

Walter Reed Society, Inc. Newsletter

ISSUE 3

APRIL 2013

President's Reflection

By COL (R) Janet Southby
WRS President

Dear Members and Supporters,

It was my honor to succeed COL Fred Brand and MG Hank Mendez as the Society's third president in 2001. The past 12 years have been filled with many highs and a few challenges as our volunteer organization strived to meet the needs of our members and the community we serve, first at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and now at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

It is certain that the lifeblood of the organization has been a loyal band of volunteers. Many who were board members early in my terms of office continue to be active in different roles: Fred Brand, Dan Bullis, Pete Esker, Jim Gonyea, Sharon Feeney-Jones, Vandy Miller, John Pierce, and Rose Mologne. Fortunately, only a few loyal volunteers have passed away, including Juan d' Avis, Diane Butke and Rudi Williams. Others have moved on to other responsibilities: Theo Butler, Lorna Chatmon, Joni Comuntzis, Debbie Cox, Thad Goodman, Suzanne Labansky, Darlene McLeod, Lori Risoli, Audré McLoughlin, Jorge Ribas, Norma Rumbaugh, and Connie Slewitzke.

Adopting the Walter Reed Society logo, designed by Paula Ephraim to honor Major Walter Reed, was a highlight in 2002. In 2003, the Society dedicated a plaque commemorating Major Walter Reed near where he died at Fort McNair. Again, in 2005, Walter Reed was remembered by refurbishing the bronze plaque on his tombstone at Arlington National Cemetery. The Society continues to preserve the legacy of Walter Reed, the man and the institution named in his honor, by involving and communicating with the membership and the public through educational and assistance activities, the newsletter and the website.



COL (R) Janet Southby
WRS President

Through the generous support of corporate and private donors, a fund was established in 2004 to assist service members being treated at Walter Reed, particularly those injured in conflict or overseas, and/or their families, with needs not otherwise addressed. The Society has been so very fortunate to continue receiving contributions from so many - matching fund drives, golf outings, memorial donations, churches, veterans organizations, school children, etc. Combat Medic statues have been presented to Senator Robert Dole, Mr. Bob Schieffer, Mr. Mike Hadji, Mr. Ed Helminski, Mr. Jimmy McGonigle, the Spring Lake Fire Company, and the Kent Island American Legion in recognition of various contributions.

Donor generosity has enabled the Society to grant \$2.2 million dollars in assistance with \$173,025 distributed in 2012. A committee of five, chaired by Dan Bullis, is dedicated to Wounded Warrior/family support while another committee, Linda Anderson, Chair, Sharon Feeney-Jones and Ric Alcantara, addresses grants to support projects and activities at the medical center.

Assistance grants for the injured and ill vary in scope from sperm banking, utility, mortgage, insurance, and auto repair to funeral-related expenses in select cases. Recently, 60 iPads were provided as adjunctive devices to Warrior rehabilitation and equipment; supplies were purchased for the WR Cycling and Kayaking Programs and the Military Advanced Training Center; an art workshop for patients, families and staff was sponsored through The Arts, Military + Healing Collaborative Initiative; and funds were provided for Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations and other ceremonial occasions at Walter Reed and Fort Belvoir. A monthly dinner is funded at the American Legion Post 41 for Warriors/families in partnership with Helping Hometown Heroes. Also, support was given to Waterfowl Weekends on the eastern shore and invitational golf outings providing opportunities for Warriors to recapture their lives during long periods of treatment and rehabilitation.

The law firm of McGuire Woods was engaged in 2009 to assist with revising the Society constitution as bylaws, amending the Articles of Incorporation, and requesting IRS

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Family Shares Experience With WRS

The following letter was sent to the Society on behalf of the McGonigle family. They were presented with the Combat Medic Statue on March 8, 2013 by WRS Vice President of Development COL (R) Fred Brand in recognition of their outstanding support to the Society.

