



## **Annual Report 2024**

This report covers calendar year 2023

The Walter Reed Society is a tax-exempt 501[c] [3] organization incorporated in the District of Columbia [EIN 52-1961196]. It was organized exclusively for charitable purposes in 1996 to benefit Walter Reed Army Medical Center and its educational, patient treatment and research activities. In 2011 the Society transferred its activities to Bethesda, Maryland to support the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC). In 2019 its mission statement was expanded to include military health care facilities in the National Capital Region (NCR) as well as collaborating with non-profit partners in the NCR. The mission statement can be found on our website at: [www.walterreedsociety.org](http://www.walterreedsociety.org).

The Society's mission remains the same to assist service members, active and retired, being treated at DoD medical facilities in the NCR and their families in response to unmet needs during their care. We also sponsor activities and fund projects and goods that enhance patient care services and support the welfare and morale of service members, families and the staff at Walter Reed and other DoD medical facilities in the NCR. All of this is accomplished through our membership and the generous support of private donors along with some corporate support.

As the effects of the coronavirus pandemic have wained the ability of the Society to be more active within the hospitals we serve has increased.

Society membership is still strong at almost 600 members; see following Membership Report. All are welcome to join the Society especially friends of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, the former Walter Reed Army Medical Center and National Naval Medical Centers, the

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the former Ft. Belvoir Community Hospital, now the Alexander T. Augusta Military Medical Center or other DoD medical facilities in the NCR.

Two newsletters were published in 2023 to coincide with the Society's meetings to keep members and friends apprised of our current activities and plans. We are still attempting to put together an electronic mailing list for those members who would prefer to get their newsletter electronically. The Society continues to hold office space co-located with the Henry M. Jackson Foundation in Bethesda, MD.

In 2023 Society leadership met separately with CAPT Melissa Austin, Director, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and COL Elba Villacorta, Director, of the newly re-named Alexander T. Augusta Military Medical Center, Ft. Belvoir, VA. The purpose of these meetings was to introduce them to the Society, our leadership and our work.

The Board of Directors continues to have face to face meetings with a call-in option at least every two months. Additional conference calls are added as needed. As has been the custom we held two annual memberships meetings (May and December) in 2023. The venue for these meeting has changed from USUHS to the American Legion Post 41 in Silver Spring, MD. All board members remain volunteers and serve with no remuneration for the many hours spent conducting Society business at meetings, online and by teleconference. During the year COL George Turiansky resigned os position as Vice-President; we thank George for all his work in that position. This position and others on the Board are available if there are any members desiring to serve. I believe the Board continues to function well due to the diligent and dedicated efforts of it members.

During the year we have continued to reassess our By-Laws and Constitution that have not been reviewed in a number of years. This effort has been led by COL(R) Brian Foley, First Vice-President, with the goal of updating these documents to be more reflective of the current times and functions of the Society.

As we look to leverage our financial position and be a "force multiplier" in our assistance to other non-profits, Rick Erdtmann, COL, Medical Corps US Army (Ret) agreed to accept a position as Society Liaison to other non-profits in order to strengthen and increase our opportunities for partnership and service. Rick has been working with the American Red Cross, Blue Star Families, Fisher Houses, and others in efforts to expand our ability to provide assistance to as many beneficiaries as possible.

Ms. Clarice Gross, former Patient Representative at Ft. Belvoir Community Hospital, is the Society's Liaison to the newly named Alexander T. Augusta Military Medical Center at Ft. Belvoir. Her knowledge of the hospital and its personnel has been a great assistance in our efforts there which were significantly increased in 2023.

The Society continued to work with Mission M4 (Military MRI Minus Medication). Mission M4, a local nonprofit, previously successful in getting portable video display (PVD) equipment into the MRI suite at WRNMMC has acquired additional equipment both replacement and new for use at WRNMMC. Despite several delays her work to refurbish a waiting room for pediatric families is on-going. To learn more about MISSION M4, please visit: [www.missionm4.org](http://www.missionm4.org).

