

Walter Reed Society, Inc. Newsletter

ISSUE 10

NOVEMBER 2016

President's Message

By Retired Army COL John Pierce
WRS President

First let me say thank you to retired Army COL Joe Konzelman our immediate past president for his service to and leadership of the society. It is a real honor for me to follow Joe and serve as president of the society.

While not a charter member I have been a member since early on, having served as first vice-president on two separate occasions and as society historian for several years. It has been a pleasure to work with the board of directors and our other members over the years and I very much look forward to the next several as president. I have known and worked with retired Army COL Brian Foley our new first vice-president for many years and know that he will do an excellent job.

While the society has one excellent part-time contract employee, we have no paid employees or staff. We have over 650 members but are a fully voluntary organization. We do not fund raise (except for our modest memorabilia sales) or solicit gifts but do accept donations. We are recognized as a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization and have recently undergone a successful external audit.

The society was founded in 1996, thus we are in our 21st year of operation. This fall completes our fifth year at the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) where we have established ourselves as one of the go-to organizations in time of need.



John Pierce

The Board has adopted the term Wounded, Ill, or Injured (WII) when referring to service members hospitalized at WRNMMC. WRNMMC uses this term to apply only to those individuals from the combat zone, however, the society will use it for all patients, combat zone or not, active or retired.

An article in this newsletter in the Spring 2007 issue told of the founding of the society. The article says that the founding group envisioned the purpose of the society to be "enhance patient care services, enhance welfare and morale of soldiers and other staff, and to preserve the legacy and renowned international reputation of Walter Reed - the man - and the institution..."

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WRS Holiday Gathering

You are invited to the Annual Membership 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 heavy hors d'oeuvres and entertainment.

**Sunday, Dec. 4, 2016
2 – 5 p.m.**

**Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
Dining Room**

**4301 Jones Bridge Road
Bethesda, MD
\$30 per person**

RSVP by Nov. 30, 2016

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 WRNMMC Main Gate on Wisconsin Ave.



WRS Honors Family, Dear Friends

Throughout the year, the WRS has established memorial funds to recognize family members/friends for various reasons. Below is a list of people who were honored in 2016:

In Memoriam

Baby Thomas Stephen Babic
Mr. Jack Connors



SSG Hunter Davis
Mrs. Gertrude Delgado
Mr. Stanley Giles
Mr. Edward Gleason
Mrs. Eileen McCarthy
Dr. Ronald Tallarida

Outstanding Service

COL Joe Konzelman, USA retired, DDS



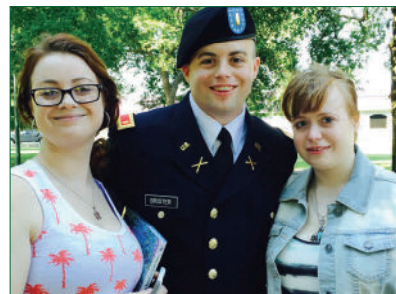
Long-time donors make it all possible



Above: The WRS solutes Longenecker and Associates, Inc. for their continued support of the society. Each year John Longenecker takes great pride in awarding a significant contribution to the WRS to support the Wounded, Ill or Injured and their families. (left to right) Martin Scheinder, Group Vice President, Environmental Programs; John Longenecker, President; Christine Giles, Corporate Vice President; Carl Kammerer, WRS Liaison Sports and Recreation; Retired Army COL Vandy Miller, WRS Vice President for Programs.

Top right: Wounded soldiers are seen with the hand carved walking canes that were donated by Omega Staffs of Newton, Alabama. The canes assist wounded warriors with walking stability.

Bottom right: Petty Officer Rachel Brister (left) who has been admitted to WRNMMC, stands with her brother Army 2nd Lt. David Brister, and Ariel Brister. The WRS assisted with getting Rachel and her mother Penny Brister to the commissioning ceremony of David and Rachel was able to render the first salute.





