



Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation

September 2023 Foundation Update

A September Celebration to Remember

This month, the Philanthropy & Engagement team pulled out all the stops to bring Casablanca to campus! At our annual Gala held on September 16, guests were swept back to the 1940s, down the red carpet and through beaded curtains and Moroccan doorways, to celebrate the glamour of the movie at Rick's Café Americain. Read all about the festivities at the sold-out event – from playing black jack and roulette at the Casablanca Casino, to savoring exotic Moroccan cuisine, listening to *As Time Goes By* and other classic piano favorites, and even meeting U.S. Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall – all a part of the fun and funds that were raised to support our VHRC community! We did take time out this month to write an article for a local magazine about how VHRC's non-profit status truly makes a difference. Now it's on to preparing for our annual tribute to our 2023 Star Members at *An Evening with the Stars!* We hope this year's Star Members will join us on November 2 as we thank you for all your support!

Gala Brings Casablanca Magic to VHRC

Residents and Foundation friends didn't have to go far to find vintage Hollywood glamour on September 16, when Casablanca came to campus for the Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation's annual Gala. Arriving for *An Evening in Casablanca* at VHRC, guests stepped back in time as they walked into the Casablanca Casino (Fred Johnson's Bistro). "From the decorations, entertainment, food and guests, the evening could not have been nicer," said resident Lewie Gayton. Bob Monroe, another resident, agreed: "It was a superb evening, superb in every respect!"



—Every spot was filled at the Casino's black jack tables and roulette wheels, where guests could test their luck using "Funny Money" – or just mingle over drinks and appetizers and soak in the scene. Of all the gin joints in all the world, Bogart and Bergman did *not* walk

into ours – but Frank Kendall, the U.S. Secretary of the Air Force, did – as a guest of NMCGRF Board member Wes Burnett.

From there, guests made their way up to Rick's Café Americain (The Ballroom), down the red carpet and through beautifully designed Moroccan doors for dinner. The U.S. Navy Ceremonial Guard kicked things off for the sold-out crowd of 170 guests with a Presentation of the Colors. Admiral Cindy Dullea, Vice Chair of the NMCGRF Board of Trustees, welcomed attendees, and Chaplain Scott Harrison delivered the invocation, followed by videotaped remarks by special guest Secretary Kendall, who had had to depart earlier for the Air Force Ball. "Thank you for the opportunity to spend time with you tonight," he said. "And thank you for your service!"

During the event, we also shared a [brief video](#) about the Foundation's accomplishments over the past year. Guests enjoyed a three-course Moroccan-inspired meal, while pianist Michael Dennison entertained diners with *As Time Goes By* and other 1940s

favorites. Michelle Crone, Senior Director of Philanthropy & Engagement, drew the names of 15 lucky winners who received gift cards donated by local restaurants. Then as the evening wound to a close, we were delighted to be able to announce that this year's Gala had brought in nearly \$100,000 to benefit VHRC residents and staff, a new record!



“It was a wonderful, successful Gala! I so enjoyed many good conversations and fun people-watching – everyone decked out in their finery,” said Carol Saunders, adding, “My only regret is that we must wait a whole year to have another great experience!” We are so

grateful to all our supporters! Here’s looking at you, kid!

Getting the Message Out – The Non-Profit Difference at VHRC

One of the many ways in which the Philanthropy & Engagement team, pictured here, supports our community is by helping with various communication needs. Recently, VHRC’s Senior Director of Marketing Stephanie Lawrence asked us to write an article for *Arlington Magazine* on what it means to be a non-profit senior retirement community – and we were only too happy to oblige!

Unlike for-profit communities, which answer to investors who expect a return on their investment, Vinson Hall Retirement Community does not. Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation raises funds to support those who live and work at VHRC. The Foundation’s mission is “to enrich the lives of those around us, so they are free to live life to the

fullest,” and this mission guarantees that as residents age, their changing needs will be met by this community. NMCGRF’s commitment to our residents provides tremendous security for residents and peace of mind for their families.

Click [here](#) to see the full article that will appear in an upcoming issue of *Arlington Magazine*!



Join Us for an Evening with the Stars!



On Wednesday, November 2, we will thank our Star Members with a festive evening of delicious food and drinks on our campus! Star Members are those who have contributed a membership gift of \$250 or more to NMCGRF in 2023. We are deeply grateful to each of our Star Members for their contributions to the

Foundation and for their support of our mission of enriching the lives of the residents and staff of VHRC. If you are a 2023 Star Member, watch for your invitation for our annual *Evening with the Stars*, coming your way soon!

If you have not yet contributed a membership gift this year to NMCGRF, please reach out to us today and become a Star Member! All individuals who become Star Members before our November 2 event are invited to attend. If you would like to make a contribution to NMCGRF, or check the status of your membership, please email or call Clara Orrell, Philanthropy & Engagement Coordinator, at correll@vinsonhall.org or at 703-538-2970. We can't wait to welcome you to the VHRC Ballroom next month for an evening with good friends!

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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