



Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation

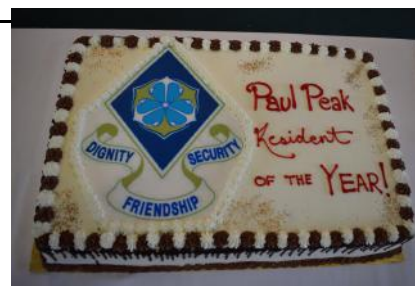
April 2024 Foundation Update

April is Blooming with Celebrations

Spring has come to Vinson Hall Retirement Community, with azaleas in full bloom – and celebrations blossoming all over campus. At the Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation, we recently hosted the annual Paul Peak Resident of the Year ceremony, a much-anticipated annual award we coordinate to recognize the six remarkable residents nominated for their outstanding service to our community last year. Read on to learn who won! We also celebrated our oldest residents, all 44 of them who will turn 95 years or older this year, at an annual birthday party with cake and champagne. And this month, we built upon our partnership with the Potomac School in McLean to launch what we hope will become a new VHRC tradition, an Earth Day celebration with students and residents working together to plant flowers and a tree on our campus. April also brought the culmination of our Coin & Stamp drive, which thanks to more than 65 donors was a huge success! Finally, we want to invite you to attend our Annual Membership meeting on May 20 on campus – come meet our NMCGRF board members and learn more about the Foundation's work last year. And don't forget to mark your calendars for our Annual Gala on October 5! Read all about these Foundation activities in the stories below!

And the Winner is... Paul Peak Resident of the Year Named

One of the most highly anticipated events of the year is the ceremony to announce the Paul Peak Resident of the Year, an annual award that the Foundation coordinates. All residents are invited to nominate the person they feel demonstrated outstanding service to our community last year, and then members of the NMCGRF Board Resident



Quality of Life Committee vote to select the finalist. On March 28, the mood was festive in the Penthouse Sylvester Lounge, when more than 65 residents gathered to learn who would be named the recipient for service in 2023.



CEO Chip Warner began by announcing the six nominees – Bud Dougherty, Lewie Gayton, Carol Henderson, Maureen Kammerer, Carl and Lynne Schone, and Emmy Simmons – and reading what residents wrote in their nomination forms about each. Then a big round of applause was given when Senior Director of Philanthropy & Engagement, Michelle Crone, announced the 2023 winner(s): Carl and Lynne Schone.

"People fall into two categories: faucets or drains – Lynne and Carl Schone have been a firehose of effort, leadership, measurable accomplishments and visible improvements," said Chip as he read the comments from residents who nominated the Schones. Another person wrote: "As relative newcomers, the Schones took on co-chairing the Employee Appreciation Fund. And in just their second year in charge, delivered a quarter of a million dollars in Christmas bonuses to 250 employees, funded by garnering the generosity of 90 percent of Vinson Hall and Willow Oak residents."

Lynne said their success deserved to be shared with so many others. "I am very honored to receive this award, but I feel others are worthier than we are, since a lot of our success is because of other people." Added Carl, "We feel blessed to be part of a community of neighbors we enjoy and to be able to serve our community."



At the Foundation, it has been our honor to coordinate the Paul Peak award ever since it was established in 2015 through a gift to NMGRF by VHRC resident Jane Peak, now 103 years old, in memory of her husband, a 25-year resident of VHRC. Captain Paul Peak was a strong believer in the value of community, and the award celebrates the spirit of neighborliness that he personified.

Following the announcement, cake and champagne – two of Paul Peak’s favorites – were served while residents mingled and congratulated the Schones and the other nominees. Many of the previous Paul Peak Resident of the Year recipients were in attendance, including Mike Cluff, Bob Matthews, Ted Russell, Midge Holmes, Anna Coutlakis and Sherm Eagan. Congratulations to Lynne and Carl for the well-earned recognition, and to all the nominees for their support of our community!



Donate Today

NMCGRF Toasts Oldest Residents

It was our pleasure to support another favorite annual event on campus: VHRC’s birthday celebration for our oldest residents, those who will turn 95 years or older this year. The Office of Philanthropy & Engagement created the invitations that went out to 44 members of the community. Then on April 5, CEO Chip Warner kicked

off the event, which was organized by Special Events Coordinator Mirna Fuentes and held in the KMCB Ballroom. Chaplain Scott Harrison spoke next, putting the lives of the honorees – 11 of whom will be 100 years or older – in a historical context. He noted that they had all been born



between the years 1918 and 1929, a time when a loaf of bread cost 12 cents and a gallon of gasoline was only 19 cents.



"All of you lived during and through a century of profound change and progress and now well into the 21st century," Scott said before he introduced each honoree and shared details of their individual lives. Each received a long-stemmed red rose provided by the Office of Philanthropy & Engagement. Then Scott led everyone in

singing the birthday song and raising a glass to toast the honorees. The oldest VHRC resident, Peter Mirras, who will turn 106 this year, cut the cake, which had been decorated with "Happy 4,404 Years" – the total of all honorees' ages combined. Happy birthday to all 44 of our remarkable residents from the Foundation!



