



Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation

November 2024 Foundation Update

Giving Thanks This Month

November is the month of Thanksgiving, and we at NMCGRF have so much to be thankful for. First and foremost, we are thankful for you – our wonderful donors and supporters! It was a pleasure to come together with many of you this month at our annual *Evening with the Stars* event. Your support is what enables us to do the work we've been able to do this year. We are also grateful for and humbled by the sacrifices of those in our community who have served our country. So it was our privilege to help facilitate talks by some of our residents at Chesterbrook Elementary School in honor of Veterans Day. This month, we also bid goodbye to Tairique Whittaker, one of our wounded warriors-in-residence through the Foundation's Warrior Transition program. We are grateful for the time we've spent with you, Tairique! And we are thankful to our 2024 corporate sponsors who have generously supported the Foundation's work this year. Finally, as the year draws to a close, many have asked how they can make a year-end gift to Vinson Hall, and we are always grateful to accept those donations. Read all about these events and activities below. Happy Thanksgiving!

Foundation Fêtes This Year's Star Members

—The stars came out in force on November 6, when we held our annual *Evening with the Stars* event to thank the Foundation's 2024 Star



Members – those who have given a membership gift this year of \$250 or more. About 135 residents and off-campus donors gathered in the Ballroom for a festive evening of mingling, talking to members of NMCGRF's Board

of Trustees, and enjoying appetizers, drinks and dessert.

"Tonight, I am especially grateful for the friendships, the support, the kindness, and the generosity of this wonderful community I have the privilege to be a part of," said Michelle Crone, Senior Director of Philanthropy & Engagement. "We are so grateful to you for helping us make a difference in people's lives here at Vinson Hall." CEO Chip Warner and NMCGRF Vice Chair RADM Allie Leslie, USN (Ret), also made welcome remarks and thanked everyone for their support of the Foundation.



NMCGRF's mission is to support those who live and work at VHRC, and annual membership gifts help in several ways. The Foundation's Resident Assistance Fund enables residents to stay in their homes if they run out of

financial resources through no fault of their own; the Employee Caring Fund helps staff weather unexpected financial crises in their lives; the Innovation & Enhancement Fund brings technological enrichments and

amenities to campus; and the Warrior Transition Fund honors our community's military heritage by offering temporary housing to warriors transitioning to the next chapter in their lives. A huge thank you from the Foundation to all our donors for your support this year!

***Donate to NMCGRF
Today***

NMCGRF Brings Residents and Kids Together on Veterans Day



Many VHRC residents have served our country through the military during their lives. So when Chesterbrook Elementary School asked if we could provide speakers to help them commemorate Veterans Day, our residents were happy to answer the call. On Friday, November 8, the

Foundation was honored to arrange talks by nine VHRC veterans, who generously donated their time at Chesterbrook, our community partner and the school next door. Over the course of the morning, VHRC veterans visited two classrooms each to talk about their military service, answer questions from 2nd graders through 6th graders, and bring history to life.

Mike Cluff set the stage by explaining the military's role to the students. "We are here to protect the United States of America, and we take that job seriously." Gene Sizemore talked about the advantages of a military career: "You get to see all parts of the world and you get to work with topnotch people." Marie Brugmans discussed how the military has changed for women since she served in 1960. "At that time, you couldn't have children if you were in the



military. Women can go places today, as can men."



The students peppered our residents with questions. John McNerney was asked if he ever shot anyone with a gun. "Only when the bad guys were shooting at me first. In battle, when they're no longer shooting at you, you don't keep shooting, you capture them." One student asked Roger

Gilbertson if ships ever sank. Roger removed the USS Oklahoma cap that he had been wearing, and then recounted what had happened to the ship that was attacked at Pearl Harbor and now rests "somewhere in the Pacific." Dale Vesser finished up his last visit with inspiring words for his young listeners on Veterans Day: "Give thanks that others have served, and hope that if you're called you can measure up."

We at the Foundation are grateful to all our residents who have served and thank the nine speakers for sharing their experiences with the next generation of young people. LTJG Marie Brugmans, USN; Col Mike Cluff, USMC; CAPT Bud Dougherty, USN; RADM Roger Gilbertson, USN; COL John McNerney, USA; COL Bill Mitchell, USA; RADM Bill Morris, SC, USN; RADM Gene Sizemore, USN; LTG Dale Vesser, USA.



Goodbye Party for Departing Wounded Warrior

This month, Tairique Whittaker, one of our beloved wounded warriors-in-residence who has lived at VHRC since May, will be moving on to the next chapter in his life. And while it's never easy to say goodbye, we wanted to give Tairique a warm send-off. So on November 7, about 40 residents and friends gathered in the Penthouse Sylvester Lounge to wish him well, enjoy snacks and raise a glass of champagne to Tairique's future. Residents stood in line to take turns saying goodbye and give him hugs and share words of wisdom.



Tairique moved to our community as part of the Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation's Warrior Transition program, which provides a home to soldiers who are transitioning out of the military as they recover from injuries or illness that occurred while they served. In his remarks, Tairique thanked everyone for making him feel so welcome and said he would miss the friends he made at VHRC. We are happy to report that Tairique will remain in the local area as he works on his degree in Computer Science. We will miss having him in our community and wish him all the best!

NMCGRF Welcomes Year-End Charitable Gifts

At this time of every year, many of our friends and supporters ask for information about making an end-of-year gift to support Vinson Hall Retirement Community. If you are considering making a year-end, tax-deductible charitable donations, please keep us in mind!

Gifts to the Foundation can be made by check or credit card to NMCGRF. They may also include an IRA rollover or appreciated stock. To learn more about the Foundation's work in 2024 click [here](#) to see the short video shown at our annual Gala in October. And if you have any questions about making a year-end donation, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Kelly, Philanthropy & Engagement Coordinator, at mkelly@vinsonhall.org or 703-538-2970.

From all of us at the Foundation, thank you for helping to support our incredible VHRC family!

Thank You To Our 2024 Sponsors!

We are delighted to report that 24 corporate sponsors donated a total of \$63,500 to NMCGRF this year! This is the largest number of sponsors and highest dollar amount we have ever received in corporate sponsorship. Like our individual donors, these companies through their contributions support our mission and VHRC residents and staff.

Our 2024 sponsors are as follows. We are so grateful for your support!

Four-Star sponsors: Iridium, Select Rehabilitation. **Three-Star sponsors:** Sodexo Seniors, Truist. **Two-Star sponsors:** Eventus Strategic Partners, Primary Integration Mechanical Services, Wagner Roofing. **One-Star sponsors:** Alpha & Omega Landscaping, Appliance Connection, Caring Communities, CJM Wealth Advisers, CLI, CST Group, Engineering Consulting Services, Eric Stewart Group, Federal Realty, Love & Company, Parasol Alliance, Potomac Abatement, My Guys Moving, Nova Arborist, S. Freedman & Sons, THW Design, Ziegler.

**THANK YOU TO OUR 2024
4-STAR, 3-STAR AND 2-STAR SPONSORS**



We appreciate your support of the residents and staff of Vinson Hall Retirement Community!

**THANK YOU TO OUR 2024
1-STAR SPONSORS**



We appreciate your support of the residents and staff of Vinson Hall Retirement Community!

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](https://www.vinsonhall.org) or contact Michelle Crone at michellec@vinsonhall.org or 703-538-3068.

Learn More about Planned Giving

Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation

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