



Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation

May 2023 Foundation Update

The Three Big “M’s” in May – Membership, McLean, and Memorial Day

In May, the Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation is all about the three big “M’s” – starting with *Membership*. Earlier this month, we kicked off our Annual Membership Appeal campaign and mailed out over 1,500 letters asking for your membership support for 2023. We are very pleased with the response we have received so far – thank you! At the same time, we hosted our Annual Membership Meeting via Zoom. At this meeting we presented highlights of the Foundation’s work last year and this year. If you weren’t able to attend the meeting, click the link below to learn more. May is also about *McLean* and celebrating the connections that NMCGRF is building with our greater community. We are grateful to the McLean Community Foundation for their generous grant that we received this month, and to a McLean Boy Scout, whom we celebrated in the grand opening of the new fire pit he built for us on campus. Finally, May is the month we celebrate *Memorial Day*. This year, we were delighted to coordinate a wonderful gift of floral bouquets from the Memorial Day Flowers Foundation to our residents, in recognition and appreciation of their years of service to our nation. We hope you’ll enjoy reading all about these May activities in the articles below!

Calling All 2023 Foundation Members!

The annual Membership Appeal campaign is off and running! About 1,500 letters went out this month to VHRC residents, family, friends and staff, inviting our supporters to become 2023 members of the Foundation. We are delighted with the response so far, and thank you all for your support! Our largest source of revenue each year comes from our Annual Membership campaign, so

your membership contribution truly makes a difference.

This year's campaign includes two new stories in our **The Difference You Make** series. One is about a resident who was able to continue to live at VHRC thanks to the Resident Assistance Fund, and the other highlighted a staff member whose life was changed by the Employee Caring Fund. Please click [here](#) to read these stories and see the difference that your generosity makes to our community!



Donate to NMCGRF Today

Annual Membership Meeting Features Slide Show with Foundation Highlights

Each year in the spring, NMCGRF holds its Annual Membership Meeting to share news from the Foundation. This year's meeting was held on May 15 via Zoom. Highlights of the Foundation's work last year and this year, as well as our plans for the coming months, were shared in a brief slide show. If you weren't able to attend the Membership Meeting, click the link below to learn all about the Foundation's work!



NMCGRF Hosts Grand Opening of New Fire Pit

There's nothing like sitting outside with friends around a fire,

watching the flames flickering, to stir happy memories. Last month, residents and staff created some new memories when they stopped by the Sport Park for the grand opening of VHRC's new fire pit. The Foundation was delighted to host this afternoon filled with laughter, mingling, and a roaring fire under a clear spring sky. Said resident Cheryl Gayton, "This is going to be really wonderful to have. People love to gather in the Vinson Hall living room together, and this will be just like that – only outdoors!"



The opening of this new outdoor space at VHRC was the culmination of a project that began two years ago, when local Boy Scout Zach Balleisen contacted the Office of Philanthropy & Engagement with an idea. Zach had grown up in the neighborhood, had gone to Chesterbrook Elementary School next

door to VHRC, and wanted to build a fire pit area for our community to earn his Eagle Scout award. We thought it was a wonderful idea, and a great opportunity for NMCGRF to help our community build another connection with the greater McLean community.

The new fire pit area – which includes three wood benches, a serving table with a built-in cooler, and wood trellis structure – was designed and constructed by Zach and a team of scouts from his troop in McLean. Resident Jack Hannon, a longtime Scoutmaster, was Zach's unofficial advisor on the project, along with VHRC Senior Director of Facilities Denese Arnold, who arranged for the cement slab to be poured. Meanwhile, NMCGRF reached out to the Naval Officers' Spouses' Club of Washington, D.C. – the same organization responsible for fundraising to create VHRC a half century ago – and received a \$1,000 grant to cover the costs of building materials and the propane fire pit unit.



Residents who came by to see the new fire pit in action were treated to homemade s'mores, courtesy of the Philanthropy & Engagement team. Jack Hannon and CEO Chip Warner spoke at the event and thanked Zach, who also attended. "When I started a couple of years ago, I just had a bunch of diagrams," said Zach. "Now



everybody's using it – and that's awesome!" We couldn't agree more. Thank you, Zach and Boy Scout troop 128, for this lovely gift to our community!

McLean Community Foundation Grant Provides Outdoor Seating for Residents

We are delighted to share that Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation has received a grant for the third year in a row from the McLean Community Foundation. This \$5,200 grant will enable us to expand outdoor socialization options for our residents – a process that began during the pandemic, when residents began to spend more time together outdoors.



One of our residents' favorite outdoor spots on campus to sit and socialize is underneath our magnificent Willow Oak tree. We have learned that VHRC's Willow Oak is over 400 years old. In fact, according to arborists it is one of the oldest trees in the greater McLean area, and we are in the process of having it designated as a "Virginia Big Tree" under the Virginia Urban Forest Council. It is truly a treasure. Thanks to McLean Community Foundation's generous grant, the Foundation is now able to purchase and install sturdy, durable, outdoors chairs and benches for our residents to use when they gather under the canopy to listen to outdoor concerts, participate in VHRC's Drum Circle, attend meetings or just spend time visiting with friends and family.

This grant follows a grant of \$6,230 that NMCGRF received in 2022 from the McLean Community Foundation to cover the cost of an interactive digital kiosk in the Vinson Hall lobby. And in 2021 a grant of \$4,834 from the McLean Community Foundation was used to support the installation of a resident portal for

VHRC as well as to provide iPads for residents in memory care at The Sylvestery.

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We are very grateful to the McLean Community Foundation for their continued generous support of our community. It is truly a privilege to continue to build our partnership with this wonderful McLean organization!

A Gift of Floral Bouquets from Memorial Day Flowers Foundation

In honor of Memorial Day, our friends from Memorial Day Flowers Foundation stopped by on May 29 to deliver spectacular bouquets of flowers to VHRC residents in gratitude for their service to our nation. The Memorial Day Flowers Foundation – an organization that works with private, public and corporate sponsors to donate flowers in honor of veterans and civil servants nationwide – secured more than 300,000 flowers to place on every grave at Arlington National Cemetery, setting aside bouquets to bring to VHRC residents.



The Office of Philanthropy & Engagement coordinated this donation, the third time our campus has received a gift like this from this organization. The flowers come from growers in Colorado, Ecuador, and California, which had a bad winter for flowers, so it was touch and go for their team to get the numbers they needed in time for Memorial Day. Happily, they did. "I'm so glad this all came together!" said Maggie Sheedy, Memorial Day Flowers Foundation board member, whose parents had lived at VHRC. Many thanks to Memorial Day Flowers Foundation for this amazing gift to our community!

NMCGRF's 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 16, 2023!** This will be the Foundation's 27th Gala – and we think it will be the best one ever! Last year's Caribbean-themed event 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 we can promise you another magical evening – all in support of a great cause! More details to come next month – 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](#)

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