The Society continues its affiliation agreement with the Friends of Uniformed Services University (FUSU). This affiliation is not political and no lobbying is done. This collaboration continues to be fruitful as others from the military community have joined in to advocate for and support military medicine.

At the close of 2023 the Society continues to work with the Garden Club of Chevy Chase (GCCC) via a similar affiliation agreement. The CGCC has plans to refurbish the ground level garden areas between Buildings 9 and 10 at WRNMMC to improve its effects as a healing garden. The Society is providing assistance in getting these plans through the administrative approval processes that because of the cost of the overall project requires higher level approval that just from the hospital.

The WRS along with American Red Cross (ARC) honored Rose Mologne with the presentation of the first annual Rose M. Mologne Award in a ceremony on April 14, 2023 at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Beloved by all, Rose, a founding member of the WRS and a 40 year volunteer with the ARC passed away on April 1, 2022. In collaboration with the Mologne family, the Society designed a commemorative coin with the inscription Recognizing Outstanding Service with Excellence. Marianne Wyble, a long time ARC volunteer at the hospital, was selected as the first awardee. She received the first Rose Mologne commemorative coin as well as an engraved crystal rose bud vase.

We owe special thanks and gratitude to the leaders and staff of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for their collegiality and support, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences for their support, and the American Legion Post 41 for use of their facilities for our Board and membership meetings. Monthly dinners for wounded, ill, or injured and their

families in conjunction with the DAV and Helping Hometown Heroes organization at the Legion Post have been re-instituted following the pandemic.

We look forward to continuing to work with all organizations with a similar mission to ours.

As always I owe special thanks to COL(Ret) Janet Southby, President Emerita and COL (Ret) Joe Konzelman, Immediate Past President for their continued active support, advice and overall excellence in service to our Society and our beneficiaries.

Our Administrator, Hermalene Taylor, continues to do an excellent job for us and we are very fortunate to have her. Her experience with us, energy and interest in growth and improvement have added much to our ability to functional efficiently and productively.

See Appendix for listing of our support in 2023.

**John R. Pierce, COL, MC US Army (Ret) President**

## **COMMITTEES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Secretary**

This is my first year in the position of Secretary being responsible for the documentation of discussions at the meetings of the Board of Directors. Draft minutes are compiled and reviewed by the WRS president and administrator. Final draft minutes are distributed to all Board members prior to the next meeting where they are reviewed and approved with any necessary changes made. Copies of the final approved minutes for kept for the WRS archives.

**Ed Coll, COL MC US Army (Retired) Secretary**

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### **Treasurer**

Donation income in 2023 showed a dramatic increase. Individual and corporate contributions totaled \$260,527, which was an increase of 108% from 2022. Because of this, WRS was able to maintain and increase its support of the wounded, ill and injured service members and their families.

Support of activities/services for wounded, ill and injured soldiers and their families was again a priority. During 2023, the WRS provided grants to approved requests in the amount of \$99,389, which was a 41% increase from 2022. Our committees have been very proactive in letting the medical community know that the WRS can be very helpful in areas where funding is not normally available.

Also during 2023 the WRS was able to support requests from the staffs at WRNMMC and ATAMMC. Requests in the amount of \$91,077 were approved, which was an increase of 275% from 2022.

The WRS continued to receive CFC donations from areas around the country as a result of the 2022 CFC Fall campaign. Donations in the amount of \$888 were received in 2023, which was a decrease of 37% from 2022.

The WRS investment portfolio mirrored that of the general population. Investments showed a 12.2% increase in 2023. Initial review of the start of 2024 looks promising for continued growth of the investments.

Sales of the WRS collectible items showed a decrease of 31% from 2022 to 2023. The ornaments, stockings and afghans from WRNMMC, WRAMC and ATAMMC contributed to total sales of \$4,833. A good portion of the sales in 2022 was attributed to the WRAMC Reunion in Oct 2022. Sales in 2023 were good and were similar to previous years before the Reunion. Sales were strong at the Annual Meeting and Holiday Party. Additional sales were approved at Knollwood and at ATAMMC.