Scholarships Available for Warriors

By Retired Army COL Brian Foley
WRS First Vice President

The Walter Reed Society (WRS) in coordination with retired Army MG Elder Granger, MC, honorary WRS member, has provided \$10,000 to the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Foundation to provide Health Information Management (HIM) Scholarships for Wounded, Ill or Injured (WII), veterans, their spouses and the spouses of active duty military members. The WRS chose the HIM career field because:

- HIM has excellent employment opportunities in the civilian and government healthcare environments.
- The HIM employment opportunities in government agencies provide an excellent opportunity for Wounded, Ill and

Injured (WII) veterans, and the spouses to capitalize on their special civil service priority.

-- Spouses are defined as the spouses of: active duty military, veterans, WII and surviving spouses.

- HIM is an excellent field for the WII. Their disabilities will not hinder them in this career field. Also, they have developed experience and empathy as patients in the healthcare environment.

There will be three levels of scholarships available to these WRS Scholars. These will be at the associate degree, bachelor's degree/post-baccalaureate certificate, and master's degree level.

A small part of the funding provided the AHIMA Foundation is to be utilized to market the availability of these HIM scholarships to this special group.

The Stages of Healing

By Retired Army COL Brian Foley
WRS First Vice President

Stages of Healing is a performing arts series founded in January 2011 at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC). Stages of Healing features performances from a variety of artistic genres for patients, their families, and staff.

The purpose of Stages of Healing is to enrich the caring environment for the entire medical center by featuring the arts as essential components of health, healing and well-being for all.

The series is intended to enhance the healing process, create a base of support through which participants can relieve stress often associated with health care settings.

"Stages of Healing has been funded by the Walter Reed Society for over 2 years, and without its support, Stages of Healing would likely return to 1-2 performances monthly," said LCDR Micah Sickel, USPHS, who directs Stages of Healing. "The support Stages of Healing receives from the Walter Reed Society is invaluable."

Stages of Healing started out featuring one performance monthly, growing

to several performances monthly, to the current multiple performances on a daily basis in several areas of the WRNMMC, both outpatient and inpatient wards. There are currently 10 separate artist groups who perform. Stages of Healing is the most highly lauded entity at WRNMMC per the number of positive patient surveys submitted to the Patient Relations Service, sometimes garnering as many as 15 positive survey responses in a week. In addition to the performances, there is ongoing research into the effect of the performing arts on mental well-being.

President, Continued from front page

For those who may be new to the society I want to review the type of work we do to meet the founding goals. We have on almost all occasions limited our assistance to WII and their families from WRNMMC.

We provide monetary grants to meet various needs such as travel, lodging, family expenses, etc. We also provide support to WRNMMC staff in various ways to include assistance for patient support programs

such as a music program for patients and staff, hospital equipment, and even various hospital social functions. Any support to staff or the hospital that goes over the \$1,000 self-imposed limit is reviewed by the WRNMMC legal office and ultimately approved by the WRNMMC director.

The work of the society is well known and respected within the hospital and community. We have a healthy and vigorous volunteer organization with every reason to be optimistic for the future. I look forward to that future and to working with all of you.



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The WRS Officers

Elected Officers

President, *COL (Ret.) John Pierce*
First Vice President, *COL (Ret.) Brian Foley*
VP of Communications, *CAPT (Ret.) John Gallachio*
VP of Development, *COL (Ret.) Fred Brand*
VP of Membership, *COL (Ret.) George Turiansky*
VP of Patient Services, *SGM (Ret.) Daniel Bullis*
VP of Programs, *COL (Ret.) Vandy Miller*
VP of Finance, *MCPO (Ret.) John Frankenburg*
VP of Projects, *LTC (Ret.) Linda Anderson*
Secretary, *COL (Ret.) Fred McLain*
Treasurer, *LTC. (Ret.) John Wetterau*

Appointed Positions

Advisor to the Society, *Mrs. Rose Mologne*
Webmaster, vacant
Historian, *COL (Ret.) John Pierce*
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*



SALUTE OUR ARMED FORCES

The Society's 2016 ornament will feature the seals of the five armed forces and be available for sale at the annual holiday gathering.

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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.