

Walter Reed Society, Inc. Newsletter

ISSUE 14

NOVEMBER 2018

President's Message

By Retired Army COL John Pierce
WRS President



John Pierce

Your all-volunteer members of the Walter Reed Society board of directors continue to work to advance the mission of the Society, to Sustain the Legacy Beyond Excellence of Walter Reed, the person and the institution. This edition of the newsletter contains a number of short articles about the work of the board and other Society volunteers. Inside you will find information on a wounded warrior and his family who attend our annual meeting and received a special gift made and donated by a group of ladies in West Virginia. Thanks Joe Konzelman who presented the patriotic quilt.

There is also an article and photos about Ft. Belvoir Community Hospital to which the Society donated at the hospital's request massage chairs for the patients and staff. Several board members recently met with the hospital's new director, Navy CAPT Robert S. Fry, to introduce him and his leadership team to the Society and our work. Thanks to Jim Gonyea and Brian Foley.

This edition of the newsletter also contains stories and photos about the very successful Friday Night Dinners at the American Legion Post 41 in Silver Spring, Maryland, golfing events, our newest holiday ornament, efforts to be better known within our military community, and so much more.

Thanks to all the board members and other volunteers who diligently strive to support the Society and those we serve.

Before closing I must recognize the passing of two long-time members of the Society and dear friends of

mine. In January BG Ana Mae Hays died at 97 years of age. The first female General Officer in the history of the United States, General Hays was a long-time friend and supporter of the Society. In June COL Mike Brazaitis, 66, long-time Chief of Radiology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center died following complications of a lung transplant. Both were wonderful people and made significant contributions to military medicine and to the Society.

WRS Holiday Gathering

You are invited to the Holiday 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 good food and entertainment.

Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018

1 – 4 p.m.

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

Dining Room

4301 Jones Bridge Road

Bethesda, MD

\$30 per person

RSVP by Nov. 26, 2018

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 through WRNNMC Main Gate on Wisconsin Ave.



Society Always Ready to Assist

By Retired Army SGM Dan Bullis
WRS VP of Patient Services

SSG James Bolish arrived at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for emergency medical treatment that resulted in the loss of his right leg.

James was joined by his spouse, Jennifer, his loving mom, Hayley and their three children, Mical 9, Eli 8, and Isaiah 4. The entire family have been at James's side and continues to be. Jennifer is also on active duty and was recently allowed to be reassigned to Ft. Belvoir which will make continued treatment for James more accessible.

The Bolish family met representatives from the Walter Reed Society at one of the Friday night dinners that the Society sponsors and we were able to provide assistance with their transition to Ft. Belvoir.

SSG Bolish has been in the Infantry during

his Army career and planned on continuing his service however he was recently informed that with injury complications he will be medically discharged in 2019. The WRS will continue to assist SSG Bolish as he seeks a new career.

The Bolish family was presented with a beautiful handmade Afghan donated by the Ladies of the Library at Summit Point, West Virginia, during our 2018 annual meeting.

Each year Mrs Susan Floyd, the Librarian at Summit Point and her Ladies of the Library plan and fabricate an afghan for a worthy cause.

Mrs Floyd's husband, Kenny, is the baritone singer in the "Ricochet" quartet that has performed at many Walter Reed Society annual meetings. Mrs. Floyd and her Library Ladies group designed the patriotic afghan for the WRS as their annual project and presented it to Joe Konzelman, WRS past-president, to select a worthy recipient.



The Bolish family is pictured here receiving a beautiful handmade Afghan donated by the Ladies of the Library at Summit Point, West Virginia, during the



2018 annual meeting. Vandy Miller and Joe Konzelman presented the patriotic afghan to the Bolish Family.



Friday Night Food, Fun

For several years Dan Bullis led the Walter Reed Society's efforts to partner with the American Legion Post 41 and the Aleethia Foundation to provide good food and entertainment for the wounded, ill, and injured.

Pasto Italiano! Aleethia's "Friday Night Dinner" was hosted by the Walter Reed Society at the American Legion Post 41 – Silver Spring, Maryland. Over 50 wounded/injured service members, their families and guests enjoyed a delicious Italian feast including Tiramisu for

dessert. Handmade knitted throw blankets from a local Senior Center were distributed to several service members.

Also, for some musical entertainment the "Loose Ends & Friends" band performed for the troops. A special thanks is extended to the members of American Legion Post 41 that assisted in serving the food and beverages. We greatly appreciate the generosity of the **Walter Reed Society** for a wonderful evening.



The pictures above are posted on the Aleethia Foundation's Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/AleethiaFoundation/>

Searching for Administrative Assistant Continues

The Walter Reed Society is still looking for an Administrative Assistant to replace Debra Washington who plans to retire after nearly 12 years with the Society. Debra has agreed to remain on and train the new person.

The Administrative Assistant "Apprentice" needs to be familiar with Word Perfect, Publisher, and Excel. Social media aptitude is especially essential. The Administrative Assistant will maintain databases, files, policy and procedure books, correspondence, financial statements, re-

spond to all forms of communications, and the many aspects involved with the sales of WRS commemorative items.