In everyone's life there occurs a handful of days that "stay" with a person forever---yesterday was one of those days for myself, my wife Kathy, and my daughter Patty. The hospitality and generosity shown to us from the time we arrived until the time we left was nothing short of, amazing.

We realize that there is an ongoing effort to protect the privacy of our most severely wounded soldiers as they put their life back together. Knowing that, made us feel even more honored, when we were allowed access to not only the wounded but to the incredible people, like Steve Springer RN, whose life's "work" is to provide hope and a future to those who otherwise might be relegated to a wheelchair [or worse] for the rest of their lives.

If every American could experience what we did yesterday, this country would be a much happier and appreciative place to live. We are proud to be a part of this wonderful undertaking of helping our wounded. Simply put--we are totally committed to repeating as the number one donor



Photo by John Frankenburg

Walter Reed Society Vice President of Development COL (R) Fred Brand (right) presents the Combat Medic Statue to Jim McGonigle, his wife Kathy and daughter Patty, for their support to the Walter Reed Society.

in 2013.

Thank all of you for making yesterday one of the most memorable days of our lives!

Jimmy, Kathy, and Patty McGonigle

WRS Annual Meeting, Biennial Election

You are cordially invited to the Walter Reed Society's Annual Meeting and Biennial Election. Brunch will be served so please RSVP by April 29.

When: Sunday, May 5, 2013

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

Where: Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Dining Room

RSVP: By April 29, call (301) 571-1580 or email walterreedsociety@verizon.net

Cost: \$30

You can also mail a check to:

Walter Reed Society

8901 Wisconsin Ave. #303

Bethesda, MD 20889-5600

***Dues can be paid at the Annual Meeting**





Proposed Slate Officers

The following list of names is being submitted by LTG (R) Ron Blanck, Chair, Nominating Committee for the Election Slate 2013—2015.

Below is the slate of nominees:

President-COL (R) Joe Konzelman

First VP-COL (R) Allan Glass

Secretary-COL (R) Fred McLain

Treasurer - MCPO (R) John Frankenburg

VP, Finance - Mr. John Wetterau

VP, Development- COL (R) Fred Brand

VP, Communications - Mrs. Terry Foley

VP, Membership - COL John Gaal

VP, Projects-LTC (R) Linda Anderson

VP, Patient Services-SGM (R) Daniel Bullis

VP, Programs-COL (R) Vandy Miller

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re-classification from a supporting organization to a publicly supported organization. At the same time, under the able guidance of William Duncan and Allan Glass, great effort was put into developing financial control policies and procedures and complying with local and federal tax and audit requirements.

Additionally, John Frankenburg, Treasurer, Joe Konzelman, Jim Gonyea, John Wetterau and Fred Brand addressed financial planning so the Society is in sound financial order with a million dollar reserve to continue serving the staff and patients at WRNMMC and its educational, treatment and research activities. Fred McLain, Secretary, maintains the official document file.

The Society newsletter edited by André Nicholson and Pete Esker is published twice a year. A goal is to increase the number of issues in the future. Members are being encouraged to submit their email addresses as posting fewer hard copies is under consideration.

The Society's initial webpage was created by Ingrid Franco, the administrative assistant prior to Debra Washington. Debra's contribution to keeping the office operations, correspondence, and membership data in order is essential as Society activities have expanded so much. Revamping the Society's website was another major effort led by Nick Santrizos with Jeff Clark and then Lynn Albrecht as webmasters. The updated site serves as a source of Walter Reed historical data and comprehensive information about the history, mission and good works of our organization, and to encourage membership and donations. Further use of social media is in the offing as we initiate a "members' happenings" effort to enable communications among members.

In 2010, 28 Society volunteers were acknowledged with the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. Others not cited earlier, several who sold Walter Reed mementoes, include: Thom Bradford, Bruce Burton, Pamela Casey, Joni Comuntzis, Allan Dunlow, Insuk Esker, Liz Finn, Diane Foster, Jane Gonyea, Carlton Kammerer, Sonia Neumeier, Jane Newman, George Newman, and Toni Ward.

