



Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation

April 2023 Foundation Update

April Brings a “Spirit of Youth” to VHRC

Shakespeare wrote, “April hath put a spirit of youth in everything” – and that youthful spirit has certainly kept things busy this month in our community! At the Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation, we recently hosted the annual Paul Peak Resident of the Year ceremony, recognizing the 11 amazing residents who were nominated for having demonstrated outstanding service to our community last year. Read on to learn who won! We also celebrated the unveiling of a wonderful new sound system in the Alford Auditorium, made possible by a generous gift to the Foundation from resident Bob Springer. (Thank you, Bob!) If you’ve walked through the Vinson Hall Lobby in the last couple of weeks, you will have noticed something else that’s new: a digital kiosk! Thanks to a grant from the McLean Community Foundation, this kiosk will give all residents, even those who are less tech savvy, a way to access online information and resources at VHRC. Mark your calendars: NMCGRF’s Annual Membership Meeting is coming up on May 15 via Zoom – hope you’ll be able to join us! Finally, we have just published the latest issue of *Campus News & Views* magazine, and you won’t want to miss the fascinating stories our residents have to tell! Read all about what the Foundation has been doing to celebrate “the spirit of youth” at Vinson Hall Retirement Community this month!

NMCGRF Celebrates Paul Peak Resident of the Year

The atmosphere was convivial at the Penthouse Sylvester Lounge on March 30, as more than 60 residents came together to learn who would be named the 2022 Paul Peak Resident of the Year. And competition was fierce this

year. All residents of Vinson Hall and Willow Oak were invited to nominate the person they felt demonstrated outstanding service to our community last year, and 11 names were put forward.



A big round of applause was given when Michelle Crone, Senior Director of Philanthropy and Engagement, announced that Sherm Eagan was the winner. "Sherm has lots of ideas to make Vinson Hall a better, more fun place to live," said Michelle as she read the comments from residents who nominated Sherm.

"He brings a fresh positive spirit to our campus. He shares his sense of fun with all of us, instituting activities that make residents want to get up in the morning and, occasionally, stay up all night." Another person wrote: "Sherm is a force to be reckoned with and a 'spark plug' for many events. He is friendly to all – and always looking for ways to be helpful to others."

"I am honored, humbled and undeserving. There are so many people here so deserving of this award," said Sherm, adding, "I think I am just good at taking credit for other people's great ideas!" The Paul Peak award was established in 2015 by Jane Peak in honor of her husband, a 25-year resident of VHRC. Jane gave a gift of \$15,000 to the Foundation to support this award, and the Office of Philanthropy & Engagement has coordinated this annual event ever since. Captain Peak was a strong believer in the value of community, and the award celebrates the spirit of neighborliness that he personified. Jane Peak, 102 years old, and her daughter Nicki attended the ceremony.



Michelle noted that this was the largest number of nominees we have ever had. "And what that says to me is that there is a remarkable number of residents here who are giving their time and energy to make VHRC a better place," she said. The other nominees for the 2022 Paul Peak Award were Susan Ruppert, Ramona Michels, Diana Keenan, Jack Hannon, Jerry and Margurette Norris, Judy Clair, Lynne and Carl Schone,

Emmy Simmons, Bud Dougherty and Maureen Kammerer. Cake and champagne – two of Paul Peak’s favorites – were also served. Congratulations to Sherm for the well-earned recognition, and to all the nominees for the support of our community!



*Donate to NMCGRF
Today*

The Gala – Change in Date!



Due to a scheduling conflict, the date of the annual NMCGRF Gala has been changed to **Saturday, September 16, 2023**. We apologize for this change, but hope we have caught you early enough in the year to get the new date on your calendars! Last year’s sold-out Gala was a night to remember, and we’ve got even more exciting plans in store for you this year. (Shh! The big reveal happens in July!) We hope you will plan on joining us for another magical evening – all in support of a great cause! Watch for more information in the coming months!

Generous Donation Gives VHRC The Gift of Sound

Every seat was taken on April 11, when VHRC residents and staff gathered in the Alford Auditorium to celebrate the unveiling of a new sound system – made possible by a

\$30,000 donation to the Foundation from resident Bob Springer. Thanks to Bob's generous gift to the Innovation & Enhancement Fund, every audio component in the room has now been replaced with state-of-the-art equipment that includes new speakers, amplifiers, processors, microphones, individual hearing assisted listening devices and receivers – all controlled by an easy-to-operate wall-mounted touchscreen.



The story of how this wonderful gift to our community came about starts about a year ago, when Bob approached the Office of Philanthropy & Engagement with the idea of making a gift to the Foundation in honor of his late wife Sally, who died in 2020. "I was looking for something to do to express my and my family's feelings about this wonderful Vinson Hall," explained Bob. "All the good friendships and everything that is offered here is such a wonderful gift to me, and I wanted to give something back in return."



Bob and Sally had spent a lot of time in the Auditorium practicing with Vinson Voices and had experienced firsthand the poor fidelity of the sound system, with those in the back having an especially hard time hearing. For Bob, the coup de grâce for the antiquated system occurred during an ecumenical discussion group when no

one could get the audio visual system to operate correctly to show a film, he recalled. "We all had to give up and go home. It certainly seemed like we could do better than this."