The external audit of the WRS and WRF's 2022 financial statements was successfully completed in 2023. The external audit of the 2023 financial statements is currently in process and should be complete sometime in the summer of 2024. All required 2023 WRS document filings with governmental jurisdictions are in process of completion.

**John Wetterau, LTC U.S. Army (Ret) Treasurer**

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### **First Vice-President**

The Walter Reed Society proudly sponsored the 2023 AHIMA Foundation Veteran's Scholarship for students pursuing associate, bachelor, or master's degrees in health information management (HIM) or health informatics (HI). 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. If an applicant was not currently a member of AHIMA, the Walter Reed Society sponsored the cost of the necessary student membership for veterans or their spouses.

There were two completed and submitted applications. The review committee selected one application for award. The recipient of 2023 AHIMA Foundation Veteran Scholarship is Trista Harvey. Trista is in the HIM Baccalaureate Program at Southern New Hampshire University and is scheduled to graduate in December of 2025. A note from her:

*“I am absolutely thrilled and honored to receive the news that I have been selected as a recipient of the AHIMA Foundation scholarship! I cannot express how grateful and excited I am for this wonderful opportunity. – Your support and belief in my future mean the world to me. It is because of your efforts I am able to further continue pursuing my Baccalaureate Degree with confidence and determination. – I express my heartfelt gratitude for choosing me as a recipient of this esteemed scholarship. This opportunity means the world to me, and I am committed to making the most of it as a stepping stone toward my goal of becoming a dedicated and proficient health information professional.*

**Brian P. Foley, COL US Army (Ret) First Vice-President**

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**Vice-President Finance**

The position of VP for Finance remains unfilled. A small group of present and former Board members is meeting to evaluate the best way to handle our financial holdings.

**VP Finance - position unfilled**

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**Vice-President Programs**

The work of this position continues to be carried on by other Board members.

**VP Programs - position unfilled**

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## **Vice-President Communications**

We have been dedicating a significant amount of time and energy this year to the website project, and as we near the completion of this endeavor, we are excited to unveil our new and improved online platform. Our revamped website will showcase our organization in a more visually appealing and user-friendly manner, making it easier for our members and friends to navigate and find the information they need. I would like to personally thank Hermalene Taylor, our very own Administrator extraordinaire and Tansill Johnson. This is an exciting time for our members.

The primary goal of updating our website is to ensure members and friends of our organization have easy access and are well informed of what our WRS is doing. With this update you will have an easier time accessing the WRS website either with a desktop, laptop or mobile devices, cellphones account for more than half of all web traffic, so we need to make sure our site is viewable—and easy to find—for people on the go.

This past month the Board of Directors met for a Strategic Planning Meeting led by Dr. Richard Southby to look at our current mission, vision and goals, setting a near/long term goals and developing a roadmap to achieve them. In addition, Increase WRS visibility to other DOD medical facilities in the District, Maryland and Virginia and to reach out and encourage younger people to join the WRS thru social media (Linkedin and Facebook). Other housekeeping activities involved posting of our newsletters and the Walter Reed Society supporting Scholarship in Health Information Management thru the AHIMA Foundation.

WRS continues to provide financial and other assistance, as deemed appropriate by the Board, to other military medical facilities in the National Capital Region while still maintaining its primary focus on Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

**Ricardo Alcantara, CSM US Army (Ret) VP Communications**

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## **Vice President Development**

From the WRS By-Laws: The Vice President for Development shall be responsible for coordinating fundraising efforts and insuring appropriate recognition of donors.

The Society continues to receive donations from very generous individual donors. golfing events sponsored by several donors and through the Combined Federal Campaign. Recognition and appreciation of donations continues via the efforts of our WRS Administrator and the WRS President.

## VP Development - position unfilled

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## Vice President Projects

In 2023 we donated \$61,539.00 towards projects, events, and other support to improve morale among staff and patients at WRNMMC. Contributions included expenditures to the Department of Radiology for an updated portable video player for use while patients were being scanned. We also made contributions to numerous morale welfare projects, including but not limited to Chef Egg in the Department of Psychiatry, the Hospital Command in support of the Holiday Ball and multiple initiatives through the Department of Quality. We have also continued our relationships with the Oakleaf Club as well as the Memory Care program through the Department of Internal Medicine. Our Committee looks forward to continuing to foster improved communication with staff and the leadership at both WRNMMC and FBCH. The reputation of the Society continues to grow through service and dedication. The Projects Committee has and will continue to play an important role in enhancing that perception and preserving the legacy of Walter Reed.

