

Walter Reed Society, Inc. Newsletter

ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2012

New Home, Same Mission

By TSgt (Ret.) Andre Nicholson
Editor, WRS Newsletter

It has been more than a year since the Walter Reed Society relocated to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland and although the facility is new, the mission remains the same. One of its missions is to assist wounded warriors and their families in times of need.

As the battle in the 2012 Presidential Campaign heats up to the point in which one political party will do everything possible to undermine the other, one thing is certain, the Walter Reed Society has continued with its mission of serving the military community no matter what the unemployment rate is today, or what health care law was passed yesterday. The mission has continued to be met because of individuals and organizations who believe in a greater good and the principles for which the Society was established.

The Walter Reed Society has been in existence for 16 years and was created to benefit Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) and its educational, patient, treatment, and research activities. In 2004, the WRS established a fund to assist service members being treated at WRAMC. The fund was created with the support of corporate and private donors and is titled the WRS Warrior/Family Support Fund. During this short period, the Society has granted more than \$2 million toward assisting service members and/or their families. So far this year, the Society has granted \$126,933 to wounded warriors and their families.

None of this support would be possible without the generous donations made by several organizations and

individuals over the past few years. These donations have allowed the WRS to assist with things such as airfare, childcare expenses, clothing, physical therapy, funeral expenses, lodging expenses, and mortgage/rent payments.

Organizations such as the Korean War Veterans Association Chapter One who generously donated to the Society made it possible for WRS to donate things such as 40 iPads to Assistive Technology at WRN-MMC for wounded warriors to use as part of their therapy by helping them with memory and organization skills.

For every dollar that is given out in support of a service member and/or his or her family, much more is given back to the Society in the form of gratitude from those very people whom it aims to help.

Please Join Us For Our Annual Holiday Celebration

You are cordially invited to the annual WRS Holiday Membership Gathering. Come enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, socializing, and activities. You are encouraged to bring new members.

When: Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012

Time: 2 - 5 p.m. **Cost:** \$30 per person

Where: Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) Dining Room

RSVP: By telephone to 301-571-1580 or email walter-reedsociety@verizon.net or mail your check to Walter Reed Society, 8901 Wisconsin Ave #303, Bethesda, MD 20889-5600 by **Dec. 3**. Call 301-571-1580 in case of inclement weather for information. Please respond to this printed invitation as a separate mailing is not planned.



WRS Thrives Due to Donors, Supporters



(Above) Dan Bullis (left), John Frankenburg, Jim Gonyea, and Fred Brand all members of the Walter Reed Society, receive a check for \$28,000 from Nikki Randoff representing the Kent Island American Legion Post 278.

(Top left) Members of the Walter Reed Society, John Frankenburg (far left), Fred Brand (second from right), and Jim Gonyea (far left) accept checks for more than \$900 from Russ Leming (second from the left) and Hugh Meehan (third from the left) representing the Spring Lake Fire Department.

(Left) In July 2012 members of the Walter Reed Society (left to right) Ric Alcantara, Chuck Peck, Jim Gonyea, Fred Brand, Janet Southby, Joe Konzelman, and Vandy Miler (far right) presented former U.S. Senator Bob Dole (center) with a Combat Medic Statue in recognition of his longstanding support of the Society and wounded service members. Senator Dole was accompanied by his daughter Robin.



Courtesy Photos

In Memoriam

The Society was deeply saddened by the untimely passing of two faithful supporters and long time members – Col. Juan D’Avis and Col. Kenneth (Ken) Block. Each was a well known Army

physician and each had earned a stellar reputation as a clinician, teacher and leader. Both shared a very positive outlook on life and a jaunty sense of humor and each leaves a void not easily filled – they are very much missed by many! Our deepest condolences go to both families.



What A Happy Army Home

By LTC, (Ret.) Sharon L. (Sam) Stanley-Alden
Army Nurse

After 27 years of military service, I retired for the first time in 1993. For the last eight years of my career, from 1985-1993, I was stationed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and even better, my family and I were lucky enough to live on Walter Reed's installation for that time, in Quarters #12 on 15th Street.

The old "four-square" was in a well-hidden little enclave, across the circle and up the azalea-heavy hill from Delano Hall. I was the lowest-ranking officer living on post, a major at the time we moved in. On weekends, without all the cars, it was like living on a private estate where children roamed ad lib. Which they did, with our dog Sasha - a Great Pyrenees, who when she escaped from our house headed to the succulent trash cans at the Abrams Hall NCO Club. I got more than one phone call from the military police, "MAJ Alden, we have your dog - - Again!"

For my children and for me, an Army Brat, this was the house we lived in longer than anywhere else in our lives to date. It was truly home.

Fast-forward to 2008, 15 years post-retirement, when I was offered a somewhat unusual opportunity to return to active duty, so who could resist? Not me. I served another three-plus years as a Nurse Case Manager at the Warrior Transition Unit in Bamberg, Germany, returning to the United States in December 2011, and re-retiring in February 2012. While I knew WRAMC had been placed on the base realignment and closure list, much to my dismay, disbelief and through persistent denial, I never thought my

house and home would be part of that.

Earlier this year I asked my former boss, WRS president COL (Ret.) Janet Southby, about two

things: could I get blueprints for our house and what was the fate of The Memorial Chapel where my sons served as altar boys and where the older one was married in 2004?

She referred me to COL (Ret.) John Pierce, the Society's historian, who in turn referred me to COL (Ret.) Randy Treiber, still working at WRAMC, who in turn referred me to Mr. Jason Short. That sounds like buck-passing, but it was the best thing ever. Mr. Short not only had files on the original blueprints, but also for later renovations that made our house what it was when we were there.

Both of my sons have expressed interest in building that house again, if and when they have the means and land to do so. When I retired it was to Harpers Ferry, WV, and we often talked about how well that house would fit into such an historic area. Because of the Walter Reed Society, I will be able to send my sons the blueprints to our one and only home from their childhoods. How wonderful a gift and legacy is that from one Army Brat to her children?

Now ... about The Memorial Chapel!



Become a WRS Member, Renew

Annual Dues \$25; Two-year membership \$40; Five-year membership \$100; 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. To become a member or to renew membership please fill in the requested information below. Cut out this announcement and mail it along with your dues or donation to **The Walter Reed Society at 8901 Wisconsin Avenue #303 Bethesda, MD 20889-5600**.

Printed Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Please indicate: I do ___ do not ___ want my name and address in the directory distributed to members.

Filling Needs

Left to right:

Amanda Reinsfelder and Mark Lindholm, Assistive Technology

Specialists, WRNMMC; and COL(R) Janet Southby, President, Walter Reed Society, present SGT Jared Lemon, U.S. Army with an iPad, compliments of the Walter Reed Society, in support of his rehabilitation.



Photo by Sarah Marshall

The Walter Reed Society, Inc., would like to thank all our donors for their support of our wounded warriors and their families.



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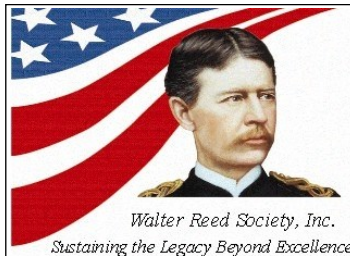
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Title of Publication: Walter Reed Society Newsletter

Address:

Walter Reed Society, Inc.
8901 Wisconsin Ave. #303
Bethesda, MD 20889-5600
Phone: (301) 571-1580

Frequency of Publication: Irregularly

Submissions: Submissions can be sent to 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!