



## **Annual Report 2022**

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).

In 2021 the Society celebrated its 25th anniversary of service to the patients, families and care givers, as well as the facilities of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Thanks to our very generous donors and supporters, over these 25 years the Society has donated over \$3.6 million in support.

Membership is strong at over 620 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 can be found on our website at: [www.walterreedsociety.org](http://www.walterreedsociety.org).

As it has for the past two years, the coronavirus pandemic has continued to impact the Society and its work. All of the Society's social events, get togethers and sales for 2020 and 2021 were cancelled including the reunion on the old WRAMC property. Despite the fact that we cannot be in the hospital as much as previously the Society has continued its efforts to assist patients, families and caregivers at Walter Reed and within the NCR. Our twice yearly newsletter has information on some of our assistance activities. The Society continues to hold office space co-located with the Henry M. Jackson Foundation in Bethesda, MD.

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 or 2021. 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 continued to undergo significant changes in 2021. COL (Ret) Vandy Miller, VP Programs, was still serving on the WRS Board when he died in February 2021. Founding WRS Board member COL (Ret) Fred Brand who last served as VP Development also passed away in 2021. CAPT John Gallichio USPHS (Ret) who served very capably as VP for Communications stepped aside from his position with the Board in 2021. The Society is very appreciative of John's work. CSM Ric Alcantara, US Army (Ret), has taken on this position.

The WRS continues its 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. The portable video display (PVD) equipment will decrease the need for sedation during the study. To date this system has been installed at WRNMMC and at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu. This year Linda Wolf, a local real estate agent with a heart to help military children who leads MISSION M4, turned her efforts toward getting the DoD to fund this equipment for all military hospitals where appropriate. Her fundraising efforts are also refurbishing a parent's waiting room and funding an art mural project both for the benefit of pediatric inpatients

and parents at WRNMMC that will be completed in 2022. To learn more about MISSION M4, visit: [www.missionm4.org](http://www.missionm4.org).

The WRS was contacted by the local chapter of Blue Star Families (BSF), a national support organization for military families, seeking to collaborate. They reached out to us based on our Mission Statement of wanting to “collaborate with other non-profit organizations operating within and supporting the WRNMMC patient population and related populations at military treatment facilities in the National Capital Region in assisting service members or their families...”

The local chapter submitted a grant proposal to the WRS and it was considered by Dan Bullis’s committee. The motion was made to support this request with a grant of \$20,000. There was significant discussion of this motion to include the fact that this grant would be used within the National Capital Area, the importance of BSF’s support of caregivers as emphasized by a board member who had significant experience this past year as a caregiver for an ill parent, the visibility the WRS would receive as a partner with BSF both on their website and at their meetings and activities, (i.e., they will be a source of referrals to the WRS of individuals and families needing our assistance). The grant was approved. Dan Bullis agreed to be the WRS representative to the BSF National Capital Region Board.

More about BSF can be found on their website: <https://bluestarfam.org>

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 2021 until it became obvious the pandemic would preclude with any social get together. At this writing, the decision has been made to hold this event on 16 October 2022 on the grounds of the old WRAMC.

Two newsletters were published in 2021 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.

In early 2021, the Society received the largest donation in its history. At the time the donation of 3700 shares of Microsoft stock was made the donor was anonymous. During the course of time the donor, Mr. Mark Norman of Lakeland, FL was made known to us. Sadly this was after Mr. Norman’s death, thus we were unable to recognize and thank him publicly before he died. Mr.

Norman was a long time donor to the Society; we more than appreciate his thoughtfulness and generosity.

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. Monthly dinners for wounded, ill, or injured and their families in conjunction with the Helping Hometown Heroes organization at the Legion Post have been suspended during the pandemic and we look forward to holding them again in the near future. 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 active support, advice and overall excellence in service to our Society and our beneficiaries.

The Society is also fortunate to have Hermalene Taylor as our administrator. Her experience, energy, and innovation in the position have added much to the Society and we look forward to her continuing work.

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

## **COMMITTEES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Secretary**

For the past several years the Secretary position has been unfilled. Other Board members along with the Society Administrator have been compiling the minutes after each Board meeting. These minutes are reviewed by other Board members and approved at the next meeting.

**Secretary - position is current unfilled**

## **Treasurer**

Donation income in 2021 showed a significant decrease. Corporate & individual contributions totaled \$138,508, which was a decrease of 20% from 2020. However, WRS was still able to maintain its support of the wounded, ill & injured soldiers and their families. Mr. Norman's once in a lifetime donation, mentioned above, is such an outlier it is not included in the summing of our regular donations.

Support of activities/services for wounded, ill and injured soldiers and their families was again a priority. During 2021, the WRS provided grants to approved requests in the amount of \$75,835, which was almost a 200% increase from 2020. 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 2021 the WRS was able to support requests from the staffs at WRNMMC and Fort Belvoir Community Hospital (FBCH). Requests in the amount of \$31,762 were approved, which was a decrease of 45.7% from 2020.

The WRS continued to receive CFC donations from areas around the country as a result of the 2020 CFC Fall campaign. Donations in the amount of \$903 were received in 2021, which was a decrease of 37.4% from 2020.

The WRS investment portfolio mirrored that of the general population. Investments showed no appreciable growth with only a 0.1% increase in 2021. Initial review of the start of 2022 looks promising for continued growth of the investments.

Sales of the WRS collectible items showed a continued decrease of 67% from 2020 to 2021. 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. The ornaments, stockings and afghans from WRNMMC, WRAMC and FBCH contributed to total sales of \$1,761, almost exclusively through our website.

The external audit of the WRS and WRF's 2020 financial statements was successfully completed in 2021. The external audit of the 2021 financial statements is currently in process and should be complete sometime in the summer of 2022. All required 2021 WRS document filings with governmental jurisdictions are in process of completion.