If all goes as planned, a new holiday ornament will continue to be designed each year and a new afghan, now being designed by Donna Blanck, will be promoted.

For several years, the Society enjoyed access to office space in the famed Pershing Suite at WRAMC. The move to Bethesda necessitated much negotiation for a new location. Chuck Callahan allocated double cubicle space in which the Society is now officially licensed to operate through May 2017. The office set up is completely functional as the Society installed its own communications system. AMSUS has kindly provided storage at their headquarters. Private office space on site remains a goal.

We continue to hold the annual Holiday Membership Gathering and the Annual Business Meeting in May. Each is highly valued by members as a great opportunity to keep in touch and to hear Walter Reed news.

As I leave office, I want to thank all who have committed so much time and effort to make the Society such a successful entity. Many who served on committees, especially the nominating committee, and special projects were not named but their contributions were greatly appreciated. Special acknowledgement is in order to Pete Esker for serving as Secretary and to Jim Gonyea for serving as Treasurer from the beginning until 2011! For now, the three of us get the prize for longevity in a single position.

I extend all best wishes for continued success to the incoming officers and the Society into the future.



Courtesy Photo

Out and About

Walter Reed Society members and supporters, Mr. Carlton Kammerer former Washington Redskin and WRS Liaison for Sports and Recreational Activities; Mr. Edward Helminski, President of Exchange Monitor Publications and Forums; COL (R) Vandy Miller, VP of Programs for WRS, attended a Golf Outing cookout hosted by Exchange Monitor in which the company donated \$15,000 to the Society. Exchange Monitor has been a long-standing supporter of WRS.

Open Invitation to Become WRS Member

The Walter Reed Society was organized for charitable and educational purposes, which now benefit the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and its educational, patient, treatment and research activities.

The governing board consists of all volunteers who assist wounded warriors and their families without remuneration. WRS is a non-federal charitable entity, not part of the Department of Defense or any of its components, and it is open to everyone.

Membership benefits include:

- WRS Newsletter and Website information
- Annual Holiday gatherings
- Annual Meeting/brunch
- Support of WRNMMC facility, staff and patient activities

Visit www.walterreedsociety.org for the membership form.

Annual dues - \$25

Two-year membership - \$40

Five-year membership - \$100

Life membership - \$500



Letters of Appreciation to WRS

Dear Walter Reed Society,

I am a mother of one of the wounded warriors at the Walter Reed hospital. My son and I have been here since July 2011. It has been a very stressful and trying experience, but not to say that we haven't experienced many uplifting ones. One of the unfortunate things of staying with my son, was that I lost my job back in August 2011. Which left me with no insurance, except if I was here at Walter Reed hospital.

During our first visit home I was unfortunate to hurt my back. I put off going to the doctor knowing I didn't have insurance. But, as time went on I knew I had to fly back, which was going to be very painful. Upon our return to Walter Reed, I found out about the Walter Reed Society. Someone had told me that they might help with my medical bills.

I filled out a form telling the Society what I needed help with, and shortly there after I received a call from a gentleman by the name of Dan Bullis. Within a short time after, Dan called me to his office. I have to tell you that any amount of help was going to be appreciated. The help was amazing! It will help me through a rough time of transitioning back home, finding a job and not getting behind in my bills. I had been really worried about the months to come, but now I can't tell you how much I've worried through all these months about my finances, the Walter Reed Society has just helped lift so much stress off my shoulders.

Thank you so much for helping others such as myself, thank you for remembering us that take care of our wounded. It's people like all of you that help the families that can sometimes slip through the cracks. It's the caring people such as all of you that keeps us

going through our ups and downs, we couldn't do it without you.

*Thank you,
Rhonda J. Doane
Cory A. Doane (son)*

Hello,

I would like to send a heart-felt thank you for the wonderful gift of an iPad that I received this week in the Occupational Therapy clinic at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

I am an active duty service woman, the mother of a three year old and the wife of a retired wounded combat veteran. I was hospitalized in late November with what we know now was an acute onset of Multiple Sclerosis.

