

Walter Reed Society, Inc.



President's Message



John Pierce

WRS OFFICERS

Elected Officers

President
COL (R) John Pierce

First Vice President
COL (R) Brian Foley

VP Communications
CAPT (R) John Gallicchio

VP Development
Vacant

VP Membership
COL (R) George Turiansky

VP Patient Services
SGM (R) Dan Bullis

VP Programs
Vacant

VP Finance
Vacant

VP Projects
COL (R) S. Avery Davis

Secretary
Vacant

Treasurer
LTC (R) John Wetterau

Appointed
WRS Advisor
Mrs. Rose Mologne

Administrator
Editorial Designer
Hermalene M. Taylor

Liaison Sports and Recreation
Carlton Kammerer

Office of Distinction
President Emeritus
Maj Gen (R) Enrique Mendez

President Emerita
COL (R) Janet Southby

It is hard to believe but this is the third straight President's Message that I have started off with information on the coronavirus. I hope that by now some of you, if not many, will have started your coronavirus vaccine series. As you know we cancelled both our Annual Meeting and Holiday Gala in 2020. In addition, we postponed our planned Reunion for October 2020 in the Rose Garden on the old Walter Reed Army Medical Center campus. Sadly, we will have to cancel our Annual Meeting as far as a face to face meeting goes but we do plan a first ever virtual meeting on the first Sunday on May, 2021. See follow-on information. With the vaccine rollout and hopefully a waning of the virus, we may be able to hold our Holiday Gala in December. We have also made the decision on another postponement of the Reunion until Fall 2022.

This message also delivers the sad news of the passing of two of your Society board members as well as two other long-time Society members. John Frankenburg, our Vice-President for Finance, died in November 2020, and Vandy Miller, our Vice-President for Programs, died in February 2021. See follow-on stories about these wonderful men. Long-time members and friends, Phillip Russell, David McLeod and Kenneth P Butke also passed away in the past year, see follow-on information. With this sad news there is also happy news as Dan Bullis, long-time WRS board stalwart, recently welcomed the birth of his first grandchild. The circle of life goes on.

Despite the pandemic the work of the Walter Reed Society goes on as we celebrate our 25th anniversary this year. Established in 1996 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, the Society has continued to "Sustain the Legacy Beyond Excellence" as our motto states at the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC). Our work is to benefit the educational, patient, treatment, and research activities of the medical center. Last year we expanded our mission to include other military medical facilities in the National Capitol Region while retaining our primary focus on WRNMMC.

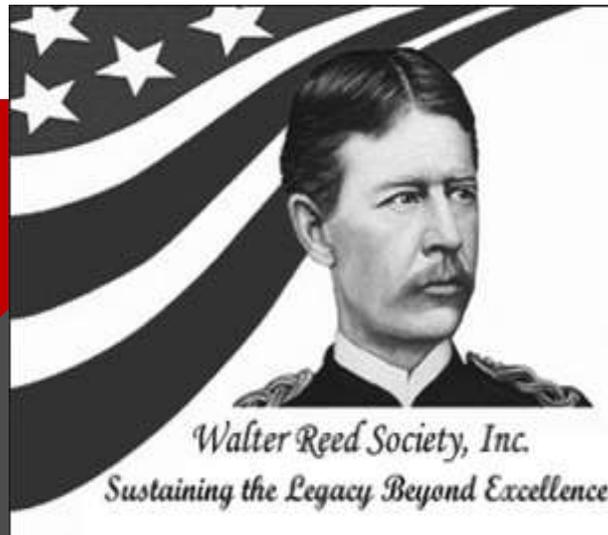
As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we are in need of volunteers to work on the WRS board. We have several positions open and I would be more than happy to talk with you about a position; no experience necessary. You can contact me via e-mail at: jrpebay123@aol.com

Again, I want to thank all our volunteers and board members who strive for "Sustaining the Legacy Beyond Excellence." Congratulations to you all on twenty-five years and counting!



Our May 2021 face-to-face Annual Meeting is cancelled.
WRS will host its first Virtual Annual Meeting on May 2nd.
See page 5 for RSVP details and more information.

WRS — A 25 YEAR LEGACY



The Walter Reed Society celebrates 25 years of service to the patients, families and staff of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. We support activities and fund projects/ programs to benefit service members and staff at WRNMMC particularly if associated with education, treatment or research. Similar projects/programs at other military health care facilities in the Defense Health Agency National Capital Region Military Health System may be supported as deemed appropriate by the WRS board of directors.