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

## **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) for scholarships to the spouses of active-duty military, veterans and their spouses, wounded warriors and their spouses and surviving spouses. Since 2015, we have awarded a total of 14 veteran scholarships, of which 6 were granted in 2021, marking it the highest number of awards distributed.

Last year, the WRS offered scholarships at the associate, and master's degree levels. The scholarships were awarded to: veterans, spouses of veterans and a surviving spouse.

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

## **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. This position is currently unfilled.

During 2021 the Society received its largest single donation from an anonymous donor. A small committee of present and former Board members is evaluating the best way to handle this large donation.

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. The assistance of the WRS Treasurer, John Wetterau, LTC, USAR(Ret) has proven invaluable.

**VP Finance - position currently unfilled**

## **VP Programs, position currently unfilled following the death of COL Vandy Miller US Army (Ret) in February 2021**

As previously mentioned, our usual in-person programs for Society members were cancelled for 2021 due to the pandemic. One golf outing sponsored by BUNZL was held in 2021.

### **VP Programs - position currently unfilled**

### **VP Communications**

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Walter Reed Society for giving me an opportunity to join the Board. Our main effort this year is to focus on updating our website with the latest technology making it user friendly for all (<https://www.walterreedsociety.org/>) and providing up to date information to our members and future members.

Currently we are working with updating our news, donations and application for scholarship link in Health Information Management. We are also looking at expanding our Social Media presence on LinkedIn and Facebook.

The Society's annual meeting this year is scheduled for 15 May, 2022 1130-1400 at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) Dining Room, 4301 Jones Bridge Road, Bethesda MD.

The planned reunion of friends, administrators, and caregivers of the old Walter Reed Army Medical Center is scheduled for 16 October, 2022 at the Children's Hospital portion of the Campus at the old WRAMC Campus. Parking will be available at the old Rumbaugh Garage.

Information about the Walter Reed Army Medical Center Reunion is posted on the "news" section of the WRS website

**Ric Alcantara, CSM, US Army (Retired) - Vice President for Communication**

## **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 is currently empty, donations have continued to be received by the Society. via the Combined Federal Campaign (now handled by other Board members), the Select Auto annual fund raiser in November on WTOP radio, as well as generous donations by individual donors. Recognition of donors continues via the efforts of the Society Administrator and Society President.

**VP Development - position currently unfilled**

## **VP Projects**

In 2021 we donated \$17,455.00 towards projects, events, and other support to improve morale among staff and patients at WRNMMC and FBCH. This represents a decrease in support provided during 2020. Expenditures were made to the Department of Pediatrics as part of an ongoing effort 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. Additionally, several board members have had the opportunity to meet with the leadership at WRNMMC and FBCH in order to inform the current leadership about our desire to support the mission of health-care through the support of various initiatives.

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**



## VP Membership

### Membership Statistics - May 2021 – April 2022

<b>CURRENT TOTAL</b>	<b>622</b>
<b>RENEWALS</b>	<b>77</b>
Annual	8
Two Year	34
Five Year	33
Life	2
Honorary Life	4
<b>NEW</b>	<b>22</b>
Annual	4
Two Year	4
Five Year	8
Life	6

#### Membership Highlights and Focus for Year

- Member Renewal Drive
- Member Database and Information enhancement initiative (phase 1 and ongoing)
- Collaboration and coordination with VP Communications for current and new member ease of WRS website access and use of information, donations, renewals (phase 1 and ongoing)

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

## **Patient Services/Warrior Family Support**

As we collectively reflect on what the officers, members, donors and friends of the Walter Reed Society have accomplished over the past 25+ years that our beloved Society has been providing assistance, equipment, education and so much more we can smile broadly and be so excitingly proud of the work we do.

While the “active wars” are behind, we for the moment, both at Walter Reed-Bethesda and Fort Belvoir Community Hospital continue to treat the Wounded, Ill and Injured at high census rates. And we continue to be there every step of the way to lend a hand to those that are faced with medical challenges that we all pray to avoid. We do “Take Care of Our Own” and each and every member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard, to include family members, who seek our help via their case manager do so with great hesitation. This reflects their pride in not wanting to ask for assistance but thanks to all of our volunteer’s and donors they soon realize that we are there in their time of need. The “hands on” approach we have in helping those in need results with a relief of great stress when they are experiencing serious medical challenges. The emotional response that we receive directly from those we assist is so very genuine, heart felt and rewarding for all of the Walter Reed Society Family. We are also pleased that the Wounded Warrior and Family dinners that we support in coordination with the Disabled American Veterans organization has started again and we look forward to this post COVID development. So a sincere THANK YOU to all that support our Hero’s and families by supporting the Walter Reed Society.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### **The Walter Reed Society 25th Anniversary Coin**

The Society’s new 25th anniversary coin, below, made in silver, the traditional color of the 25th anniversary is 2 inches in size. The center of the coin features the Swiss or Geneva Cross that represents medical assistance; it is purple in color representing jointly staffed military medical facilities. On the coin’s obverse, centered on the cross is the image of Major Walter Reed surrounded by the dates of his life. Around the outside of the Swiss Cross is the Society’s name and motto, “Sustaining the Legacy Beyond Excellence.” On the coin’s reverse, centered on the Swiss Cross is the Torch of Knowledge emblazoned with the letters “WRS” studded with stars. Surrounding the torch are the words “25 Years of Service” and the dates 1996-2021. On the reverse, around the top of the outside of the Swiss Cross are words describing our main focus, “Supporting Warriors Families Caregivers.” Circling around the lower portion of the coin is the description of our location of focus, “National Capital Region.”



The Society also has a new lapel pin that combines portions of both sides of the coin. Shown below, it is 1 inch in size.