As I recover and find my new normal, the occupational and physical therapy clinics have gone above and beyond with my care. I have been discussing time management tools to centralize family lists and daily calendars with the Assistive Technology Specialist, Mark Lindholm. Mark said the best solution is an iPad where we can synchronize information from one device to another. He presented me with an iPad2, compliments of the Walter Reed Society. This with the thousands of apps available, will give all of us opportunities for education and growth as we move forward into our future as a happy, healthy family.

I see this as a wonderful tool for me and my family, providing some continuity to our hectic schedules! Thank you so much for your generosity.

Aaron Greene-Morse

**Walter Reed Society
Recognizes,
Appreciates Donors**

During the past year the generosity of our members as well as citizens, companies, fire departments, churches and schools has been significant. Because of this, your society has been able to provide grants to Wounded Warriors and the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center of \$173, 025 in 2012.

Many individuals and organizations have supported the Society over the years to name a few, Spring Lake Fire Department, Exchange Monitor, The Korean War Veterans Association, Bill Carr Chapter One, Lewes DE, and Help Soldiers Inc. All donors and supporters are greatly appreciated because without you there is no us.



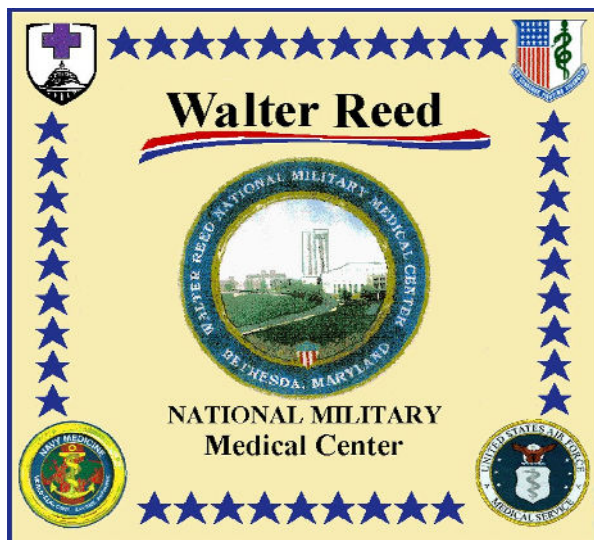
Women’s History Month on the Hill



Photo Courtesy of U.S. Senate Photography

Senator Barbara Boxer of California addresses the audience during the Joint Services Women’s History Month Congressional event hosted by the Senate Military Family Caucus on Capitol Hill. The event highlighted the diverse ways women serve their communities and their nation. The event was attended by distinguished

Department of Defense officials, Senators, and female service members, as well as a group of wounded service members, veterans, and their families from the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center as honored guests. The Walter Reed Society sponsored the wounded warriors who attended the event.



A new afghan, which is being designed by Donna Blanck, is in the works and should be available soon.



Tracking the Former WRAMC

By COL(R) John Pierce
Historian

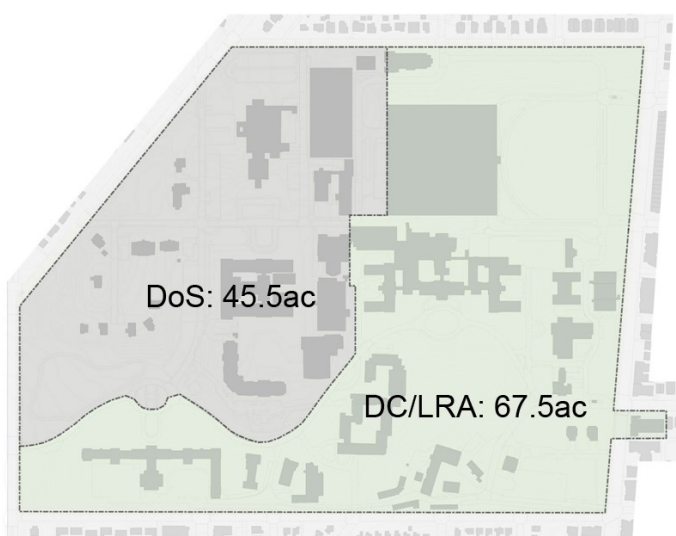
As most of you are aware, we have attempted to track the future of the former Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) campus in our newsletter. There have been many ups and downs, as well as starts and stops along this journey but I will attempt to update you again as to where it stands now at the beginning of 2013. Over half (67.5 acres) of the former campus will be conveyed to the District government for redevelopment; the other half will be conveyed to the Department of State for their use.