## Avery Davis, COL US Army (Ret) VP Projects

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## Vice-President Membership

Membership Statistics - January – December 2023

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>588</b>
<b>NEW</b>	<b>5</b>
Annual	2
Two Year	1
Five Year	2
Life	0
<b>RENEWALS</b>	<b>9</b>
Annual	1
Two Year	7
Five Year	1



## Membership Highlights and Focus for Year

- Member Database and Information enhancement initiative designed to manage, support, and analyze donor/member statistics. Major emphasis on integrating and cross-referencing data to enhance our capacity to connect and provide information more efficiently to members and donors. This includes accuracy of contact information and increasing the number of ways to access members (i.e., email addresses.) 2023 STATUS: Development/Implementation initiated -- (Progression from 2022 phase - planning/development ongoing)
- Collaboration and coordination with VP Communications for current and new member ease of access and use of information, donations, renewals on website and other communication resources. 2023 STATUS: Final phase for 2024 launch – (Progression from 2022 phase - planning/development ongoing)
- Trends to Watch:
  - Overall membership in 2023 – modest decline from 593 to 588 members. (This is a dynamic number based on information available at the end of year 2023.)
  - Key indicators (targeted areas of need and focus - new members and renewals) Decline in number of new members in 2023. In 2023 new members totaled – 5, compared to 31 in 2022. While renewals increased marginally – 9 in 2023 compared to 6 in 2022, there is an opportunity to re-energize and re-engage in all areas. The previous two to three years, we saw a slight reduction in annual and two-year membership; and a slight increase in five year and life membership.
  - Contributing factors to consider for current trends: Life events - relocation/change of mailing address with no alternative contact information – emails or phone numbers to engage existing members/illness/ deaths; need for more active recruitment of new members and targeted outreach to introduce WRS to a wider demographic and next generation of supporters.

### PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERSHIP BY REGION: (Largest to Smallest)

<p><b>SOUTH: (70%)</b></p> <p>Maryland, Virginia, Washington DC, Florida, Texas, North Carolina, Georgia, Delaware, Tennessee, South Carolina, West Virginia, Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma,</p>	<p><b>NORTHEAST: (16 %)</b></p> <p>New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Maine, Vermont</p>
<p><b>WEST: (9 %)</b></p> <p>California, Colorado, Washington, New Mexico, Oregon, Nevada, Arizona, Alaska, Hawaii</p>	<p><b>MIDWEST: (5%)</b></p> <p>Ohio, Minnesota, Michigan, Missouri, Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa</p>

## **Vice-President Membership - position unfilled**

**Report submitted by Hermalene Taylor, WRS Administrator**

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### **Vice President, Patient Services and Warrior/Family Services**

We proudly continue to be positioned to serve all of the wounded, ill, and injured service members and families as well as Veterans that are referred to us by case managers, Army Emergency Relief staff and departments throughout the Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia (DMV) area. Our ongoing efforts are to insure all of those that come in contact with those in need are aware of our areas of assistance. We continue to engage with other nonprofits in the area to expand our footprint of assistance.

Once a request is received our committee reviews, discusses and acts on each request with due diligence with each member having a vast amount of experience in our health care and military environment. Unlike many other Veteran related nonprofit organizations our WRS is unique in this regard.

The military Health Care System and TriCare program does in fact attend to most all of the health care needs of its members and families, however when an emergency/life threatening situation hits a military member and family there are many issues related to finances, special equipment and related human needs that are unexpected and critical to the full recovery of those impacted.

Those that we assist come from all over the world with conditions and emergency circumstances that we all pray will never happen to each of us. Our engagement with those stricken with these emergencies comes with much more than paying an outstanding bill or assisting with so many other material needs, our connection at such a sensitive and terrifying time, creates a personal bond that lives on in the lives of those we assist as well as those health care staff that connected.

