



Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation

April 2025 Foundation Update

Celebrating the Arrival of Spring

Is there anything more uplifting than the burst of foliage and flowers that April brings? At the Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation, we marked the arrival of spring with so many joyful activities this month! We celebrated Earth Day and our partnership with local schools by bringing students from The Potomac School and Chesterbrook Elementary School to campus to plant flowers and two trees with our residents. We toasted our oldest residents – those 95 years and older – at the annual birthday party, one of our favorite events to support. We helped kick off VHRC's annual Walk to End Alzheimer's campaign by providing a financial gift to the Alzheimer's Association, an organization whose mission is close to our hearts. Meanwhile, our Annual Membership Appeal campaign began this month, when we mailed out over 1,200 letters asking for your membership support for 2025, and we are humbled by your generous responses. Your support helps us do so much for our community, including providing funding for an Eagle Scout project that was completed this month: new planters for our resident gardeners at Arleigh Burke Pavilion to use. And thanks to one resident's generous gift to the Innovation & Enhancement Fund, we were also pleased to be able to purchase a new state-of-the-art videoconferencing system for Vinson Hall. Finally, we want to invite you to attend our Annual Membership meeting on May 19 on campus – come meet our NMCGRF board members and learn more about the Foundation's work. And don't forget to mark your calendars for our Annual Gala on Sept. 27! Read all about these Foundation activities in the stories below!

NMCGRF Launches 2025 Membership Appeal

Our Annual Membership Appeal campaign is in full swing! This month, about 1,200 letters went

out to VHRC residents, family and friends with an invitation to become a 2025 member of the Foundation. We are so pleased with the response, and thank all who have joined us so far this year! This year's appeal included our latest *The Difference You Make* stories that highlight two examples – staff member Chris McGinn and resident Martha Trotter – of the many lives you've touched by donating to one of the Foundation's four funds: Employee Caring, Resident Assistance, Innovation & Enhancement, and Warrior Transition funds. Please click [here](#) to read these stories and see the difference that your generosity makes to our community! Each year, the dollars we raise from the Annual Membership campaign are the bedrock of all we are able to do for the community. So thank you for your consideration – we are grateful for your membership support!



**Donate to NMCGRF
Today**

Foundation Pairs Residents and Students in Celebration of Earth Day



What a pleasure it was to bring students from The Potomac School and Chesterbrook Elementary School to campus for our second annual intergenerational celebration of Earth Day! Last year, the Foundation launched this new tradition to build on VHRC's partnerships with local schools,

and on April 21 residents and students once again joined forces to beautify our grounds.

The students arrived by bus from The Potomac School, a K-12 college preparatory private school located just three miles from our campus. About 36 middle and high school students were quickly dispatched in six works groups to one of our building entrances. They were paired with VHRC residents who shared their gardening wisdom while working alongside the students, digging, raking and planting pots and flower beds. In an hour, the work was

done and everyone assembled at one side of the Willow Oak building near Kirby Road. At that point, about 14 5th and 6th graders from Chesterbrook Elementary School's Eco Club walked over to join the Potomac students, teachers, residents and staff who had gathered for a tree planting ceremony.



Following remarks by CEO Rob Roe, two 12-foot spruce trees, selected by Nova Arborist, were then placed in holes that had been pre-dug by our landscapers, Alpha & Omega Solutions. After the students helped shovel soil around the roots of the trees, the Office of Philanthropy & Engagement treated the students and

volunteers to boxed lunches, cookies and lemonade.

The Earth Day service project was truly a joint effort. Senior Director of Property Management Denese Arnold, as well as residents Susan Cheatham and Carl Schone, chair of the resident Operations Committee, worked together to create a work plan, choose the plantings and recruit resident volunteers. "I want to send a special thank you to all who planned and executed our second Earth Day celebration," said Carl, who was pleased to see the scope of the event evolving. "The addition of Chesterbrook Elementary School expanded our outreach to a near neighbor community, and it is always a pleasure to meet the students from the Potomac School."





The feeling was mutual. Said Potomac's Director of Service Learning, Joy Webster, "Our students had such a wonderful time gardening with and getting to know your residents. We have really enjoyed being a part of the tree planting as well, as it truly does feel like a lovely, lasting connection between our communities." We couldn't agree more! For us, Earth Day at VHRC has become a great way to celebrate both our gorgeous green space and our community connections in McLean!

McLean Eagle Scout Builds Planters Funded by Foundation

Continuing our long tradition of supporting local scouts, VHRC hosted Amrit Singh from McLean Boy Scout Troop 128 by providing a site for his Eagle Scout service project. On April 11, Amrit and a group of fellow scouts assembled three mid-sized raised planters with wheels and locks for the courtyard of



Arleigh Burke Pavilion. The project, which took the boys more than four hours to complete, included assembling the planters and filling each with soil so that ABP's Gardening Club could use them for planting fruits and vegetables. As the scouts worked, ABP residents stopped by to watch their progress and enjoy the sunny afternoon.