The WRS Webpage <http://www.walterreedsociety.org> has a complete job description. The Administrative Assistant must be able to access military installations. The Administrative Assistant's job is a flexible part time position.

Please help us by informing outstanding, potential candidates that you may know or know of about this opportunity.





Pictures are Louder Than Words

By Retired Army COL John Pierce
WRS President

As the historian of the WRS I have written many articles for our newsletter in the past about the future of the property that was Walter Reed Army Medical Center. A couple years ago I decided I would no longer do so as we moved from our past to our present and future at the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. However, an image I saw of the demolition is so graphic that I feel the need to update you on the property.

The Heaton Pavilion shown above is obviously under demolition with plans for demolition to be completed by the end of this year. The web cam from which the above photo was taken is: <https://api.ibeamsystems.com/api/cameras/d315b14428/latest/?timestamped=true>

There are several web sites where you can see the plans for the future of the property. One is TheParksDC.com where you can read of the plans to develop the portion of the property that was purchased by the District of Columbia city government.

Another portion of the property was purchased by the Department of State and is being developed as a Foreign Missions Center. More information on the Department of State's plans can be found at: <https://www.state.gov/ofm/property/fmc/index.htm>

Approximately 11 acres were conveyed to Children's National Health System. They are developing a Research and Innovation Center in the AFIP Building 54, adjacent theater and warehouse buildings. Children's was also conveyed the Rumbaugh Garage. More information about their plans can be seen at: <https://dc.urbanturf.com/articles/blog/the-plans-to-fit-childrens-national-into-the-new-walter-reed/13522>





Massaging the Stress Away

By Retired Army SGM Jim Gonyea
Liaison, FBCH

In December 2017 the director of the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital (FBCH) requested the purchase of eight massage chairs in an effort to improve the morale of the patients, family members and staff of the FBCH. This request was approved by the Walter Reed Society board and the FBCH director was notified by mail on Jan. 25, 2018 by Retired LTC Linda H. Anderson WRS VP of Projects.

The massage chairs were purchased and distributed on the second and third floors of in the main thoroughfares along the front of the hospital. There was two chairs placed on each end of the second and third floors.

There was a ribbon cutting ceremony held to dedicate the chairs; this ceremony was attend by WRS board members 1st vice president Brian Foley, treasurer, John Wetterau, and myself. The



A Fort Belvoir Community Hospital staff member takes a moment to enjoy the massage chair.

WRS was honored at the ceremony.

As a patient at FBCH and the WRS FBCH Liaison I am a frequent visitor to the hospital and I seldom see one of these chairs empty.

Scholarship Opportunities

By Retired Army COL Brian Foley
WRS First VP

The Walter Reed Society is providing scholarships through the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Foundation to veterans, their spouses, and spouses of active duty military. HIM is an excellent career field for active duty military spouses because of the preference they are given for civil service employment. HIM is also well suited for individuals with disabilities such as the wounded, ill, or injured.

The AHIMA Foundation and the WRS have made a special effort to educate AHIMA members employed in military and Veterans Admin-

istration treatment facilities and educational institutions of the availability of these scholarships. For example, the AHIMA Foundation and the WRS addressed the all-day DoD Breakout Session of the recent AHIMA Conference in Miami on these scholarships.

The 2018 application period for these scholarships was July 1 to Sept. 30 Award notifications will be made on Nov. 30, 2018. The application period for 2019 will be the same.

For more information about the HIM career field (www.AHIMA.org) and the availability of these scholarships (<http://www.ahimafoundation.org/education/VeteransScholarship.aspx>)



How to Find the Walter Reed Society

By Retired CAPT John Gallicchio, USPHS
WRS VP of Communications

Created in the late 1990's, The Walter Reed Society has kept a relatively low profile in terms of national name recognition over the years. With over 600 members, one has to look closely to find much publicity or public attribution for the assistance the Society has provided to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), its wounded, ill, or injured patients, or their families. We are relatively efficient in what we do, though. We have a low overhead rate, a volunteer board, and a closeness to the hospital and its staff that minimizes the time between identifying a need and addressing it. Though our mission is mostly a local one, we receive donations from generous and loyal individuals and organizations across the country.

Aside from the newsletter you are reading now, a place to look to learn about the Society is our web page at www.walterreedsociety.org. There you can

find our mission statement, board of directors, recent news of our activities, back issues of our newsletters, special Walter Reed-related collectibles for purchase, and instructions for donating to or even becoming a member of the Society.

