



NAVY MARINE COAST GUARD  
RESIDENCE FOUNDATION

## *November 2025 Foundation Update*

### **A Thanksgiving Thank You**

November is a time to give thanks for the many things in our lives we are grateful for. At the Foundation, our list is long – and it begins with you, our donors and supporters! Without you, we couldn't do the work we do to help enrich the lives of the people of Vinson Hall. For Veterans Day, it was our honor to facilitate talks by several of our residents to the students at Chesterbrook Elementary School. Our residents' stories and perspectives on serving our country are truly a gift to our young neighbors next door. We also enjoyed supporting Vinson Hall's popular Community Art Show this month by providing funds for judges and prizes through the Innovation & Enhancement Fund. Meanwhile, in the wake of a tragic fire that destroyed a staff member's family home, we were able to provide rapid financial help this month through the Employee Caring Fund. A special shout-out of thanks to this year's 2025 corporate sponsors for their generous support to our community. Finally, we hope you received the Foundation's Thanksgiving card, our annual greeting of gratitude to everyone in the extended Vinson Hall family. From our family to yours, we wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving!

### **Foundation Brings Residents and Kids Together in Honor of Veterans Day**

One of the many things that makes Vinson Hall an exceptional place is its rich military heritage, with so many residents having served our country. So when Chesterbrook Elementary School asked if some of



our resident veterans would speak to their students in commemoration of Veterans Day, the Foundation was honored to help with this request, as we've done for the past several years. On November 10, we arranged for 11 Vinson Hall residents representing the Navy, Marines, Army and Coast Guard to address students in 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades and bring history to life.

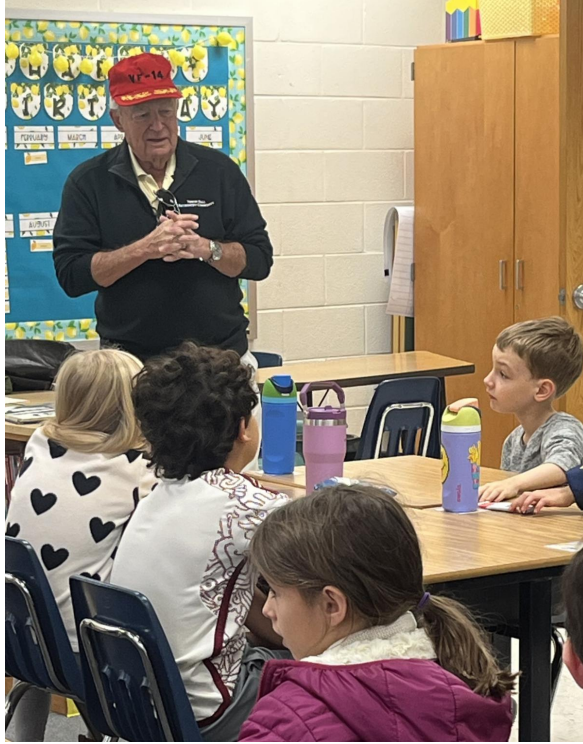


"It's a pleasure to be here on Veterans Day," said RADM Bill Morris, USN (Ret). "Sixteen million people served in World War I and World War II, when we needed to preserve democracy and freedom. Those are the things we should think about as we recognize this day, because that's what Veterans Day is all about."

The speakers shared stories about their lives and their perspectives on their years of service. "Everything you do in the military is about making the United States a stronger country, not just a stronger fighting force," said RADM Roger Gilbertson, USN (Ret). Navy sonarman Dan Black, who was part of the first helicopter squadrons to use radar to detect submarines, told the students he had enlisted on his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and said that boot camp was hard but "good for you – you learn discipline."

