

Walter Reed Society, Inc. Newsletter

ISSUE 8

NOVEMBER 2015

WRAMC: Where does it stand?

By COL (Ret) John Pierce
WRS First Vice President

It has been four years since Walter Reed Army Medical Center was closed and if you drive around the place it looks, from the outside at least, pretty much like it did four years ago. The initial plan was for it to be disposed of within three years.

I have made a few phone calls and checked the internet and learned that the Army still possesses the majority of the property. I also found an article that said a small portion was conveyed to the Washington, D.C. city government to build a new fire station. I do not know the status of that build.

As I have reported here before, the property was to be split up between the D.C. city government and the Department of State (DOS). The city plans to commercially develop their 66 acres with mixed use development and have already selected a developer for what will be called The Parks at Walter Reed. The DOS planned to use their 40 plus acres to develop a Foreign Missions Center for a number of different foreign embassies.

In late 2014 a new wrinkle developed as Children's Hospital asked for 13 acres which includes the AFIP building and Rumbaugh Garage to develop a research center within the AFIP building. A bit of a food fight has developed between the city and DOS as to who would give up the 13 acres that Children's would acquire. Apparently this is tied up in the FY 2016 Defense Appropriations bill and has yet to be decided.

I have been told by a contact who is still at WRAMC on a daily basis that the Historic District designation which includes the entire property has been approved at all levels and that the property will come under the protection of both the Department of the Interior designation and the D.C. Preservation League designation. This does not mean that certain newer buildings cannot be torn

down but that any changes to the property have to be approved by both agencies.



Photo by M. Dukes 2006

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. 6, 2015

1:30 – 4 p.m.

Fort Myer Officers' Club

214 Jackson Avenue, JBM-HH, VA

Abrams-Chaffee Room, 2nd floor

\$30 per person

RSVP by Dec. 1, 2015

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 JBM-HH through Hatfield Gate on Washington Blvd at South 2nd St.



Prestigious Awards, Golfing, Girl Scout Cookies: WRS Enjoys it All



Above: The Bunzl Corporation from Pennsylvania presented a check in the amount of \$5,864 from proceeds of a sponsored golf outing to Treasurer, LTC. (Ret.) John Wetterau; VP of Programs, COL (Ret.) Vandy Miller; and President COL (Ret.) Joe Konzelman.



Above: Eight Wounded Warriors attend the Mickey Steele Golf Tournament with WRS VP of Programs, COL (Ret.) Vandy Miller (center, white pants) and WRS Liaison Sports and Recreation, Carlton Kammerer (far right).

Pictured right: Walter Reed Society President COL (Ret) Joe Konzelman received the "Order of Military Medical Merit" from former Army Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. Erick Schoomaker at the annual meeting last May. He was joined by other board members and previous award recipients. Regrettably, COL Darlene McLeod (seated in wheelchair), a long-time loyal member, died in October.



Above: WRS VP of Patient Services, SGM (Ret.) Daniel Bullis met with several girl scouts from Girl Scout Troop 3459 who traveled from Wisconsin to Washington D.C. to deliver Girl Scout cookies to troops at Walter Reed Medical Facility. Front- Olivia Jordan; second row Maggie Patterson, Molly Patterson, Maggie Bobak; third row Olivia Levina, Lily Bobak, Elaina Jordan and Prue Strauch.

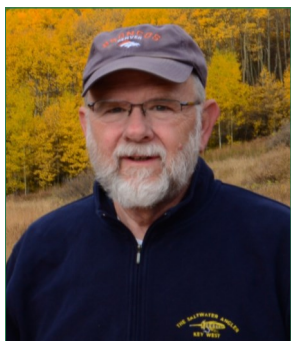




WRS VP Keeps History Relevant

John R. Pierce, M.D. COL, USA (Ret) is a pediatrician and neonatologist who served 30 years on active duty, 15 of those at Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC).

He served seven years as consultant in pediatrics to the surgeon general, after which he was chief, Department of Pediatrics and then deputy



John Pierce

commander for Clinical Services at WRAMC.

After retirement from the Army he worked at the Department of Veterans Affairs for over 12 years. He has co-written a book about Major Walter Reed and his work on yellow fever published by John Wiley and Sons in 2005.

He was the lead editor on a book about the centennial of WRAMC published by the Borden Institute in 2009. He has served as the WRS historian for the past several years and is currently the First Vice President.

Play captures ripple effects of war on families

By Jim Garamone
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

America sends its sons and daughters to war, and a new play titled "I Will Wait" looks at the effect of these deployments across the generations.

The brainchild of Amy Uptgraft, the play connects the experiences of spouses from World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Afghanistan and Iraq. Uptgraft wrote the play with Gregory Stieber, who also directed the play. It premiered July 31 in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Uptgraft built on her experiences as an Army spouse. Her husband, Jamie, has deployed four times so far in the course of their marriage. They have lived the subhead used in advertising the play -- "For every one gone, someone waits." They live in Denver with their four children.

Uptgraft, who worked as an actress and taught theater, came up with the

idea for the play while visiting her home in Fort Wayne. "I was sitting with Greg and a friend from college and talking about what we had been through," she said during an interview. "Greg said we ought to write a play."

No Small Effort

This is not a small effort. The play has more than 40 characters, and the story is told with dialogue, music and dance. The cast was excited to be a part of it, Uptgraft said. "Really, no one in the cast is impacted by the military like I am, but they were honored to be a part of it, and it was a really successful first run," she added.

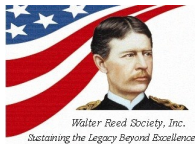
Through the research, Uptgraft found that the experiences she was going through are not unique. "They are felt really by millions of family members who send people off to war," she said.

The play received an "overwhelmingly positive reception,"



An actress portrays a service member's widow in the play "I Will Wait," in Fort Wayne, Ind., Aug. 1, 2015. The play tells the story of several military spouses across several time periods, from the World War II era to present day. Photo by Tim Brumeloe

she said. "I was worried because I had so much invested," she added. "My big worry was, 'What happens if no one cares?' Fifteen minutes into the show and I could hear people crying and being moved. When the play ended, people were immediately on their feet."



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The WRS Officers

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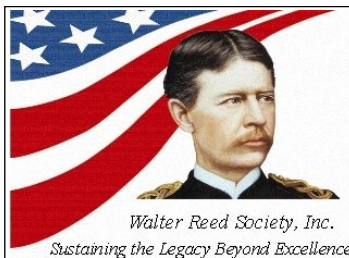
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www.walterreedsociety@verizon.net. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Walter Reed Society, Inc. unless otherwise indicated.



The new 2015 WRS holiday collectible is available now and will be available for purchase at the Holiday Gathering! It features the WRNMMC priority for the patient experience. Only \$15 including gift box and description. Made in the USA.