



# Walter Reed Society, Inc.

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## JTF CapMed Deputy Commander Addresses Walter Reed Society at Annual Meeting

Story and Photo By André Nicholson

Brigadier General (P) Philip Volpe, MC, USA, deputy commander, Joint Task Force National Capital Region Medical (JTF CapMed) captivated the attention of audience members during the Walter Reed Society's Annual Meeting, May 17, 2009.

Volpe was invited to be the guest speaker at the meeting/luncheon to talk about the future of military medicine and what they are doing in the JTF CapMed.

"Due to the threat in the nation, we find ourselves in a different era that was exemplified I believe with 9/11 and other threats to national security that have called for a change in the way we do things," he said. "We lived with the luxury for the last 15-20 years prior to 9/11 of being a peacetime military. And our system was built around a peacetime system not a wartime system. But once 9/11 hit we realized the threat was not going away, and it required a change in the way we looked at health care."

Great strides have already been made. The way health care is delivered on the battlefield in deployed settings is absolutely phenomenal, Volpe explained. Survivability is greater than it's ever been before. Some of those reasons are because of the use of personal protective equipment; tactics and techniques that the lines have embraced; tactical combat casualty care; the training of people on the front line; and rapid tactical evacuation.

"But the one thing we had not transformed is our medical treatment facilities, and we now have a larger number of people in the health care system," Volpe said. "Our deadline for the opening of the new facility, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center is Sept. 15, 2011 and we need that deadline in order to bring all the parties together."

After speaking to the audience, Volpe took several questions and went on to thank the members of the WRS for their support.

"Thank you all for your service and support to the

wounded warriors, family members and staff at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Thank you for what you do every day, and I'm proud to serve with you."



Brigadier General (P) Philip Volpe, MC, USA, deputy commander, Joint Task Force National Capital Region Medical, addresses the audience during the Walter Reed Society Annual Meeting, May 17, 2009.

### Save the Dates

**Brewmasters Golf Tournament Sponsored by the Rock Bottom Foundation** will benefit WRS on Sept. 15 at 1:30 p.m. at the Lake Presidential Golf Course, Upper Marlboro, Md. To register, contact Don Battista at 301-652-1311 or [bethesda@rockbottom.com](mailto:bethesda@rockbottom.com). Your participation is most welcome to support this worthy cause.

**The Annual Membership Holiday Party** is Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009 from 2:30 to 5 p.m., at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, Md., in the Dining Room, Building B.



## Annual Meeting packed with gratitude, recognition of WRS support

*Story and Photo By André Nicholson*

Every year the Walter Reed Society (WRS) holds its annual meeting and this year was no different. Not only did the Society fill their agenda, they also filled the hearts and stomachs of the audience as they packed the afternoon with lunch, recognition awards, music, a guest speaker and some important business.

The WRS President, Retired Army COL Janet Southby, welcomed the guests and recognized several distinguished visitors.

Words of encouragement and gratitude came first from the Commanding General of the North Atlantic Regional Medical Command and Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC), MG Carla Hawley-Bowland, MC, USA.

“Thank you for your support of Walter Reed over the years because you allow us to do things we ordinarily wouldn’t be able to do, so I appreciate your support,” she said.

Her sentiments were echoed by the Commander of Walter Reed Health Care System, COL Norvell Coots, MC, USA, who also spoke about plans for the closure of Walter Reed.

“We are working on a new committee for the closure of Walter Reed,” Coots explained. “We need to make sure we do it right, it’s almost like having a wake and a funeral because Walter Reed is almost like a living entity.”

The WRS meeting fell on the heels of the centennial celebration of WRAMC which was established in 1909. The hospital was named after MAJ Walter Reed, MC, USA, one of the most famous American physicians in history.

The Walter Reed Society was founded in 1996 for charitable and educational purposes for the benefit of WRAMC and its educational, treatment and research activities.

It is this mission that keeps the members of the WRS so passionate and committed to their support of servicemembers and their families.

So, as the afternoon progressed and before the meeting ended, the audience was wowed by solos from Army SSG Derrick Brown, noncommissioned officer in charge of Sol-

diers and Family Assistance Services, and an informative presentation by BG (P) Philip Volpe, MC, USA, deputy commander, Joint Task Force National Capital Region Medical (JTF CapMed). Also, some business had to be conducted and on the WRS agenda was the discussion of the bi-laws and the nomination of new officers.

The WRS Secretary, Mr. Peter Esker, nominated Mr. Nick Santrizos for the Vice President of Communications, and it was confirmed with a vote by acclamation.

“Our officers are a very diverse group with many talents,” Esker said. “It’s hard to find people to volunteer and do what they do, so thank you to you all.”