Issue 19

OUR LEGACY IN ACTION — THE SOCIETY AT WORK

WRS members make possibilities realities. Recent program activity highlights:

PATIENT CARE SUPPORT

Provided custom compression sleeves for a post operative cancer patient at WRNMMC who has lymphedema following a mastectomy.

This compression garment will significantly aid in improving the prevention of infection, pain control, function, and well being for this patient who has significant lymphedema. Regular compression garments are provided by the hospital to patients who need them however this particular patient needed a custom garment and could not afford to buy it herself. Unfortunately, even Medicare does not cover custom compression sleeves so the WRS stepped in to provide this much needed garment.

EDUCATION/SCHOLARSHIP

Award scholarships for Veterans and Spouses.

Since 2015 has funded American Health Information Association (AHIMA) Foundation for Health Information Management (HIM) scholarships to spouses of active-duty military, veterans, their spouses, and surviving spouses.

This year the AHIMA Foundations Scholarship Committee conducted a highly competitive review and selection process—a total of 10 applications were submitted, 4 eligible applications were reviewed. The scholarships were awarded to two students during 2020:

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Assisted with request from Occupational Therapy department for multiple sclerosis patient in need of special equipment.

The individual's mobility is an issue. She has Amazon Alexa ecosystem in her house and she is in need of a Ring system that works with her current equipment. WRS reimbursed her for the cost of the equipment.

Arranged (with assistance) of the American Red Cross to provide 35 meals for ER Nurses Week at WRNMMC in October 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."*

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Walter Reed Society, Inc.

THE SOCIETY AT WORK continues...

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS/ MEDICAL EDUCATION/PATIENT CARE

Donation to American Red Cross to Assist the USUHS Family Health Center

Provided a donation of integrative medical equipment to the Red Cross at Walter Reed who loaned the equipment to the Uniformed Services University Family Health Center (FHC). The use of this equipment will significantly expand the ability of the clinic to offer integrative medical therapies to patients for a myriad of medical issues to include; pain management, scar therapy, anxiety, depression, and insomnia. By treating these conditions the clinic is able to fulfill its mission of providing comprehensive care for its patients of all ages. Overall, these devices will decrease the number of referrals submitted for

these conditions, decrease time to care for these patients and improve overall patient health and satisfaction. The equipment will also serve as an educational tool which will model the use of integrative medicine in the comprehensive care of service members and their families. Bottom line, the donation of integrative medical equipment by the WRS loaned to the FHC by the Red Cross provides expanded patient care and medical education opportunities at the Uniformed Services University. ***Disclaimer: The views of this article do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Defense, the United States Air Force, the Uniformed Services University, or the University Family Health Clinic.***

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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. 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."*

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics cites medical records and health information technicians as one of the fastest growing occupations in the US. The WRS desires to have more applicants for these scholarships. Request that the readers educate prospective eligible applicants on the Health Information Management career field and the availability of these scholarships at the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Foundation web site: (<https://ahimafoundation.org>)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MAY 2ND

WRS Members

join us for our

FIRST VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 2, 2021

3 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST)

RSVP by Monday, April 26th

walterreedsociety@verizon.net

Reply "YES" to receive

ZOOM LINK invitation (include name/email address/phone number)

More information to follow for attendees



HONORING VANDY MILLER

A Tribute to Friendship and Service



Long-time friends Vandy Miller (left) and Carlton Krammerer

As Vandy Miller approached his 89th birthday, Carlton Hammerer, wanted to honor his best friend of over 30 years. After his professional football career with the Washington team and Vandy after his first career with the Army, they worked together for almost two decades at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Carlton had recruited Vandy to the NRC and later Vandy recruited Carlton to the Walter Reed Society. They formed a classic partnership that led to numerous golf tournaments for wounded and injured warriors. They met John Longenecker (Longenecker Associates) and Bob Plata (BUNZL) who both became great and generous supporters of the WRS.

Over the years, more than \$400,000 was raised for the WRS and over 200 wounded veteran got to play on prestigious golf courses all over the east coast and south.

Carlton reached out to Vandy's friends to honor him on his birthday and many very generously responded. John Longenecker donated \$25,000 and BUNZL has donated over \$10,000. All together over \$36,000 has been donated to date to honor Vandy. Sadly Vandy died the day after his 89th birthday but Carl did get to tell him about this honor and thoughtfulness from his many friends.

Walter Reed Society, Inc.