We have had an active year with assisting those in need, many of which were highlighted in our recent newsletter and the assistances provided is emotionally and deeply appreciated by each of those we serve.

Our continued ability to serve our population is only made possible by those that have supported our Walter Reed Society with their donations and volunteer time. Thus we have been blessed with being the instruments of the generosity of those that share.....and we are honored to continue this critical labor of love and have you to thank for making this possible.

**Dan Bullis, SGM US ARMY (Ret) VP, Patient Services/Warrior/Family Support**

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## WRS 2023 Collectible

As we have for a number of years, the Society developed a collectible for the 2023 Holidays. This year the WRS collectible is a three dimensional bald eagle holding the colors of the United States. An oval above the eagle contains our name, Walter Reed Society.

The bald eagle, indigenous only to North America, has been the national bird of the United States since the late 1700's, when it was placed with outspread wings on the Great Seal of the United States. Initially there were bitter disputes over what the national emblem should be. It wasn't until 1789 that the bald eagle was finally chosen to represent the new nation. It now appears in many government institutional logos and documents, making it the most pictured bird in all of America.

President John F. Kennedy said, "The Founding Fathers made an appropriate choice when they selected the bald eagle as the emblem of the nation. The fierce beauty and proud independence of this great bird aptly symbolizes the strength and freedom of America."

**Janet Southby, COL US Army (Ret) President, Emerita**



## Appendix

### Assistance Provided by the WRS During 2023

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The Walter Reed Society provided support to WRNMMC for its Rapid Hiring Initiative in October 2023.

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The WRS received a request for assistance via Behavioral Health for an active duty member who is in outpatient program for PTSD related to sexual trauma. She has been in the AMEDD FOR 7 years as a 68W, combat medic. She applied and was accepted into the Occupation Therapist Course while assigned in Korea and was sent TDY to Ft Sam for phase 1 with follow-on at WRNMMC. The incident occurred while attending the course which resulted in her not being able to focus on her studies and as a result she was removed from the course and was placed in an attached status to WRNMMC. This has been occurring over the past 4 months and she has not been paid as she still in technically assigned to Korea.

She was given a \$1,500 loan from AER two months ago but was not eligible for a grant since she will eventually be paid. Her normal monthly pay was \$3,800.

She has engaged her Chain of Command with no results as Korea is not attending to the situation. She discussed this with the IG and was told that since it involves an Overseas Command she would be better off making this a congressional inquiry which she did and she awaits the results. She will be returning from the PTSD program on 11/9 and at some point she will be assigned as a 68W.

Considering how long she has been without pay and her current medical challenges the WRS provided a one time grant.

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The WRS received a request from the AER office at Ft. Detrick for assistance for an active duty member who experienced a fire in their rented townhouse that destroyed the house and all of the family's belongings. She, her husband and two grandchildren (with them until December) moved to a local hotel. The Red Cross provided 2 a night stay in a local hotel and the AER provided a grant for uniforms and clothing and offered a loan for hotel expenses. The Soldier has several financial issues and declined the loan. She had a loan in the past and it was a challenge in paying it back.

They found another place to rent that requires a deposit and the first month's rent. This remains a difficult time for this family just before the holidays and being able to move into a home immediately with this help is important.

The WRS provided assistance for the deposit and first months rent.

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The WRS received a request from a member of a local Marine Corps Group for assistance with the travel of a wounded Marine and care provider from Washington DC to Rota Spain. There is a Marine Corps Ball hosted by the Marines stationed there. The local Marine would be their Guest of Honor / Keynote Speaker with travel dates of 11/2 and returning on 11/7.

The Marine was stationed in Afghanistan during the withdrawal of the US and was wounded by the suicide bomber during that evacuation, his physical injuries included the loss of a leg and arm. He was treated at WRNMMC. He also recently testified before Congress investigating the US withdrawal.

I communicated with the Semper Fi /America Fund and while they are aware of the request their funding criteria does not allow for travel of this nature. While this request is a bit unusual it does support the health and well being of a Marine, who continues to be treated for his overall injuries with a sense of being embraced as a Hero and validation of his continued contribution to the Marine Corps.

