



NAVY MARINE COAST GUARD
RESIDENCE FOUNDATION

August 2025 Foundation Update

Summer Memories

With just a couple days of August left and Labor Day weekend on the horizon, it's time to say goodbye to summer, with all its memories. At the Foundation, our summer was marked by a farewell to yet another beloved participant in our Wounded Warrior program, Kwadwo Asare and his family. We will miss the Asares, but are so grateful we were able to be there for them at a time in their lives when they needed support most. This summer, we also celebrated the fourth year of publishing *The Beacon*, Vinson Hall's popular weekly resident newsletter. It is truly a pleasure to capture and share all the news at Vinson Hall with our residents. So for us, summer has been sweet, and now we are already deep into planning mode for exciting times to come next month at the Gala! Many thanks to all those who purchased tickets to *Silver Spurs Soiree*, NMCGRF's annual fundraiser, coming up September 27. We can't wait! Hope your summer has been full of wonderful memories and you, too, are ready for a great Fall!

Silver Spurs Soiree Coming Soon!

NMCGRF's Annual Gala is just four weeks away, and we are in high gear getting ready for a great night! The event on Sept. 27 will start in the Silver Bucket Saloon (Fred Johnson's Bistro), where guests can sidle up to the bar, enjoy appetizers and spend their "Funny Money" at blackjack tables, craps or the roulette wheel for a chance to win prizes – or just mingle and watch the action. From

there, we'll take the trail on up to the El Dorado Ballroom for three-course victuals and – for those who want to kick up their heels – a little



country dancing to The Shedkickers. We can't wait to celebrate the pioneering spirit that lives on at Vinson Hall!



The Annual Gala is the Foundation's only major fundraiser, and proceeds go toward supporting the residents and staff of our community. Tickets are sold out, but we do have a waitlist and there can be last-minute cancellations. So if you do not yet have a ticket and would like to join us, contact Megan Palumbo at

mkelly@vinsonhall.org or 703-538-2970. We look forward to this night of Wild West fun, all in support of a great cause!

***Donate to NMCGRF
Today***

NMCGRF's Wounded Warrior Program Helps Another Warrior Move On

On August 14, we bid a fond farewell to wounded warrior Kwadwo Asare and his family, who have been living at Vinson Hall since February as participants in the NMCGRF's Warrior Transition Program. This program provides a Vinson Hall apartment to soldiers who are transitioning out of the military as they recover from injuries or illnesses. The Asare family is moving to Texas, where Kwadwo will pursue graduate studies in business administration.



About 40 residents gathered in the Vinson Hall lobby to say goodbye to Kwadwo and his wife Charity and their



two small children. Senior Director of Philanthropy & Engagement Michelle Crone shared what Kwadwo had said to her about his experience at Vinson Hall: "I came here broken and now I'm fixed – you guys have been wonderful." She said that residents often gain just as much as warriors do from the program, and thanked

the Asares for being a part of our Vinson Hall family.

VHRA President Sherm Eagan spoke about the Wounded Warrior program at VHRC, which started in 2013 but had been on hiatus for several years during COVID. On behalf of the residents, he thanked the Philanthropy & Engagement team for resurrecting the program, adding: "And it's been really nice to hear the sounds of little feet running down the hallways!"



Kwadwo expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome he and his family received, which allowed him to concentrate on his recovery. He said he would love to come back one day and work at Vinson Hall! Barbara Raymond also spoke, thanking Charity, a CNA, for helping her recover from surgery. Charity, her eyes wet with tears, echoed her husband's words of gratitude. We wish the Asares all the best in their next chapter!

Happy Birthday to the Beacon!

This summer, we marked the fourth year of publishing Vinson Hall's favorite resident newsletter, *The*

Beacon. Written and published every week by the Office of Philanthropy & Engagement, *The Beacon* has become a popular part of resident life on campus, featuring the latest campus news, information about events, and photos of happenings around campus. And the content continues to expand, as we try to keep up with all that our residents are doing – no easy task!

Most of all, we are pleased with the responses we continue to get from our readers. *The Beacon* usually lands in residents' boxes outside their doors around midnight every Friday night, and some have told us they stay up to read it. "I look forward to *The Beacon*," says Gene Wentz, a journalist himself who writes a monthly column for the *Altoona Mirror*. "I read the front page and look at all the photographs, and it makes me feel I am part of a community." This past year, we added a new periodic feature, Meet Your Neighbors, that profiles our residents. Says Sue Clark, "I think *The Beacon* has helped us to know our friends and neighbors better."

It is our pleasure to publish *The Beacon*, under the direction of P&E's Communications Specialist Debbie Blome, to keep our community connected! Happy Birthday to *The Beacon*!



Volume 5, No. 30

The Beacon

Events and News for the Week of August 24, 2025

This weekly newsletter is a joint effort between the Vinson Hall Administrative Team and the Office of Philanthropy & Engagement. Editor: Debbie Blome, ext 3069 or DBlome@vinsonhall.org.

Property Management Team Keeps the Power on in Willow Oak

On Sunday, August 17, fast-moving thunderstorms brought severe weather conditions to the McLean area. At about 7 p.m. that evening, a power surge led to a brief power outage across Vinson Hall's campus, causing our emergency generators to start up and provide emergency power to all buildings. When electricity was restored to campus a short time later, the Willow Oak building failed to transfer back to regular power as it should have, and it remained on the emergency generator.

Concierge Barbara Colbert, who was working at the Willow Oak front desk, notified Senior Director of Property Management Denese Arnold, Facilities Supervisor Wusu Sessay and Facilities Manager Kenny Dorsey of the outage at once. Denese also called in Guest Services Operations Manager Brian Newburn, who helped field questions and provide additional support. The team ensured residents were safe, that the emergency call system was functioning and that the generator was providing emergency power to the building as expected. An emergency generator does not fully power campus buildings but only life-safety services, which includes a refrigerator and one outlet in each apartment, the emergency nurse call system, fire alarms and a few hallway lights.

Wusu and Kenny made an initial assessment of the problem and tried to reset the system's main electrical breaker, which had tripped during the power surge. They were unable to reset it so Denese called in electrical contractor A. Maizel Electric, who arrived at 11:20 p.m. Maizel Electric determined

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The second emergency generator arrived on campus early Monday morning.



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