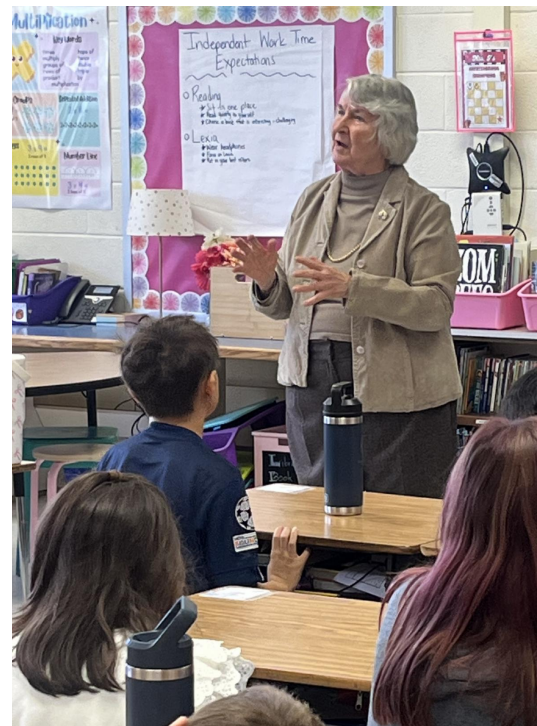


COL Bob Springer, USA (Ret), spoke about the attack during the Korean Conflict that resulted in his earning the Silver Star. "I was part of the first infantry group that crossed the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel into Korea during the war. It was a very violent period and very dangerous," he said. The students were mesmerized by the speakers and peppered them with questions, some of which were



unexpected. When one student asked COL John McNerney: "How do soldiers get to the fighting?" he answered simply: "A lot of times by aircraft or by truck. And sometimes you just walk in." When Bill Morris was asked, "Did the Navy turn your hair white?" he quipped: "Partially!"

On the bus ride back to Vinson Hall after their talks, the residents' spirits were high as they discussed their experiences in the classrooms. CAPT Mary Shupack, USN (Ret), summed up why she feels Vinson Hall's participation in Chesterbrook's Veterans Day program is so important. "I think our youngsters need to understand that the country we live in requires its citizens to participate in some way, whether it's by serving in the military or volunteering for local organizations like the Red Cross," she said. "Something to show that you care and that you want to maintain the freedoms that we have." We salute all our Vinson Hall veterans and are grateful to them for their service.



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Today***

## **NMCGRF Supports Art Show on Campus**

One of the most popular events on campus each year is the weekend-

long Community Art Show in the fall, when over 230 works of art by residents and community members are on display. This year, we at the Foundation were pleased to play a small part in the success of this wonderful event!



At the request of the resident Visual Arts Committee, the Foundation's Innovation & Enhancement Fund provided each of the three professional artists who judged the entries with a \$150 honorarium for their assistance. "The judges were very impressed with the number of submissions as well as the quality of the work," said artist and Visual Arts Committee co-chair Maureen Kammerer. The judges were pleased to participate, she said, and at NMCGRF it was our pleasure to help make that possible.

This year, as part of an effort to encourage more young artists to participate, the Visual Arts Committee offered a \$500 prize, also funded by the Foundation, to the winning student artist. Sophia Truong, a sophomore at James Madison High School, took the top prize for her drawing.



The event drew more than 250 residents on November 15 and 16 to the Kathy Martin Community Ballroom, which hummed with activity as folks enjoyed the art and mingled over wine and cheese. Said Special Events Coordinator Addison



Picardat, who organized the show along with Life Enrichment and Special Events Manager Mirna Fuentes, Art Instructor Mel Mobley and members of the Visual Arts Committee, "I was thrilled with the turnout and the quality of all the works." Congratulations to all the talented artists at Vinson Hall!

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## After Devastating Fire, Staff Member Receives Help from Foundation

Since its launch in 2020, NMCGRF's Employee Caring Fund has stepped in to help support Vinson Hall staff members countless times whenever they faced an unexpected hardship or dire financial situation. But none of these incidents has ever been as urgent or tragic as the crisis that one of our Facilities team members faced this month, after a fire burned his home to the ground.



Thankfully, the staff member and his wife and four children escaped without injury, but they had lost everything. When the Foundation was alerted to the emergency, we moved quickly. The very next day, a check for \$2,000 was cut from the Employee Caring Fund to provide badly needed funds for clothing for the children, so that they could return to school.



Meanwhile, we alerted Vinson Hall Residents' Association President Sherm Eagan, who moved into action to match our gift through the VHRA's own funds and deliver a \$2,000 check on the same day. "There was no question that we all wanted to help this member of our team in any way we could," said Sherm.