The request would cover the travel only as the Marine Group stationed in Rota would cover transportation and lodging.

The WRS provided this support.

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We received a request via the Ft Belvoir AER office from a Specialist 4 assigned to Ft Belvoir. Her Veteran step-father, who raised her, has been ill and she was notified that he is now in hospice and has only days remaining. Her dependent sister resides with her and neither have any funds or credit cards. Even though payday was today her entire pay, less \$300.00, has gone to her monthly bills.

This is to request assistance for her and her sister to travel to Hartford, Connecticut to bid farewell to their Dad. This would include travel, car rental, lodging, and incidentals. There are also some burial cost. Her family life/issues are extremely disjointed to the point they have no lodging for them when they get home.

When discussing this situation thru today I can't help but know that there are many many more like her in our military, living from paycheck to paycheck and hoping something doesn't break or someone in the family doesn't get sick or die.

She has been in the Army for 3 years and while carrying the burden of supporting her adult parents because "that's her obligation" she is striving to move upward.

Another issue is the fact that hospice seldom moves the way folks think it will. It would be understood that if funded this would be considered a one time humanitarian farewell trip in support of our current Soldier and her Veteran father.

The AER has very confusing rules on how they decide and in this case they don't assist when there are no funds owed. I plan on a continued discussion with the AER folks and see if we can obtain written rules for future use.

The WRS provided this support.

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The WRS supported the Quality Directorate's "Fall into Resiliency" day at WRNMMC.

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The WRS received a request for assistance for the mother of an active duty Marine who was stationed in Korea and suffered a medical emergency while running. It was discovered that he had a cancerous tumor that had invaded his brain stem. He arrived at WRNMMC in August and his mom, who is a single parent, drove here to be with him. He has had surgery that resulted in paralysis on his left side. He has just started 30 daily radiation treatments. The patient's sister remained at home with her job and school attendance, neighbors are checking in on her. Just prior to receiving the news about her son, the mother's long time boyfriend died of an asthma attack that resulted in cardiac arrest. The mother performed CPR. Her unemployment has stopped and she continues to have household obligations back home.

Her current bills are mortgage, electricity, gas, water, internet, cell, car payment, and car insurance.

The Marine and his mother will likely be here for several months and her need will continue while she remains here with him. The obligations above reflect those of a single mom who is a thrifty person. Who has a \$130.00 per month car payment?

The WRS provided a monthly grant for this mom and continued to monitor the patient's condition and her need to remain with him.

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The WRS provided support for the renaming ceremony of the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital to the Alexander T. Augusta Military Medical Center.

We received the following note, "It was a great ceremony with catering reception. Without the support of the Walter Reed Society, the ceremony wouldn't have been a success. Thank you for your superb support for the Alexander T. Augusta Military Medical Center."

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The WRS purchased eight new massage chairs for the AAMMC at Ft. Belvoir to replace the chairs we had purchased for them several years ago. These chairs had been very heavily used by the patients and staff to the point of being worn-out.

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The WRS provided support of the WRNMMC Ethics Symposium in October 2023.

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We received a request for assistance via a Pediatric Mobility Clinic nurse/Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation for the 8 y/o daughter of a Navy E-5 who has been diagnosed with severe global developmental delay, epilepsy and autism. The clinical staff recommended she have a safety bed, referred to as a "Cubby Bed." TRICARE denied the request. There is a quote was received from Nu Motion Mobility, a company WRNMMC and the WRS has worked with over the years. The WRS discussed this quote with them and it was revised down.

The justification from the medical staff is well done and it seems clear that this young service member and family would be well served with this bed for obvious reasons.

The WRS provided this support.

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The WRS provided support for the Graduate Medical Education Professionals Day at WRNMMC.

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The WRS received a request to provided assistance for an E-2 who arrived at WRNMMC in July to attend the 68C nursing course. Since his arrival his pay has been incorrect and he is having a challenge with his monthly obligation of a car payment,, Insurance and other obligations. The WRS provided a one time grant.

