity of our many patriotic donors the WRS is able to take care of the current challenges they are faced with. This is most often met with tears of joy and a forever grateful thank you. The monthly Wounded Warrior dinners that we sponsor continues to be curtailed due to COVID and we hope to renew this effort as the rules allow.

**Dan Bullis, SGM US ARMY (Ret), VP Patient Services/Warrior/Family Support**

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**2020 Collectible**

As has been our annual tradition, the Society developed a collectible for the Holidays. This year, without any in-person sales, all sales were conducted via the WRS's internet website. This year's Wreaths of Flags Collectible has a Walter Reed Society oval tag attached. Handcrafted on solid brass in the USA and packaged in a window box. Proceeds from sales go to assist patients and their families being treated at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and other military facilities in the National Capital Region to assist with unmet needs. As she has done for several years, Jan Southby was responsible for the developing this collectible.



**Janet Southby, COL US Army (Ret) President, Emerita**

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