IN MEMORIAM — Our Society Board Members



Colonel Vandy Miller, US Army (Retired), long-time member and board member of the Walter Reed Society, died on February 17, 2021, one day after his 89th birthday. Born in Wadesboro, North Carolina, he received his BS degree in 1954 from West Virginia State University (WVSU) as distinguished military graduate and was commissioned in the US Army. He received his MS in Radiation Biology from The University of Rochester in 1961. Vandy served in the US Army for 24 years retiring after serving as the Radiological Hygiene Consultant to the US Army Surgeon General. After retirement from the Army, Vandy took a position with the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) where he became a member of the Senior Executive Service. During his 18 years with the NRC he was awarded a Presidential Rank Award. In addition to being inducted into the WVSU Athletics Hall of Fame, Vandy was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree from WVSU in 2014. He was very active in a number community services in addition to the WRS such as the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, the Bethany House Senior Citizen Condominiums, and the Metropolitan Washington Chapter of West Virginia State University. Vandy was extremely dedicated to his church, the 12th Street Christian Church where he served as Deacon, Trustee, Elder and Presiding Elder for over 40 years. Vandy and Sylvia, his wife of almost 59 years, who died in March 2012, had three children, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. 

Master Chief John Frankenburg, US Navy (Ret) Long-time Walter Reed Society board member John P. Frankenburg, 74, passed away at his home on November 6, 2020, after a long illness. He was a native of Toledo, Ohio. John retired from the U.S. Navy as Master Chief after 34 years of service. After retirement from the Navy John continued to serve at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences within the USU Brigade. In addition to the WRS, he was an active member of Northside Christian Church, the York County Historical Society, the Fleet Reserve Association Branch 173, and the American Legion. John is survived by his wife of 22 years, Cindy Frankenburg; three children and six beloved grandchildren. A memorial service was held on Sunday, November 15, 2020, in Newport News, VA. Interment in Arlington National Cemetery was on March 22, 2021. 



IN MEMORIAM — Our Society Members

SERVICE.

Long-time WRS member and donor, **Philip K. Russell, M.D. Major General USA (Ret)**, passed away on 21 January 2021 at the age of 88. During his 30-year career in the US Army Medical Corps, he had a succession of research assignments at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) and its overseas laboratories ultimately becoming Commandant of WRAIR. After promotion to General Officer he commanded Fitzsimons Army Medical Center as well as the US Army Medical Research and Development Command. After retiring from the Army, he joined Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health as professor of international health and began his 30-years of service to non-profit organizations focused on developing vaccines to combat infectious diseases. Dr. Russell is survived by his wife of 65 years, Constance Rice Russell: three children, six grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. A private service with full military honors was held on January 28, 2021 at Fort Logan, Colorado.

LEADERSHIP.

WRS member and international known urologist **David G. McLeod, COL MC USA (Ret)** died in December 2020. He was 85. David's service of over 40 years active duty included time in both the US Marine Corps and US Army. In Viet Nam he served as a clearing platoon leader and medical company commander with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division earning a Combat Medical Badge. Afterwards he trained in urology and became a visionary leader in the field. Dr. McLeod ushered in a new era of prostate cancer research, combining molecular biology and clinical research at a time when there was increasing focus and controversy over prostate cancer's optimal treatment. His many publications, contributions, recognitions and awards are too numerous to mention here but needless to say he was a true giant in the Army and in medicine.

HONOR.

Kenneth P Butke, LTC, MSC US Army (Ret) passed away on 26 May 2020. After graduation from the University of Akron he was commissioned from ROTC as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps. He served on active duty for 22 years with two tours in Vietnam. He was predeceased by his wife, Diane, a retired Colonel in the US Army Nurse Corps and former Assistant Chief Nurse at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He served the WRS as Treasurer. Inurnment was at Arlington National Cemetery.



WALTER REED SOCIETY, INC.
8901 Wisconsin Avenue, #303
Bethesda, MD 20889-5600
Phone: 301-571-1580
www.walterreedsociety.org

MEMBERSHIP CONNECTIONS... We are developing an electronic mailing list of our membership. Please share your email address with us and indicate your interest in receiving our newsletter electronically in the future. Thank you. Walter Reed Society, Inc. www.walterreedsociety@verizon.net



WRS MEMBERSHIP —
SUSTAINING THE LEGACY FOR 25 YEARS

Annual Year Membership - \$25

Two Year Membership - \$40

Five Year Membership - \$100

Lifetime Membership - \$500

RSVP FOR OUR VIRTUAL
**WRS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**
SUNDAY, MAY 2ND
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



WALTER REED SOCIETY, INC. IS A NON-FEDERAL ENTITY. IT IS NOT A PART OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OR ANY OF ITS COMPONENTS AND IT HAS NO GOVERNMENTAL STATUS.