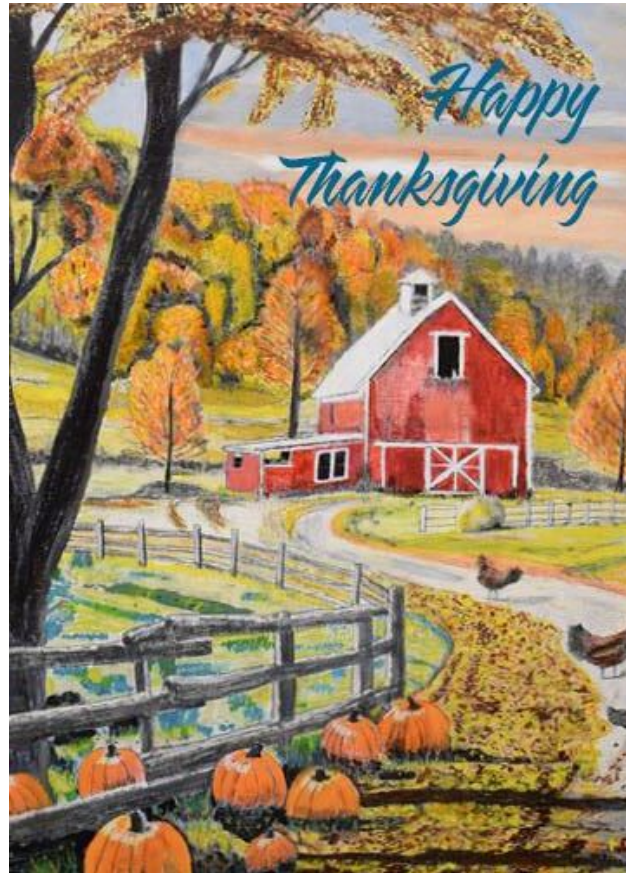
In the weeks that followed, assistance continued through a drive, organized by the Foundation, for clothing for the family. Vinson Hall residents stepped up and filled the Philanthropy & Engagement's office with donations day after day. The VHRA also mobilized to accept gift

cards from residents and staff and deliver them to the family. "Every day, when this staff member came to pick up these donations, he had tears in his eyes," said Senior Director of Philanthropy & Engagement Michelle Crone. "We are so thankful to be able to partner with the VHRA to offer this support to one of our own." At Vinson Hall we are truly a family.

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## Thanksgiving Greetings!

Did you receive your Thanksgiving card from the Foundation? Each year in the month of November, the Philanthropy & Engagement teams works with Mel Mobley, Vinson Hall art instructor, to choose a fall-themed painting or photograph by a resident for our annual Thanksgiving card. This year, resident Lonnie Culler's fall scene, colorfully evocative of fall memories, was chosen and reproduced. The greeting from the Foundation team is sent to all supporters of Vinson Hall – residents, family members, staff, wait list members, donors, sponsors and community members – which totaled 1,800 this year! We give thanks for all of you, and appreciate your support to our community – this month and always!



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## 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. 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 2025, click [here](#) to see the short video shown at our annual Gala in September. And if you have

any questions about making a year-end donation, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Palumbo, Philanthropy & Engagement Coordinator, at MPalumbo@vinsonhall.org or 703-538-2970.

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

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## Thank you to Our 2025 Sponsors!

We are delighted to report that 27 corporate sponsors donated a total of \$79,000 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 Vinson Hall residents and staff.

Our 2025 sponsors are as follows. We are so grateful for your support!

**Four-Star** sponsors: Iridium. **Three-Star** sponsors: Truist, Eventus Strategic Partners, Paragon Home Care, Sodexo, Howard Shockey & Sons. **Two-Star** sponsors: Aegis Therapies, Bean Kinney & Korman, Bohler Engineering, Love & Company, Primary Integration Mechanical Services, THW Design, Wagner Roofing. **One-Star** sponsors: Alpha & Omega Solutions, Appliance Connection, Caring Communities, CJM Wealth Advisors, CLI Home Improvement, CST Group, ECS, Federal Realty, McDonald Hopkins, Nova Arborist, Parasol Alliance, Potomac Abatement, S. Freedman & Sons, Ziegler.

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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](mailto:michellec@vinsonhall.org) or 703-538-3068.

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