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The WRS provided support to the family of a child born with an extremely rare medical condition requiring multiple surgeries. The WRS provided support for non-TRICARE covered medical care recommended by her providers.

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The WRS assisted the Viet Nam Women's Memorial Foundation in their donation of a 24 inch maquette of the Vietnam Women's Memorial to WRNMMC. The WRS also purchased a pedestal and plaque for the Vietnam Women's Memorial's display in a prominent location within the hospital.

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The WRS received a request for assistance via the Army Emergency Relief for a medically retired Army E-4. The soldier served for 6 years and was discharged with PTSD and is currently being treated at WRNMMC and the DC-VA. He had been working up until five months ago when his medications were changed and left him anxious, lethargic and "out of sorts." He is married with three children. His spouse is unable to work as child care costs would exceed her income.

They own a 2010 GMC with 135,000 miles; the engine and transmission require replacement and repair. The estimate for this work was \$11,732.78; he used their savings to pay a deposit of \$5,089.51 leaving a balance of \$6,643.27. He could not get a loan to cover the additional cost but due to credit issues. Their household income is \$4,100/ month VA disability and monthly rent is \$1,100.

The WRS provided assistance with the car repairs.

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The WRS supported the WRNMMC medical education graduation ceremony reception.

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The WRS provided grant funds for the WRNMMC Nurses Week activities.

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The Walter Reed Society purchased 20 tickets for E4/ GS5/6 and below for the FBCH Spring Ball.

When other planned support fell through the WRS provided grant funds for the Speaker for the FBCH Spring Ball.

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The WRS provided assistance to the FBCH for production of a suicide prevention video associated with their Mental Health Month Initiative in May 2023.

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The WRS provided support for the FBCH Research Symposium held on May 18, 2023.

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We received a request for assistance via a MATC Case Manager for support for the family of a patient who was medically retired after a full career in the artillery. He spent a year at WRAMC in 2008 as a result of a below the elbow amputation of his left arm as a result of an IED. He returned last month with a diagnosis of aggressive cancer of his jaw, tongue and mouth. He has had surgery and currently has a feeding tube and tracheotomy in place as he heals and awaits radiation followed by chemotherapy. Bone was taken from his leg to reconstruct his jaw and tissue from his chest to reconstruct his tongue and mouth. He is not able to speak or eat.

Following his illness his spouse had to give up her job to assist him at the hospital as there were no other relatives to assist. She received training in tube feeding and tracheotomy care and attends to his many daily needs. The surgeon emphasized the need for a close family member's presence especially since he is not able to speak.

The continued care will involve radiation for the next month followed by chemo for another month, then reevaluation. It's likely the continued care will be for the next several months.

Given their monthly expenses consisting of rent, utilities, cell, gas, incidentals, and food



the WRS provided an monthly grant for several months. Following a poor prognosis at reevaluation, very sadly the patient chose to end his life.

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The WRS supported the “Spring into MHS Genesis” event at FBCH.

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We received a request for assistance via the Ft Detrick AER office for assistance for a local ROTC instructor in Fredrick, MD. His partner’s mother who lives in Georgia passed way yesterday and he, his partner and their 3 children and Great Dane dog are leaving via a rental car for Georgia. Their car was not large enough and the rental car is \$911.00. In addition his mortgage, water, gas, electric and cable are due and the expected expenses in Georgia are causing a financial hardship. AER is not able to provide a loan as he and his partner are not married. He lives in WV and recently purchased their house and all of the related expenses have depleted their savings. Also there is no extended family in Georgia to assist with the funeral. The mortgage is \$2,300, electric \$230, cable \$205, water \$101, gas \$95 and car rental \$911. Recommend we assist with these bills and provide a \$500 grant as well.

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The WRS provided vouchers for taxi support for patients who were brought via ambulance to the ER at WRNMMC or AAMMC and had no way to get back home or were transported from WRNMMC to AAMMC via ambulance and had no way to get back to their POV at WRNMMC.

