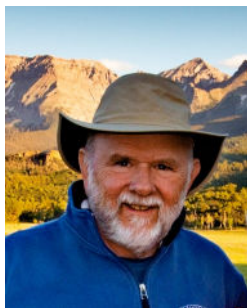


## President's Message



John Pierce

### WRS OFFICERS

#### Elected Officers

##### President

COL (R) John Pierce

##### First Vice President

COL (R) Brian Foley

##### VP Communications

CSM (R) Ricardo Alcantara

##### VP Development

Vacant

##### VP Membership

Vacant

##### VP Patient Services

SGM (R) Dan Bullis

##### VP Programs

Vacant

##### VP Finance

Vacant

##### VP Projects

COL (R) S. Avery Davis

##### Secretary

COL (R) Edward Coll

##### Treasurer

LTC (R) John Wetterau

##### Appointed

##### WRS Advisor

Vacant

##### Administrator

##### Editorial/Graphics/Design

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

##### Past President

COL (R) Joseph Konzelman

Several years ago the Walter Reed Society expanded its mission to include working with other non-profits in the National Capital Area. The Society has in years past worked with the American Red Cross, the Oakleaf Club of Greater Washington, Mission M4 (see Fall 2022 WRS newsletter) and the Fisher Houses all within and around the hospital. The Society is now able to expand this effort to include other non-profits in the area. These include Blue Star Families, the Little River Garden Club, the Friends of the Uniformed Services University, the Garden Club of Chevy Chase, the USO and the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation. More information about some of these new efforts in this newsletter.

Since our last newsletter Society members met separately with CAPT Felix A. Bigby, Interim Director and CAPT Kelly O. Elmore, Chief of Staff at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. The purpose was to introduce them to the Society and our work. Learn more about these new WRNMMC leaders in a following article.

We still receive positive comments about last fall's reunion on the old WRAMC campus. Despite many questions about another one, there are currently no plans for one. See follow up article and pictures from the reunion. Again we thank our sponsors of the event.

I want to sincerely thank Dr. George Turiensky, COL, MC US Army (Ret) who is stepping down as our VP Membership for his years of service to the Society. Thank you George and best wishes. I want to welcome Dr. Ed Coll, COL, MC US Army (Ret) to our Board as our Secretary. Ed will be officially added to the Board at our Annual meeting in May.

Speaking of our Annual Meeting, after a number of years holding this meeting at the Uniformed Services University we decided to change the venue. This year's **Annual Meeting is May 7th at the American Legion Post 41 in Silver Spring, MD.** Please see the accompanying article about this change and important directions to this location.

This has been the first time in three years I have not mentioned the coronavirus. Oops!!! Guess I just did, but at least this time it is just in passing to say that hopefully we have learned enough as a nation to handle things better the next time. And, to pray that there will not be a next time.

## WRS COMMUNITY BULLETIN

To Our Members, Supporters and Friends:

In December 2022 the Walter Reed Society experienced a disruption in our email service. For a time, our account was off-line and non-functional. As a matter of caution, our then host e-mail provider -- Rackspace Technology-- shut down about 30,000 customers' systems to identify and to resolve suspicious activity. Because we did not know how long it would take to safely and securely come on-line again we moved to another host e-mail provider. That provider remains in place.

The forensic investigation of Rackspace has been completed; there is no evidence that "the threat actor actually viewed, obtained, misused or disseminated" any of the Walter Reed Society's members or customers' emails or data in any way. There is no evidence that our WRS e-mail itself was compromised, that any members' information was compromised or that any PayPal information was compromised. We continue to appreciate your ongoing support.

— John Pierce, WRS President



## Walter Reed Society, Inc.

### A SALUTE TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Korean War Veterans Association President Jeff Brodeur presents a check to the Walter Reed Society's John Pierce in front of The Unspoken Bond statue in the lobby of the Eagle Building at Walter Reed.

National Military Medical Center. The Korean War Veterans Association has been a long-time supporter of the Society. Dan Bullis, WRS VP for Patient Services, and Jim Banks from Maine look-on.



**Keller Staley, Kelly Canady, Ralph Perpignan, Autumn Bogus, Jarrett Rice, Christine Gelles, John Longenecker, Charles Eggleston, Carl Kammerer, Marty Schneider, John Pierce**

Walter Reed Society members Carl Kammerer and John Pierce along with Wounded Warriors Ralph Perpignan and Charles Eggleston recently met with John Longenecker and co-workers to recognize John's long-time support of the Society. John is a loyal friend and very generous supporter of the WRS. He is president of Longenecker and Associates which has provided highly specialized and technical support to the nuclear, environmental and defense industries since 1989. He previously served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Uranium Enrichment in the Department of Energy. John lives in Las Vegas.

