



Walter Reed Society, Inc.

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2009



Holiday Season...

A Time for Reflection, Gratitude, Giving



By André Nicholson

As the holiday season approaches it brings with it a time for reflection, time to be thankful, and time to share.

No one knows more about sharing than the Walter Reed Society and the people who they assist could not be more thankful. Although all of them are grateful, several people expressed themselves with thank you letters and kind words, like those from Amber Colwell.

Mrs. Colwell, wife of SSG Sean Colwell and mother of three children diagnosed with Sensory Processing Disorder, wanted to thank the Society for assisting their family with paying the remaining \$6,175 for the use of a service therapy dog from 4 Paws for Ability. The organization strives to enrich the lives of people with disabilities through the training and placement of service dogs to provide individuals with compassion and promote independent living.

The three children, a 5-year old, and 21 month old twins, were diagnosed with the neurological disorder that causes them to be over stimulated very easily. The particular service dog provides a unique service for the children called behavior disruption.

"We believe this dog will significantly enrich their lives and our life as a family," said Mrs. Colwell. "We would otherwise not be able to afford this if it were not for the Walter Reed Society. Thank you. This means the world to us."

Another mother who was overwhelmed with the generosity of the WRS is Maria Free. Her son SPC Derrick Ford was injured in Afghanistan and while going through his treatment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, his mother was by his side.

Being with her son and having other children back home in California created a financial strain on Ms. Free, but the WRS stepped in and paid \$4,048.

"I cannot express my gratitude in words and it is even more difficult to verbalize the feeling of relief you've given me," Ms. Free said. "I almost lost my breath at the approval of my request and I cried as I left the building to call my creditors to let them know payment was on the way. I love my son and I could not express any more pride for his commitment to this country and the sacrifice he made. Without your generosity I would have had to leave him in order to support my commitments back home. So thank you so very much."



Please Join Us for a Holiday Gathering

You are cordially invited to the Walter Reed Society's annual Holiday Membership Gathering. Come enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, socializing, and activities. You are encouraged to bring new members. The new holiday collectible will be on sale along with other memorabilia.

When: Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009

Time: 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Note Location Change - Mologne House, WRAMC

RSVP: Call (202) 782-6607 No Later Than Dec. 4, 2009 Also, call this number in case of inclement weather for information.



A Spirit of Giving

Several organizations and individuals contribute to the Walter Reed Society being able to assist wounded warriors and their families in times of need. No donations are too small and it all goes toward an excellent purpose.

The Rock Bottom Foundation has been an avid supporter of the Society and this year they presented the WRS with a check for \$6,022. Eight wounded warriors were able to participate in the Brewmaster's Golf Tournament partnered by the Rock Bottom Foundation on Sept. 15, 2009.

Another strong supporter is the Spring Lake Fire Department, NJ, that donated \$3,500 to the Society along with more than 250 t-shirts from the five New York City Boro's Fire Departments that were distributed to wounded warriors throughout WRAMC.

Over the years, Exchange Monitor has held and dedicated their annual golf tournament to wounded warriors and promoted WRS as the charity to support. This year's tournament was held Oct. 14-16 in Amelia Island, Fla. Past donations have consisted of \$18,000 and \$16,000.

It is because of individuals and organizations such as these that the WRS is able to continue in their efforts of supporting warriors and their families.



(Left to right) Mike Conroy, New York Fire Department; Kerry Walsh, FDNY; Retired Army SGM Jim Gonyea, WRS treasurer; Hugh Meehan, Spring Lake Fire Department, New Jersey; and Ellen Meehan, present the Walter Reed Society with a \$3,500 on Oct. 9, 2009. The fire departments also donated more than 250 t-shirts to wounded warriors throughout WRAMC.

WRS Membership, Donations

Annual Dues-\$25; Two-year Membership-\$40; Life-time Membership-\$500. Donations are tax-deductible. Your support enables the Society to sponsor activities at WRAMC and to assist wounded warriors and their families. Send checks to The Walter Reed Society, P.O. Box 59611, Walter Reed Station, Washington, D.C. 20012-9611, along with your: Name, Mailing Address and E-mail Address. Please indicate: I do___ do not___ want my name and address in the directory distributed to Society members.

Since its inception, the WRS Warrior/Family Support Fund has provided more than \$1.5 million of assistance to Wounded Warriors and their family members. Examples of assistance provided through WRS donors: Mortgage/Rent Payments, House Insurance, Car Payment, Car Insurance, Storage Fees, Health Care Costs, Airfare, Automobile Repairs, Childcare, Clothing, and Utility Bills.



In Remembrance of MAJ Walter Reed



The brass plaque, which was cleaned by WRS, is mounted on the headstone of MAJ Reed's grave.



(From Left to Right) Retired Army COL Janet Southby, president, WRS; MSG Kenneth Merritt, chief clinical NCO; and COL Greg Jolissaint, deputy commander for Integration and Transition, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, lay a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery on the gravesite of MAJ Walter Reed, M.D., on Sept. 13, 2009 in remembrance of his birthday.

On Sept. 13, 1851, future Army physician Walter Reed was born in this small wooden house called "Belroi" in Tidewater, Va. The Reed family, Reverend Lemuel Sutton Reed, his wife Pharaba and their four children lived in the Belroi home for a year before relocating and settling in Farmville, Va. The Walter Reed birthplace has since been restored over the years to preserve its historical significance and is now maintained by the Joseph Bryan Branch of the Association for the Preservation Virginia Antiquities. The Joseph Bryan Branch is seeking to set up an endowment for the Walter Reed birthplace. This permanent endowment will ensure that Walter Reed's legacy will be remembered. All donations are tax deductible and all funds generated by the endowment will be used for the maintenance and operation of the Walter Reed birthplace. In addition, these funds will allow the branch to create education programs for visitors and for students. All donations are tax deductible and will be used for the preservation, maintenance and care of Walter Reed's birthplace. Tax deductible gifts for the Walter Reed Birthplace Endowment Fund may be sent to:

Gloucester Community Foundation

P.O. Box 2303, Gloucester, VA 23061

Check memo should note: Walter Reed Birthplace Endowment Fund.



Photo by John Pierce

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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From the WRS Officers

Elected Officers

President, Col. (Ret.) Janet Southby
First Vice President, Col. (Ret.) Allan Glass
VP of Communications, Mr. Nick Santrizos
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, Col. (Ret.) William Duncan
VP of Projects, Col. (Ret.) Sharon Feeney-Jones
Secretary, DAC (Ret.) Peter Esker
Treasurer, SGM (Ret.) James Gonyea

Appointed Positions

Advisor to the Society, Mrs. Rose Mologne
Adv. of Enlisted Affairs, CSM (Ret.) Ricardo Alcantara
Historian, Col. (Ret.) John Pierce
NNMC Liaison, MCPO (Ret.) John Frankenburg
Volunteer Sales Coordinator, Col. (Ret.) Dianne Butke
Memorabilia Procurement, Ms. Joni Comuntzis

Office of Distinction

President Emeritus, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Enrique Mendez
Administrative Assistant - SFC (Ret.) Debra Washington