The Foundation has a history of partnering with Boy Scouts in our area and



funding their Eagle Scout projects on our campus. Some of these projects include the benches, trellis and tables built for the Sports Park fire pit area, the staining of the Willow Oak fence, and a meditation garden created near the putting green. In coordination with resident Jack Hannon, who has

been involved with Troop 128 for more than 40 years, Life Enrichment & Special Events Manager Mirna Fuentes worked with Amrit to bring his vision to life at ABP. Amrit, a junior at Fairfax County's Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, is pleased with the results. At NMCGRF, we appreciate our ties with McLean's scouting youth, and look forward to continuing those partnerships in the future!

The Gift of a State-of-the-Art Video Conferencing System

Thanks to a generous gift to the Innovation & Enhancement Fund from resident Rooney Peck, the Foundation was able to provide Vinson Hall with new video equipment in the Penthouse Conference Room. This month, the new state-of-the-art videoconferencing system was installed, which includes a 75-inch television and sound bar, a hidden computer, a wireless keyboard, and a camera that will track participants in the room during Zoom calls.



"The new system in the Conference Room will give resident committees the ability to have meetings with off-site participants and will also allow clubs to make professional presentations," explained IT Committee chair Pete Linn. Thank you, Rooney, for this generous gift to our community!

NMCGRF Toasts Oldest Residents

It was our pleasure to support one of our



favorite annual events: VHRC's birthday celebration for our oldest residents, those who will turn 95 or older this year. The Office of Philanthropy & Engagement created the invitations that went out to 41 members of the community for the April 11 event, which was organized by Life

Enrichment & Special Events Manager Mirna Fuentes. After welcome remarks by CEO Rob Roe, Chaplain Scott Harrison spoke next, putting the lives of the honorees – eight of whom will be 100 years or older – in historical perspective. He noted the presidents who were in office when they were born (as early as Woodrow Wilson), the prices of everyday items at the time (19 cents per gallon for gasoline), and the events they lived through (the Great Depression, WW2, the Korean Conflict, the assassination of John F. Kennedy, the Civil Rights era, Woodstock and Watergate, to name a few). He then introduced each honoree in attendance, and each received a long-stemmed red rose donated by the Philanthropy & Engagement team.

Then Scott led everyone in singing the birthday song and raising a glass to toast the honorees. The oldest VHRC resident in attendance, Jane Peak, who will turn 105 this year, cut the cake, which had been decorated with "4,013 Remarkable Years" – the total of all honorees' ages combined. Happy birthday to all 41 of our remarkable residents from the Foundation!



NMCGRF and VHRC Work Together To Support the Alzheimer's Association

VHRC kicked off its annual fundraising drive to support the Alzheimer's Association with a campus walk on April 23. Dressed in purple and carrying the colorful pinwheel flowers in support of the cause, participants chatted as they walked the eight-tenths of a mile loop, the first of VHRC's series of fundraising events over the coming months in support of the Alzheimer's Association's efforts to find a cure for this disease.





This cause is near and dear to the hearts of all of us at the Foundation and at VHRC. So many of us know someone who has been affected by this disease. This month, NMCGRF supported VHRC's fundraising efforts by contributing \$5,000 as a sponsor of this year's Walk to End Alzheimer's campaign. In addition to sponsorship, the Office of Philanthropy & Engagement supports VHRC's fundraising efforts for the Alzheimer's Association by providing communications and event assistance. If you are interested in supporting the Alzheimer's Association, we invite you to contact Fafa Beckley, Assistant Administrator of The Sylvestery, at 703-970-3700.

Join Us at NMCGRF's Annual Membership Meeting May 19

All are welcome to join us at our Annual Membership Meeting, which will be held on campus on Monday, May 19 at 2:30 p.m. NMCGRF board members will review our 2024 philanthropic accomplishments and engagement efforts in support of the residents and staff of VHRC, as well as our upcoming plans for the year. A reception will follow the meeting. Please join us so we can thank you for your support! Questions? Please contact Megan Palumbo, Philanthropy & Engagement Coordinator, at ext. 2970.

NAVY MARINE COAST GUARD RESIDENCE FOUNDATION

We invite you to this year's

2025 Annual Membership Meeting

Please join the Board of Trustees at our Annual Membership Meeting to review our 2024 accomplishments and our plans for 2025. A reception will follow.

**Monday, May 19
2:30 p.m.
KMCB Ballroom**

**Kathy Martin Community Building
1735 Kirby Road
McLean, VA 22101**

Thank you for your support of Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation!

Your contributions to the Foundation allow us to achieve our mission of supporting the residents and staff of Vinson Hall Retirement Community.

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, September 27, 2025! This will be the Foundation's 29th Gala – and we can promise you it will be a night to remember. Last year's sold-out *Moonlight*

Over Monte Carlo 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 more details will be coming soon. So stay tuned!

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

Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation

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