#### NEW VENUE FOR WRS ANNUAL MEETING — AMERICAN LEGION POST 41

The WRS Board has decided to change the venue for our Annual Meeting on Sunday May 7, 2023 to the American Legion Post 41 in Silver Spring, MD. The Annual Meeting will consist of reports from Board members, election of new Board members and general input from the membership. We appreciate the support of the Uniformed Services University in allowing us to use their cafeteria the past several years. (See page 3 and back cover for more details and directions).

## Walter Reed Society, Inc.

### THE WALTER REED SOCIETY STEPS-UP

#### WRS ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday  
May 7, 2023  
11:30 AM - 2 PM

**\*\*Cissel-Saxon\*\***

#### American Legion Post 41

905 Sligo Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Brunch ~ \$30 per person

Mail checks to:

Walter Reed Society  
8901 Rockville Pike  
Box 303

Bethesda, MD 20889  
or

pay in-person at door

RSVP by April 24th

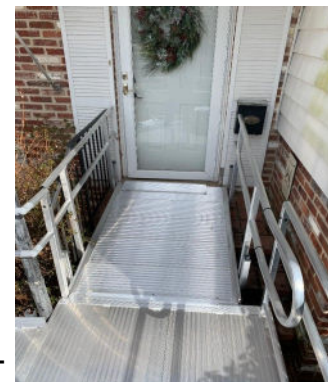
support@walterreedsociety.org

301-571-1580

**\*\*Entrance is located in the  
back of building via parking  
lot at: 8110 Fenton Drive\*\***

The Walter Reed Society received a request from a case manager at the Military Advanced Training Center at WRNMMC concerning a patient diagnosed with a brain tumor. The patient travels back and forth from his home to WRNMMC for treatment. At this time he is wheelchair bound, however his home is not wheelchair accessible making it very difficult to transport him in and out of the house. Recently an emergency necessitated that he be rushed to WRNMMC and neighbors were needed to help carry him to the car. Fortunately they were available.

After consultation with a local ramp expert it was determined that a ramp was possible and would be helpful. There was an option to rent the ramp and the WRS agreed to provide this needed support for this patient and his family. Because of the urgent need and the patient's condition WRS was able to have the ramp installed in less than a week from the initial contact by the case manager.



#### FACTS & MATTERS

**DID YOU KNOW?? WRS traditionally holds its annual meeting in MAY. It's the same month WRAMC was founded — May 1, 1909. That's a matter of fact!**

#### WRS Sponsors 2023 AHIMA Foundation Veteran's Scholarships

The Walter Reed Society proudly sponsors the AHIMA Foundation Veteran's Scholarship for health information students pursuing associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees in health information management (HIM). This program is designed to provide scholarships for members of the military and uniformed services, specifically spouses of active-duty military and uniformed services, veterans and their spouses, wounded warriors and their spouses, and surviving spouses.

For eligibility and requirements, visit [ahimafoundation.org/scholarships](http://ahimafoundation.org/scholarships). Interested students are encouraged to review frequently asked questions on AHIMA Foundation's website, as well as a list of tips for a successful scholarship application – which include the 2023 required essay questions. If you aren't currently a member of AHIMA, the Walter Reed Society will sponsor the cost of student memberships for veterans and their spouses. For more information, e-mail: [info@ahimafoundation.org](mailto:info@ahimafoundation.org)



## Issue 23

### THE SOCIETY AT WORK

#### ASSISTANCE

##### PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

##### **Predictive Index (PI) Software**

A two-year subscription for use by WRNMMC leadership provides up to 600 employees and 15 teams access to PI's Inspire and Design software respectively. The assessments help leaders:

- tailor their management style to fit each staff member

- understand employees feedback, preferences and leadership potential

- build more solid employee relationships for greater retention

##### **National Thank a Resident Day at WRNMMC**

Financial support for more than 600+ graduate medical education (GME) trainees

The February 24th event — open to all in the hospital — emphasizes the importance of resident trainees and to show gratitude for their hard work. The Gold Humanism Honor Society started the day in 2018 and it has expanded to over 500 participating institutions around the country.