Foundation Brings Residents and Students Together in Honor of Earth Day

—At NMCGRF, we had another wonderful opportunity this month to build upon our growing partnership with the Potomac School in McLean! On April 19, more than 60 residents joined students and teachers along with



VHRC staff and contractors on the lawn in front of Vinson Hall to plant a tree in honor of Earth Day. The planting ceremony was the culmination of an Earth Day service project with the Potomac School, a K-12 college preparatory private school located just three miles from our campus. Not only did the event give us an opportunity to beautify the campus, but we were also able to

plant the seeds (or in this case, the seedlings) for a strong partnership between residents and Potomac School students.

The Earth Day service project was truly a joint effort. As soon as the idea of doing a service project on our campus was suggested by the Potomac School, the Philanthropy & Engagement Office began to work with residents Lee Smith, Cheryl Gayton and Carl Schone, chair of the VHRA Operations Committee, along with VHRC Vice President of Operations Rob Roe and Senior Director of Facilities Denese Arnold to plan the Earth Day event. The team created a work plan, chose the plantings, and recruited resident volunteers.



When the students arrived, they were quickly divided into eight work groups and dispatched to a building entrance, where they mixed soil, prepared planters and planted flowering annuals under the supervision of resident leaders. In an hour, the work was done and everyone assembled on the lawn to see the 12-foot white oak sapling, which had been donated by Nova

Arborist, placed in a hole dug by our landscapers, Alpha and Omega Solutions. Following remarks by Rob Roe and Lee Smith, the students shoveled soil around the base of the tree. Then the Office of Philanthropy & Engagement treated the students and volunteers to boxed lunches, while brownies and lemonade were served to anyone

else who had come to watch the ceremony.

The whirlwind morning left a big impact on everyone. "That was so much fun!" said resident Dabney Leonard. "The students were wonderful." At the Foundation, our hope is that this event will mark the start of a new Earth Day tradition at VHRC. We look forward to continuing to facilitate next year's event as a way to celebrate both our gorgeous green space and our community connections in McLean.



Coin & Stamp Drive Exceeds All Expectations

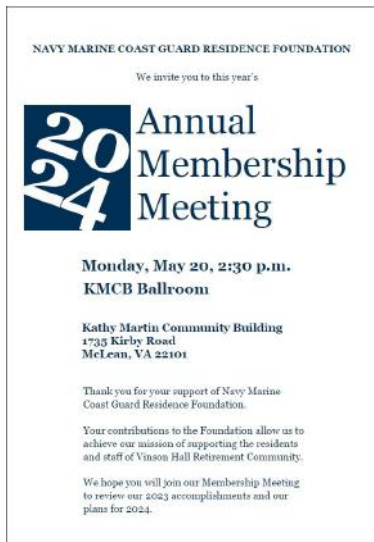
Last month, the Foundation launched a Coin & Stamp drive on campus – and we are overwhelmed with gratitude by the response from residents! More than 65 people donated coins, bills, stamps, postcards and other items. On April 12, representatives from Emerald Ventures auction house in Richmond picked up 40-plus boxes holding the collected donations, which filled an entire minivan.



Over the next few months, the donations will be separated into lots and offered for auction, with most of the proceeds going to the Foundation.

The U.S. coins alone, which did not go to auction but were directly donated to the Foundation, totaled \$543! "We are very excited about the incredible response that this drive had, and so grateful to our residents for their generosity," said Michelle Crone, Senior Director of Philanthropy & Engagement. A huge shout-out of thanks to resident Bill Clair, a lifelong stamp collector and the brainchild behind this drive! We will keep you posted about the results, once the auctions are complete. Many thanks to all our donors for your generous support!

Annual Membership Meeting To Be Held on Campus May 20



All are welcome to join us at our Annual Membership Meeting, which will be held on campus on Monday, May 20 at 2:30 p.m. NMCGRF board members will review our 2023 philanthropic accomplishments and engagement efforts in support of the residents and staff of VHRC, as well as our upcoming plans for this year. This annual meeting is being held in person for the first time since 2019, and there will be an opportunity to meet Board members at a reception afterwards. Please join us so we can thank you for your support! Questions? Please contact Megan Kelly, Philanthropy & Engagement

Coordinator, at ext. 2970.

NMCGRF's Annual Gala – Coming Soon!



We hope you've got NMCGRF's Annual Gala marked on your calendars – you won't want to miss this event on **Saturday, October 5, 2024!** This will be the Foundation's 28th Gala – and it will be a night to remember. Last year's *Evening in Casablanca* was a huge

success, and we can't wait to tell you about our exciting plans for this year! We are keeping the theme under wraps for now, but we can promise you another magical evening – all in support of a great cause!

More details to come next month – including the date that ticket sales open in July. So stay tuned!

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Your Planned Gift Today Can Make a Difference Tomorrow

You can leave a legacy that will last for years to come by designating Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation in your will or by making a planned gift. Some types of planned gifts can support our community and provide you with a charitable income tax deduction, minimize capital gains taxes, reduce estate taxes or provide you or others with an annual income for life. To learn more about these types of gifts, please see our [website](#) or contact Michelle Crone at michellec@vinsonhall.org or 703-538-3068.

Learn More about Planned
Giving

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