

Walter Reed Society, Inc. Newsletter

ISSUE 1

April 2012

Walter Reed Society Assists Wounded Warriors, Families

By TSgt (Ret.) Andre Nicholson
Editor, WRS Newsletter

Usually, when a person returns from a long stay away from home, the homecoming is a joyous occasion. However, thousands of servicemembers and their families quickly realize the pain and tough road ahead once the servicemember has settled in.

Since the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan began more than a decade ago, approximately 2.3 million servicemembers have served in those wars. As with any war, casualties and fatalities are the ultimate sacrifices made. Due to advances in combat medicine and body armor equipment, more warriors are returning home alive. For many, this is when the real struggle begins. Thousands of wounded warriors find it difficult to acclimate back into their families while trying to deal with the invisible wounds they suffered while deployed, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The Veterans Administration has reported treating more than 210,000 servicemembers for PTSD and states there are many more who have not been treated due to the stigma associated with the diagnosis.

Getting their lives back on track can often be a struggle for both the servicemember and their family so the Walter Reed Society steps in to assist whenever and however it can. In 2004, the WRS established a fund to assist servicemembers being treated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The fund was created with the support of corporate and private donors and is titled the WRS Warrior/Family Support Fund. During this short period, the Society has granted more than \$2 million toward assisting servicemembers and/or their families. Since the merger with the National Naval Medical Center in September 2011, the WRS has granted more than \$83,000 to servicemembers and/or their families.

None of this support would be possible without the generous donations made by several organizations and individuals over the past few years. These donations have allowed the WRS to assist with things such as airfare, childcare expenses, clothing, physical therapy, funeral expenses, lodging expenses, mortgage/rent payments, and a list of others. The WRS is thankful to be able to give back and assist wounded warriors and their families who have made the in any way possible and that support will continue with the help of our generous donors.

(Information for this article was obtained from The Week magazine.)

WRS Annual Meeting

You are cordially invited to the WRS Annual Meeting. Brunch will be served so please RSVP as soon as possible.

When: Sunday, April 29, 2012

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30 per person

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

RSVP: By calling (301) 571-1580 or emailing walterreedsociety@verizon.net. You can also mail your check no later than April 22 to:

Walter Reed Society
8901 Wisconsin Ave #303
Bethesda MD 20889-5600

Please respond to this printed invitation as a separate mailing is not planned.



Thanks To Donors, Fundraisers, Contributors



A custom built chopper motorcycle was donated by Stars and Stripes and Spokes as a fundraiser for the December 2011 annual holiday celebration (top). The lucky recipient was Skip Hoskins.

Photo by Debra Washington



(Left) Carlton Kammerer, Liaison for Sports and Athletics; COL (Ret.) Vandy Miller, VP Programs, WRS; Ed Helminski, President and Publisher, ExchangeMonitor publications and forums; and one of the six Walter Reed Warriors David Lack, participate in the Amelia Island Florida Golf Tournament. ExchangeMonitor donated \$15,540 to WRS.

Courtesy Photo

(Right) SGM (Ret.) Dan Bullis, Vice President of Patient Services presents Mike Haji, President of Select Auto Imports with a Combat Medic Statue on behalf of the Walter Reed Society. Mr. Haji and WTOP radio donated about \$7,000 to WRS to assist in helping wounded warriors and their families during the 2011 Veterans Day period.

Courtesy Photo





Plans for Walter Reed Hospital

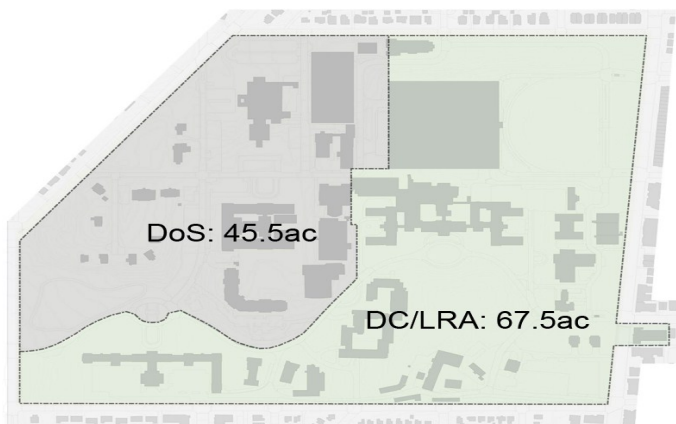
By COL(R) John Pierce
WRS Historian

Since the merger of Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) and the National Naval Medical Center, many maybe wondering what are the plans for WRAMC. As I understand it, the Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) charged with developing a plan for use of WRAMC campus has submitted their plan to the D.C. Council. The Council must approve the plan before it goes to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The plan covers only about 68 acres of the campus with the remaining 45 acres going to the Department of State, whose plans are yet unannounced. The LRA plan calls for 3.1 million gross square feet of development, of which over half will be residential, a quarter office space, and the rest retail and "creative" space. Two D.C. public charter schools will get a combined 130,000 square feet. There will be 40 units of housing for homeless seniors, 75 units of low-income housing, and the Transitional Housing Corpo-

ration will get 6,000 square feet of office space.

Also, just as important, according to specific language in the plan there will be no bus maintenance or storage facilities as some had pushed. It is my understanding that buildings built before 1955 will be preserved.



The figure layout is oriented to the north with Georgia Ave to the right and 16th Street to the left. The darker areas are the current buildings. DoS will be Department of State property and LRA will be property conveyed to the city. Conveyance could take 1-2 years.

News Briefs

—The Society's new telephone number is (301) 571-1580 and now there is Internet access. Someone is usually present on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, but it is best to call ahead. If you want to visit Building 17, Healthcare Operations Suite 2C, Cubicles 78 & 79 (from the street entrance, pass through the foyer and use the stairs or elevators toward the back of the atrium for access).

—View the MSNBC report on Walter Reed Army Medical Center closing after more than 100 years. Visit www.walterreedsociety.org and click on the NEWS tab. The Society is very proud to preserve this link as part of the Walter Reed legacy.

—The Society has contributed \$83,000 in support of Wounded Warriors and their families and activities at WRNMMC for patients and staff, since the merger of the medical centers in September 2011 through February 2012. This direct

assistance was made possible through the good will and patriotism of the Society's generous donors. Their continuing dedication is greatly appreciated by all.

—Currently, the Society is seeking approval to donate a number of iPads to WRNMMC. The staff has found that the assistive technology offered through the use of these devices can be a very beneficial asset to the therapy and rehabilitation plan for specially identified Wounded Warriors.

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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The WRS Officers

Elected Officers

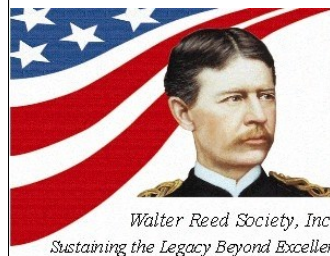
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