##### **Memory Training Workshop**

Integrative Health and Wellness Service at WRNMMC

Monthly funding for the workshop sponsored in the Department of Medicine continues. It has been well received by the patient population and helps reduce the morbidity associated with memory loss.

##### **Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation**

The Foundation seeking assistance for a placement within the WRNMMC of a 24-inch statuette of the life-size Vietnam Women's Memorial statue located on the National Mall. The Society submitted a proffer letter to WRNMMC leadership for donation and display of the statuette. More to follow at a later date.

#### COLLABORATIONS

##### **Military Adaptive Sports Program and the Navy Wounded Warrior Program**

Together with USO at WRNMMC — Cooking Clinics

WRS provided the cooking ingredients and supplies for three clinics instructed by "Chef Egg" Erik Berlin. For the past 9 years, he has worked with WRNMMC providing cooking instructions to service members and their families with a goal of teaching life skills and helping them become more independent. Each clinic accommodated up to 10 people in an adaptive cooking environment with the goal of a fun, therapeutic and educational opportunity. Events held at USO in February and March 2023

##### **Barwood Taxi and Regency Cab Services**

Taxi ride vouchers home from Emergency Departments

Due to the past year's staffing shortages, patients were sometimes sent from the ED at WR to the ED at Ft. Belvoir Community Hospital by ambulance for



evaluation and treatment. If discharged home, some had no way to get back to their residence other than by taxi. American Red Cross asked if WRS could assist, and we forged an agreement with Barwood Taxi and Regency Cab. WRS provided vouchers to get a taxi ride back home without out of pocket cost.

#### SPONSORSHIPS

##### **FBCH Spring Ball — 20 junior enlisted soldiers to attend**

Touted as the event of the year, WRS sponsors 20 junior enlisted soldiers to attend. FBCH service members, civilians, friends, and family have joined forces to create a 1920's theme. Rich in the traditions and culture of military medicine, the event promotes esprit de corps, improves morale, and builds community among the hospital employees who served us during the pandemic.

##### **Rose Mologne Award**

To honor WRS Founding Member Rose Mologne, who passed away last year, the Society and American Red Cross are sponsoring an annual Rose Mologne Award given to a deserving Red Cross volunteer at WRNMMC. The awardee receives recognition and a donation in their name by the WRS to the American Red Cross. WRS is also sponsoring a new coin honoring Rose to be given throughout the year to selected Red Cross volunteers at WRNMMC. More details in our next newsletter.

## Issue 23

### A NOD TO SERVICE



#### Blue Star Families Extend Thanks To The WRS

Many lives were touched and made better by your generosity," wrote Julie Riggs, National Capital Region Chapter Director for Blue Star Families. Last year the WRS provided a grant to the chapter in support of military families in the area. The Society is pleased to have received their report on how the monies were used.

Empowering and linking caregivers, teaching and nurturing creative writing, donating books to children, and helping with a festive holiday party were highlighted in the recent impact chapter report. The Blue Star Families National Capital Region Chapter hosted 77 events that reached and involved 7400 service members, spouses and neighbors.

Empowering caregivers by hosting several meetings over the year helped caregivers form friendships and share experiences. These meetings helped many who shared one person's simple and profound statement, "Being a caregiver is very isolating." Twenty-five military caregivers met several times over the year, and a useful network was created. Sharing successful results and sharing frustrating problems laid groundwork for future ways to connect with other caregivers who face challenges.

Creative writing workshops, held virtually, reached over 900 people over the year. The virtual format allowed more people to participate,

especially since many people were not able to attend in person. In December 2022, 180 people signed up for the workshop. The Blue Star Families report defined the value of these workshops, as they "provided a safe space for reflection, connection across differences, and self-expression."

The National Capital Chapter forged more ties with the Exceptional Family Member Program at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. The donation of more than 200 books at four events at the Bethesda Child Development Center was a meaningful way to reach children.

The Stars, Strips and Snowflakes Holiday Party, held at the BAE Systems building in Falls Church created memories for many children who visited Mrs. Claus' General Store, Elves' Fun & Games, Rudolph's Restaurant and Santa's Workshop. Creating such activities gave children happy holiday experiences.

The Blue Star Families report reflects how the WRS grant funds definitively created ways for patients and their families, friends, and neighbors to share and to connect, bridging caregivers and patients through numerous events and the power of connecting with each other.