The District government has an organization called the Walter Reed Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) that has the responsibility for planning redevelopment of the 67.5 acres of the former WRAMC campus that will ultimately be conveyed to the District government. Developers had an opportunity to tour the site in late February and must submit their qualifications to the city in March. The city will then decide which developers will actually be allowed to submit written proposals. The redevelopment is expected to cost between \$600-700 million with a contract awarded to a developer or maybe even a consortium of developers by late spring. The redevelopment is expected to include over 3 million square feet of space divided between town houses, apartments, office, and retail space. Plans also include space for a Howard

University specialty medical clinic, a DC charter school, and homeless service organizations.

As I understand things, any building built before 1955 will be considered historic and will not be torn down. I also understand the Department of State plans to build chanceries on most of their portion of the property.

Information for this report was taken from Katie Pearce's Feb. 6, 2013, article in The Northwest Current.



The Figure is oriented to the north with Georgia Ave to the right and 16th Street to the left. The darker areas are, of course, the current buildings.



Editor's Correction:

The photo to the left was printed in the October 2012 Newsletter. Ms. Robin Dole (second from right) was misidentified as former Senator Bob Dole's wife instead of his daughter.



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

Address Service Requested

URGENT

Make your reservation now!

Annual Meeting

Election

Brunch - May 5

See page 2 for invitation.

ONE & ONLY ANNOUNCEMENT

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The WRS Officers

Elected Officers

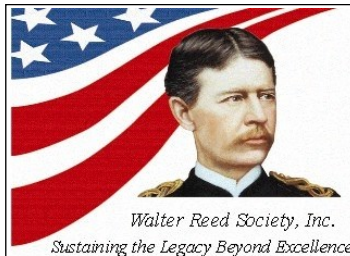
President, *Col. (Ret.) Janet Southby*
First Vice President, *Col. (Ret.) Allan Glass*
VP of Communications, *Vacant*
VP of Development, *Col. (Ret.) Fred Brand*
VP of Membership, *Col. (Ret.) Joseph Konzelman*
VP of Patient Services, *SGM (Ret.) Daniel Bullis*
VP of Programs, *Col. (Ret.) Vandy Miller*
VP of Finance, *vacant*
VP of Projects, *LTC (Ret.) Linda Anderson*
Secretary, *COL (Ret.) Fred McLain*
Treasurer, *MCPO (Ret.) John Frankenburg*

Appointed Positions

Advisor to the Society, *Mrs. Rose Mologne*
Webmaster, *Ms. Lyn Albrecht*
Historian, *Col. (Ret.) John Pierce*
Volunteer Sales Coordinator, *Vacant*
Memorabilia Procurement, *Ms. Joni Comuntzis*
Administrative Assistant, *SFC (Ret.) Debra Washington*
Newsletter, *TSgt (Ret.) Andre Nicholson and*
DAC (Ret.) Peter Esker

Office of Distinction

President Emeritus, *Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Enrique Mendez*



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

NEWSLETTER TO GO ELECTRONIC – Like many organizations being pummeled by the high cost of publishing, printing and mailing a hard-copy newsletter we are thinking about going electronic in 2013. An email newsletter would mean more information more quickly with better feedback. We need your email address! Please send your email address to us at www.walterreedsociety@verizon.net. We promise not to share it, sell it or otherwise misuse it. Thank you!