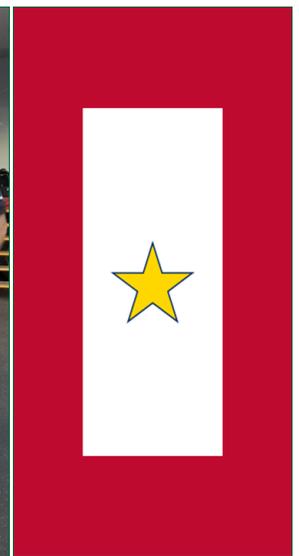
The Naval Support Activity Bethesda's weekly news publication, *The Journal*, has occasionally printed articles featuring the Society's activities but without identifying the Society; it has also printed ads purchased by the Society. We also placed an ad in *DC Military Magazine* in September 2018. As you are aware many hard copy print publications are struggling against the internet and both of these have recently ceased to exist.

Looking elsewhere we have placed ads in *At Ease*, *Mid Atlantic Military Life*. Look for information about the Society there, in its first issues for October, November, and December 2018. We also have an upcoming ad in the annual "*NSA Bethesda-Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Base Guide*" in November.

Gold Star Mothers of Warrior Children

Walter Reed Society's Vandy Miller and Carl Kammerer met Gold Star Mother Tamela Bussard at a recent golf event sponsored by BUNZL. Tamela's son, SSG Nolan Barham who had three combat tours, two in Afghanistan and one in Iraq, died on Oct. 10, 2014 at Ft. Bliss, Texas. She said that no one really knew about his depression and that everyone was shocked by his suicide. He was 31 years old. She said the support of her other child and family have helped her get through this horrific event.

Gold Star Mothers are those who lost sons or daughters in service to America with the Armed Forces. The name comes from the custom of families of servicemen hanging a banner called a service flag in the windows of their homes. The service flag has a star for each family member in the Armed Forces. Living servicemen were represented by a blue star, and those who had lost their lives are represented by a gold star. Any woman who has lost a son or daughter in active service in the U.S. military regardless of the circumstances of death are considered Gold Star Mothers.





November Challenge to Donors

For over a decade now Mr. Mike Haji of Select Auto Imports has challenged donors to the Walter Reed Society with a promise to match all gifts made during the month of November up to a total of \$10,000.

Mr. Haji has been one of the Society's most dedicated and generous supporters. This challenge is broadcast throughout the Washington, DC,

northern Virginia, and Maryland areas on WTOP radio.

For those of you who plan end of the year giving, please consider doing so a little early this year in November in order to participate in this exciting challenge.

The Society is very grateful to Mr. Haji and his very generous and long-time support.



This year the Society has been supporting the Uniformed Services University President's Leadership Series with sponsorship of the follow-on reception.

Pictured with the first speaker General David Petraeus, US Army (Retired) is the Society's Debra Washington. Command Sergeant Major John Wayne Troxell, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was the second speaker. Society members attended both events where the Society was recognized publicly for its support.

God Bless the USA

This collectible honors those who serve and are cared for in the Defense Health Agency National Capital Region Military Health System:

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD
 Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, Fort Belvoir, VA
 Andrew Rader Army Health Clinic,
 Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Arlington, VA
 DiLorenzo TRICARE Health Clinic, The Pentagon, Washington, DC
 Dumfries Health Center, Dumfries, VA
 Fairfax Health Center, Fairfax, VA
 Fort McNair Army Health Clinic, Washington, DC
 Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling Clinic, Washington, DC
 Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center, Fort Meade, MD
 Malcolm Grow Medical Clinics and Surgery Center,
 Joint Base Andrews, MD
 Naval Health Clinic Annapolis, Annapolis, MD
 Naval Health Clinic Quantico, Quantico, VA



Double-sided collectible in a gift box - \$15 each

Sold by *Walter Reed Society*. Proceeds used to assist service members & families with special needs and to support other charitable & educational



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The WRS Officers

Elected Officers

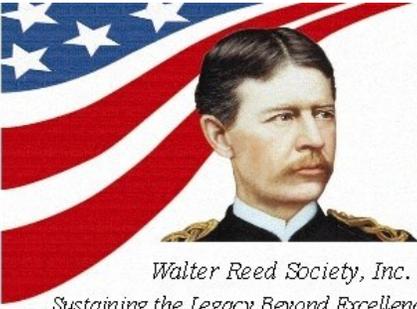
President, *COL (Ret.) John Pierce*
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Secretary, *COL (Ret.) Fred McLain*
Treasurer, *LTC. (Ret.) John Wetterau*

Appointed Positions

Advisor to the Society, *Mrs. Rose Mologne*
Webmaster, vacant
Administrative Assistant, *SFC (Ret.) Debra Washington*
Liaison Sports and Recreation, *Carlton Kammerer*
Newsletter, *TSgt (Ret.) Andre Nicholson*

Office of Distinction

President Emeritus, *Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Enrique Mendez*
President Emerita, *COL (Ret.) Janet Southby*



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WRS Membership, Donations

Annual Dues \$25; Two-year Membership \$40; Life-time Membership \$500.

Your support enables the Society to sponsor activities at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and to assist wounded warriors and their families. Send dues and donations to The Walter Reed Society, 8901 Wisconsin Avenue #303 Bethesda, MD 20889-5600, along with your Name, Mailing Address, and Email Address. Please indicate: I do ___ do not ___ want my name and address in the directory distributed to members.