— By Tansill Johnson

#### WRNMMC LEADERSHIP

CAPT Felix Bigby - a native of Fairhope, AL- received his bachelors and masters degrees from Auburn University. He is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and Project Management Professional (PMP), Project Management Institute. Prior to his current role as Interim Director of WRNMMC, he was Chief of Staff of the National Capital Region Market Office; and Commanding Officer of U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka, Japan. Most recently, he was Chief of Staff and Director for Administration, Fort Belvoir Community Hospital.



CAPT Felix A. (Drew) Bigby  
Interim Director, WRNMMC

(cont. on page 6)



CAPT Kelly O. Elmore  
Chief of Staff, WRNMMC

Kelly Elmore, a native of Chicago, graduated from Xavier University of Louisiana (Summa Cum Laude) and the University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Medicine. She completed her residency training at Naval Medical Center San Diego, (NMCSD) and is board certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

(cont. on page 6)

## Walter Reed Society, Inc.

### WRS Celebrates the Holidays at Uniformed Services University

The WRS held its holiday celebration on December 11, 2022 at USUHS



1. Carlton Kammerer; Dr. Jonathan Woodson, President USUHS; COL Sherman Ragland; and John Pierce, WRS President 2. Dr. George Turiansky, WRS VP Membership, reacquaints with Drs. Jim Cox and Martha Lenhart 3. Hermalene Taylor, WRS Administrator; and Dr. Duane Taylor at the memorabilia table 4. WRS Past-Presidents Jan Southby and Joe Konzelman get together 5. John Wetterau, WRS Treasurer, welcomes Carolyn D'Avis

cont. from page 5 —CAPT Bigby ★★

His many other Navy assignments included Officer in Charge, Branch Health Clinic, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego; Director for Administration, Navy Medicine West; Director for Administration, Naval Hospital Sigonella; Navy Project Officer for the Deputy Secretary of Defense chartered Military Health System Office of Transformation; Associate Director for Managed Care, Naval Hospital Beaufort, South Carolina; Medical Administrative Officer and Radiation Health Officer, USS BOXER (LHD 4); Clinic Branch Head and Administrative Officer for Branch Medical Clinic, Naval Training Center, San Diego; and Administrative Officer for Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda.

Bigby also completed an Individual Augumentee assignment as Officer in Charge, Troop Medical Clinics at Camp Arifjan and Kuwait Naval Base.

cont. from page 5 —CAPT Elmore ★★

Her assignments include: Department Head, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton (NHCP), California; Department Head, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Naval Hospital Guam; Director, Healthcare Business Operations, NHCP, Senior Obstetrician Gynecologist, Branch Health Clinic, Iwakuni and Director, Healthcare Business Operations and Interim Executive Officer, NMCSO.

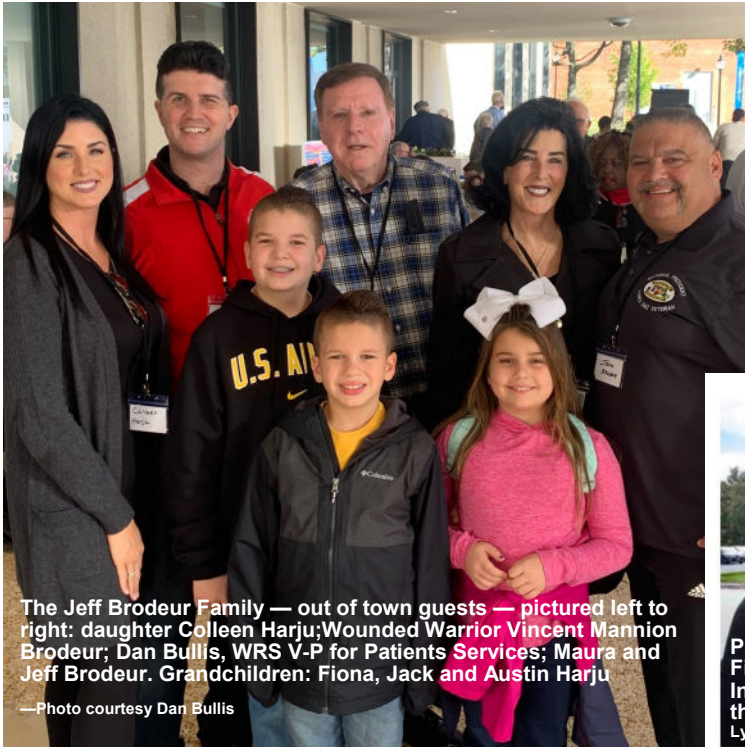
Elmore was recognized by the Secretary of Defense, Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity for her mentorship, advocacy and sponsorship, as well as by San Diego Magazine as the Military Woman of the Year (2021).