*The Commander of the Walter Reed Health Care System, COL Norvell Coots, MC, USA, presented a coin on behalf of the WRAMC staff to Walter Reed Society President, Retired Army COL Janet Southby.*

## WRS Membership, Donations

*Annual Dues-\$25; Two-year Membership-\$40; Life-time Membership-\$500. Donations are tax-deductible. Your support enables the Society to sponsor activities at WRAMC and to assist wounded warriors and their families. Send checks to The Walter Reed Society, P.O. Box 59611, Walter Reed Station, Washington, D.C. 20012-9611, along with your: Name, Mailing Address and E-mail Address.*

*Please indicate: I do \_\_\_ do not \_\_\_ want my name and address in the directory distributed to Society members.*



## Generous Donations

*Pictured left to right:* Retired Army SGM Jim Gonyea, WRS Treasurer; retired Army 1SG Robert Davis; his wife, **Mrs Elfriede Davis**; and retired Army SGM Daniel Bullis, Vice President of Patient Services. Mrs. Elfriede Davis, a long-time patient of WRAMC donated a \$30,000 check to WRS to help Soldiers in need. The Commander of Walter Reed Health Care System, COL Norvell Coats, MC, USA, presented Mrs. Davis with a WRAMC picture book and CSM Rodolfo Delvalle gave her and Mr. Davis coins. Mr. Bullis and Mr. Gonyea presented them with lapel pins on behalf of the Society.



*Photo by Erifile Zografos*



*Photo by Irene Cusimano*



*Photo courtesy of Twigg Cycles*

*Bottom left:* **Ms. Mary Ann Jones (left)** and **Ms. Linda Witherel**, representing St. Elizabeth Seton Church in Woodbridge, Va., presented the Walter Reed Society with a check for \$4,369.35. During the Memorial Day week they conducted a fund-raising drive among their parishioners in support of Soldiers. Ms. Witherel's daughter is a physical therapist who previously served at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. *Right photo:* The Tri-State Riders Club held a benefit ride May 16 in conjunction with its sponsor, Twigg Cycles. The organizations donated \$1,500 to WRS for the benefit of the Iraq/Afghanistan veterans that are under care at WRAMC. Pictured left to right is retired Army COL **Joe Konzelman**, who represented WRS; Tri-State Riders Club President, **Mr. Michael Brown**; Tri-State Riders Club Treasurer, **Mr. Peter Daly**; and Twigg Cycles Owner, **Mr. Michael Twigg**.

The Walter Reed Society,  
Inc., would like to thank all  
our donors for their support  
of our wounded warriors  
and their families.



Address Service Requested

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## Meet the Officers

### Elected Officers

President, *Col. (Ret.) Janet Southby*  
First Vice President, *Col. (Ret.) Allan Glass*  
VP of Communications, *Mr. Nick Santrizos*  
VP of Development, *Col. (Ret.) Fred Brand*  
VP of Membership, *Col. (Ret.) Joseph Konzelman*  
VP of Patient Services, *SGM (Ret.) Daniel Bullis*  
VP of Programs, *Col. (Ret.) Vandy Miller*  
VP of Finance, *Col. (Ret.) William Duncan*  
VP of Projects, *Col. (Ret.) Sharon Feeney-Jones*  
Secretary, *DAC (Ret.) Peter Esker*  
Treasurer, *SGM (Ret.) James Gonyea*

### Appointed Positions

Advisor to the Society, *Mrs. Rose Mologne*  
Adv. of Enlisted Affairs, *CSM (Ret.) Ricardo Alcantara*  
Historian, *Col. (Ret.) John Pierce*  
NNMC Liaison, *MCPO (Ret.) John Frankenburg*  
Volunteer Sales Coordinator, *Col. (Ret.) Dianne Butke*  
Memorabilia Procurement, *Ms. Joni Comuntzis*

### Office of Distinction

President Emeritus, *Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Enrique Mendez*  
Administrative Assistant - *SFC (Ret.) Debra Washington*

## With Much Appreciation....*Letters from the families*



When I was told that my husband Andy was in critical condition, my heart dropped. I left my job and home with my two boys to fly to Washington, DC. Along with the worries of my husband, I also worried about my two boys our home and our finances. The Walter Reed Society helped me worry less.

I have come across many people in the Walter Reed Hospital who have halos above their heads. They are here to help in every way possible. Never in my life have I seen or even heard of a hospital such as the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and every one of

its staff. Thank you Mr. Dan Bullis, and to all the staff at WRAMC.

*The Crespo Family*

I received a check for my rent and was surprised with an additional check for my electric bill! What a blessing you have been during one of the most tragic and difficult times in my life. Because of your open hearts, I can now get back to caring for my son.

I am so grateful for your help. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. God Bless our Soldiers and Their Families.

*Peggy Brewington*  
*Mother of SGT John Moore*