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We received a request from occupational therapy/ low vision department for assistance for a spouse of a retired member who has been diagnosed with macular degeneration of both eyes. Her eyesight is seriously failing and she is need of special eyeglasses that provide assistance with her current eyesight. The WRS provided this assistance.

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The WRS assisted Mission M4 with its donation of a Portable Video Display unit for the third floor MRI Suite at WRNMMC.

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The WRS supported the Holiday Door Decorating Contest at WRNMMC. We received the following note: “The MSSO Team sends their sincere appreciation to everyone that made this contest possible.”

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We provided support for a WRNMMC professional development event on 3 March 2023.

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The WRS provided support for the Human Research Protections Program Symposium at FBCH. One of the key aspect of the program is to provide leadership in the protection of the rights, well

being and welfare of humans in regards to how their personnel information will be protected. This program is supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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We received a request via a case manager at the MATC for a 10 year Navy member diagnosed with glioblastoma. He is being treated at WRNMMC and travels from his home to the hospital as needed. He is terminal and his family also a Navy member assists with the care. The home is not wheelchair accessible and it's very difficult to transport him in and out of the home as needed. As an example on Monday there was an emergency need to rush him to WRNMMC and neighbors needed to help carry him to the car. Rental option seemed to be the best pathway.

The WRS provided this support until the patient's death.

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The WRS provided a one time grant to assist a widow of a service member who is being treated at the MATC. The patient was run over by her husband's ex-wife that resulted in the amputation of her right leg and serious injury of her left leg. As she was recovering her husband suddenly died at his desk at work. She is in need of a wheelchair and TRICARE will cover part of the cost leaving her with a copay. This request is to cover this co-pay as she is struggling as she seeks assistance in moving from this area.

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The WRS supported refreshments for the regular meetings of the Patient and Family Partnership Council.

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The WRS provided assistance to the Alexander T. Augusta Military Medical Center as they celebrated the 10\* Year anniversary of the Intrepid Spirit Center with a ceremony and reception.

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During the year the WRS funded 4 Wounded Warrior dinners at American Legion Post 41.

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The WRS purchased a two-year subscription to the Predictive Index Software to assist WRNMMC leaders in improving their management style

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The WRS supported the Graduate Medical Education's office Thank A Resident day at WRNMMC.

### **WRS Assistance Provided to Other Non-profits**

The WRS provided support to the Fisher Houses Bethesda to purchase needed supplies for the families staying at Fisher Houses.

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The WRS supported Wreaths Across America to sponsor about 58 wreaths for placement in a local veterans cemetery.

“I thank you very much for the support of the Walter Reed Society and for your personal support as well.” A Wreaths Across America Volunteer

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The Red Cross requested the WRS purchase an additional 25 Inner Balance Bluetooth sensors for distribution to appropriate patients. The Inner Balance sensor and app teach you how to shift from stress and frustration to balance and resilience with real-time feedback, based on your own heart rhythm.

Response from the ARC: “This is fantastic news! Please extend my gratitude to the WRS board for its generosity.”

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The WRS assisted the WRNMMC USO with funds to support a cooking clinic with Chef Egg.

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The WRS approved a grant to Community Building Art Works to support their special event in August, “Day of Belonging.”

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The WRS continued its support of the Oakleaf Club of Greater Washington DC’s Pediatric Stuffed Animal Program. As children are no longer allowed to bring their own stuffed animals into the hospital this program provides aid and comfort to these children who are undergoing various invasive procedures and help significantly in making their experience more enjoyable. The WRS is pleased to present this gift for the purchase of stuffed animals and toys in partnership with Gund, the stuffed toymaker. The Oakleaf Club has an established relationship with this toymaker, they receive the products at wholesale prices and the quality of the products is exceptional.

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The WRS in cooperation with American Red Cross sponsored the Rose Mologne Award given to an outstanding Red Cross Volunteer at WRNMMC. The WRS provided the recipient an engraved crystal rose bud vase and made a donation to the ARC in their name.

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The WRS provided a grant to the local chapter of Blue Star Families.

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The WRS provided funds for quarterly events hosted by Operation Key West for chronically ill pediatric patients and their families at the Portsmouth Naval Medical Center.