**NEEDED!! SHARE YOUR** personal story, connection, interesting facts or photos about WRS or WRAMC! We are looking for images and content **to consider** for our WRS website, newsletter, and other print, social and digital media platforms. Submit (along with contact info) to: [support@walterreedsociety.org](mailto:support@walterreedsociety.org) or WRS, 8901 Rockville Pike, #303, Bethesda, MD 20889



## Issue 23

### WRS REUNION



The Jeff Brodeur Family — out of town guests — pictured left to right: daughter Colleen Harju; Wounded Warrior Vincent Mannion Brodeur; Dan Bullis, WRS V-P for Patients Services; Maura and Jeff Brodeur. Grandchildren: Fiona, Jack and Austin Harju

—Photo courtesy Dan Bullis



James Kitt and Jewel Christmas

Both worked at the old and the new Walter Reed.

—Photo courtesy of Patsy Lynch originally published in At Ease



Patricia Lovass and Jane Hudak  
First met at Walter Reed Army  
Institute of Nursing (WRAIN) in  
the 1970s —Photo courtesy of Patsy  
Lynch originally published in At Ease



Shirley M. Spory

WRAMC active duty 1960s  
Photo courtesy of Patsy Lynch  
originally published in At Ease

The WRS continues to get enthusiastic feedback on the reunion held last fall on the campus of the old Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) attended by over 200 friends and former employees both active duty and civilian. The open-air trolley ride through the campus was very positively received. However, in just the few months since the reunion, the campus has changed significantly with the demolition of the Mologne House, the Wagner Gym, two temporary buildings (T-12 and T-20) that had been in use for decades and all of the on-post single family housing except the two columned General Officer's quarters by Georgia Ave.

Again, we appreciate all of our donors.

#### RECOGNITION OF SPONSORS

##### **Battalion - \$5,000**

COL John Radcille  
Mr. Robert Sievers

##### **Company - \$2,500**

LTG Ronald Blanck

##### **Platoon - \$1,000**

Lou and Rosemary Oberndorf  
COL Rick and Jean Erdtmann  
LTC Linda Anderson  
The Lewis & Rose Mologne Family  
Korean War Veterans Assoc.

Janet Southby, COL Nurse Corps, US Army (Ret) WRS President Emeritus and former Chief, Department of Nursing at (WRAMC) signs her picture in the Borden Institute's book celebrating the 100th anniversary of WRAMC.



—Photo courtesy of Patsy Lynch originally published in At Ease

##### **COL Richard Breen**

COL Robin and Paul Hightower

Mr. Phillip Paschall

LTC John Wetterau/Hedy Nash

MG Harold and Donna Timboe

COL Joe and Susan Konzelman

COL Dan and Dr. Eve Kimball

MG Ken Farmer

COL Susan Dunlow

Drs. Patricia and Richard Travis

MG Enrique Mendez

Dr. Raymond Scalettar

COL Tom Fitzpatrick

Army Nurse Corps Assoc.

Swift Arrow Events

#### REUNION FRIENDS



WALTER REED SOCIETY, INC.  
8901 Rockville Pike, Box 303  
Bethesda, MD 20889  
Phone: 301-571-1580  
[www.walterreedsociety.org](http://www.walterreedsociety.org)

**MEMBERSHIP CONNECTIONS:** We continue to develop an electronic mailing list of our membership. Please share your email address and indicate interest in receiving our newsletter electronically.

**Are You a WRS Member? - Annual - \$25; Two Year - \$40; Five Year - \$100; Lifetime - \$500**



## WRS ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday  
May 7, 2023  
11:30 AM - 2 PM

**CISSEL-SAXON**  
\*\*\*AMERICAN LEGION POST 41\*\*\*  
905 Sligo Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
[post41.org](http://post41.org)

SEE  
DETAILS  
ON  
PAGE 3



\*\*\*Entrance to POST 41 located in the back of building via parking lot — 8110 Fenton Drive  
Parking: Available in on-ground lot and in Fenton Street Village Parking Garage  
Metered parking is free on Sundays in both lots



DIRECTIONS — Post 41 bldg. parking and entry location on Fenton Street. Point smart phone camera at code. Scan. Focus. Tap.

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