We did, though the process from idea to execution took about a year. Bob Springer, along with a team of resident advisors, Foundation and VHRC staff, worked together to research and create a list of audio requirements, then selected Metropolitan Audio Visual to provide and install the new system.

The unveiling event on April 11 featured a champagne toast by CEO Chip Warner, as well as a short video. In it, Bob shared memories of meeting Sally when he was 27 years old after having completed a combat tour in Korea and attended Stanford University. Sally was fresh out of college and working as a top

secret control officer at the Pentagon, and when Bob breezed by her desk on the way to a meeting, she scolded him for not checking in properly. "I thought, that was a very attractive young lady sitting behind that desk with the stern voice, so I asked her if she'd have coffee with me," he said, chuckling. "Six months later we were married."



Bob and Sally, whom he calls "one of the most enthusiastic people I've ever known," were married for 64 years, and during that time the Springer clan grew to include four children and 23 offspring and in-laws. Three of their four children attended the event. His daughter Laurie Moore read one of Sally's poems entitled Let Me Celebrate Each Day, and daughter Betsy

Stellmann read a prayer that Bob had written for Sally, which she prefaced by saying how appropriate she felt her father's gift to VHRC was. "All through our childhood, when we would go camping or sailing, my parents would say, 'Now what are we going to do to improve this place before we leave? Because we always want to make it better than when we got here.'"

All of us at NMCGRF/VHRC certainly appreciate how much better the Springer family's generosity has made the Alford Auditorium. And that gratitude goes both ways. "I'd like to say that my family all want to thank you for your steadfast friendship to my parents," said Betsy. "This community has been a wonderful resource for them and brought us all so much joy."



Latest Issue of Campus News & Views Published!

The lives they have led, the stories they have to tell! Our residents have done it again in another great edition of the *Campus News & Views*, Vinson Hall and Willow Oak's literary magazine. This quarterly publication features resident stories, remembrances, poems and artwork. Highlights of this month's issue include one resident's poignant tale of the unusual Thanksgiving meal he shared with a PTSD-afflicted sergeant when he was a young soldier, a humorous account of an almost-encounter with Prince Charles a half century ago, a lifelong gardener's efforts to bring her passion to VHRC, and a wife's story of the lovingly crafted dollhouses that her husband had made for her.

This issue has it all, from history – one resident offers a fascinating account of Carl Vinson, the naval visionary and our community's namesake – to poetry and art from VHRC's most recent Art Show. Words from VHRC's new CEO, Chip Warner, and Senior Director of Philanthropy & Engagement Michelle Crone are also in this issue, as well as news from Arleigh Burke Pavilion and The Sylvestery.

It is our privilege in the Office of Philanthropy & Engagement to edit and publish this magazine in support of the remarkable residents of VHRC! Please click [here](#) to read the Winter 2023 issue of *Campus News & Views*.

VINSON HALL RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Campus News & Views Winter 2023



Winter fun at VHRC included Valentine's Day Dinner, winter Art Show, Annual Corn Bag Toss Tournament and intergenerational playdate with Kidstretch Preschool.

New Kiosk Funded by McLean Community Foundation Helps Residents Connect



Thanks to a generous grant from the McLean Community Foundation last year, the Foundation was able to purchase an interactive digital kiosk that was installed this month in the Vinson Hall lobby! This kiosk will allow Vinson Hall and Willow Oak residents who do not have computers or who are hesitant

about using them without assistance to have access to campus information and on-line sign-ups for events and activities.

The McLean Community Foundation grant of \$6,230 builds on a previous grant we received from that organization that supported the installation costs of VHRC's new resident portal. Through the portal, Vinson Hall and Willow Oak residents can electronically access campus information such as resident and staff directories or digital flyers about events, they can sign up for activities and put in work orders for repairs, and even share photos or "chat" online with their neighbors. Now, with the new digital kiosk, residents who are less tech savvy than others will have the same opportunity to connect to the resources and services that enhance their lives at VHRC.

"This kiosk offers a way for residents who may not have a computer or Smart phone to ease into technology, reducing or eliminating their fears," said Haider Mahmood, Administrator of Vinson Hall and Willow Oak. "By being able to play around with the kiosk with the Front Desk staff there to assist them, residents can become more comfortable with technology. Also, the large screen is helpful to our residents with low vision."

We are in the process of programming the kiosk and are excited to have it up and running very soon! Many thanks to the McLean Community Foundation for their generous support of the Foundation and of the residents of VHRC.

Annual Membership Meeting Shares Successes and Upcoming Plans

Please plan to join us at our Annual Membership Meeting, which will be

held via Zoom on **Monday, May 15 at 2:30 p.m.** We look forward to sharing a review of our 2022 philanthropic and engagement efforts in support of the residents and staff of VHRC, as well as our upcoming plans for this year!

Please RSVP by contacting Clara Orrell (703-538-2970). Clara will send you Zoom instructions the day before the meeting.



Annual
Membership
Meeting

[RSVP for the Membership Meeting](#)

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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