HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2012 NAVY-MARINE CORPS BALL

2011 Financial Statements and Annual Report are available online at www.nmcrs.org

Vice Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff James A. Winnefeld, Jr., USN, stands confident as members of the Navy Silent Drill Team perform.
From the Signal Bridge

Dear Friends and Supporters:

This year’s Navy-Marine Corps Ball, the 97th in history, was a highlight of the Washington, DC Spring social scene. The Ball set a record in attendance and raised significant funds to support the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society’s programs and services. Commandant of the Marine Corps General James Amos said, “I offer my heartfelt gratitude to the employees, volunteers, and donors who carry on the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society’s tireless efforts to improve quality of life for our service members and families.” Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jonathan Greenert, echoed those sentiments, adding, “Our people are the strength of our military, and it is because of organizations like the Society that our Sailors and Marines can have peace of mind while supporting our Nation, knowing that their families are cared for at all times.”

This year’s Navy-Marine Corps Ball Committee dedicated the evening to the Society’s Visiting Nurses. Our Visiting Nurses have faithfully served Sailors, Marines, their families and survivors for 90 years. In 2011, our nurses provided compassionate care on 46,250 occasions around the world. On nearly half of those occasions, our nurses focused their attention on providing resources, medical information, and emotional support to more than 1,500 combat casualties and their families. The keynote speech was delivered by Ruthi Moore, Director of the Society’s Visiting Nurse Program (see sidebar). You will understand why she received a standing ovation.

As always, I extend my sincere appreciation for your sustained support of the Society and its commitment to meet the financial needs of Navy and Marine Corps families. The need for our programs and services remains high. Your generous charitable gifts, big and small, make our efforts possible.

Admiral Steve Abbot, U.S. Navy (Ret)
President and Chief Executive Officer

Excerpts from Ruthi Moore’s Keynote Speech at the 2012 Navy-Marine Corps Ball

• CCA Visiting Nurses: In 2006, the Society expanded its traditional Visiting Nurse Program to include nurses who work specifically with Marines and Sailors returning from combat service and their families. We refer to our program as Combat Casualty Assistance or “CCA” Visiting Nurses. The CCA nurses program provides families with a health professional who can take the time to listen to their questions about their injured service member’s situation, as well as answer questions about other family members’ health issues that may affect the service member’s recovery. Whenever possible, CCA nurses meet the families in the hospital so they can get to know each other before the Marine or Sailor is discharged. Because the family has already met the CCA nurse, they often feel more comfortable allowing the nurse to make a home visit.

• Face-to-face visits: The Society’s CCA nurses are the only registered nurses who make face-to-face visits anywhere in the country, free of charge, to Marines, Sailors, and their families who have been affected by combat service. These nurses stay involved with the families even if the Marine or Sailor is no longer in the military and continue to work with the family for as long as there is a need and as long as the family is willing to allow these nurses into their lives and homes.

• Family: The importance of seeing the family in their daily environment cannot be overstated. Face-to-face meetings allow the CCA nurse to observe as well as hear what is being said. For instance, the body language of the speaker, the expression on a wife or mother’s face when a Marine or Sailor says he is doing fine, the signs of exhaustion, pain, fear, frustration, hopelessness – all of these and a hundred other emotions can be seen when a nurse is face-to-face, but not on a phone call.

• Service: No one comes home from a war zone the same person they were when they left. Even when life is going well for the Marine or Sailor and their family, Society nurses stay connected so that when problems arise, they know us well enough to let us visit. Sometimes life goes well for several years – often beyond the point at which other agencies stop following the family. Even with
Your Donations at Work
THE FAMILY OF QMCS VERNON T. FOSTER, USN

When Senior Chief Quarter Master Vernon T. Foster died in the attack on the USS STARK, he left behind a wife and five children, including two young sons, ages two and five. Now successful young men, both completed their undergraduate education with financial assistance from the USS Stark Memorial Fund.

“On behalf of my family, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society for their financial assistance toward our college educations.”
- Vernon T. Foster, II

Vernon T. Foster, II graduated from Florida State University (FSU) in the fall of 2009 with a bachelor's degree in real estate and marketing. His brother Tyrone graduated from FSU in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in sociology and is now pursuing a Doctor of Chiropractic degree. Now that her children are grown, their mother Ernestine hopes to continue her own graduate studies with help from the USS Stark Memorial Fund.

Your donations made a difference—especially to this family whose Sailor made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country 25 years ago.

NMCRS AND HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION COLLABORATE TO MAKE A HOUSE INTO A HOME

In the spirit of “it takes all hands,” volunteers from Naval Station Mayport and Team Depot spent two days in May making critical repairs and renovations to the home of Mayport Air Ops Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (Equipment) 1st Class Shaun Johnson and his family. The house, a previously foreclosed property, was in worse condition than the Johnson family realized when they bought it, resulting in some safety concerns for their small children.

Supplies for the project were donated to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society as part of the Home Depot Foundation’s Community Affairs program. Bill Kennedy, Director of NMCRS Mayport, helped identify and coordinate the project. Debra Egelston, assistant manager of the Regency Square Home Depot in Jacksonville said “We want to help our veterans and active duty service members. Working with NMCRS has been a great opportunity.” Johnson, thankful for the assistance, said “It feels good knowing that people really want to give back to the military.”
SAN DIEGO VOLUNTEERS MAKE BUDGETING EASIER FOR COMBAT CASUALTIES

In a small office in the Wounded Warrior Detachment Ward of the Naval Medical Center San Diego, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society volunteers help combat-injured Marines prepare spending plans tailored to their individual needs.

Responding to a simple “Can you help prepare budgets for some of our Marines?” Dianne Thompson, a long time volunteer, created a unique Society service. Since early 2010, Dianne and other NMCRS Naval Station San Diego volunteers have helped more than 250 Combat Casualties organize their personal finances. Volunteers make a detailed review of each patient’s monthly budget and identify resources and agencies available to help meet each individual’s unique circumstances.

To qualify as a Hospital Spending Plan Caseworker, volunteers must achieve Level-III Caseworker certification, have a minimum of one year’s experience as a Society volunteer, receive specific hospital training, and meet security clearance requirements. Volunteers receive additional training related to special pays and allowances, national and local resources, and communications needs specific to combat-wounded servicemembers.

Being told where to go and what to do is the daily routine for patients in the Wounded Warrior Detachment. Everyone is focused on healing, recuperation, and creating a new future. Understanding the financial picture is an important part of the process as well, because it means servicemembers can make better near-term decisions and identify long-range financial goals. “It’s an honor to be able to help these Marines who have served our country under the most difficult circumstances” Thompson said. Her co-volunteers agree that serving these men and women is a special privilege.

The San Diego NMCRS office receives referrals and requests for assistance from the entire Naval Medical Center San Diego campus, including requests for layettes for newborns in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and emergency financial assistance for hospital patients and their families. As in all NMCRS offices, Society volunteers answer the calls for assistance from active duty and retired Sailors, Marines, and their families.

KUDOS TO TEE IT UP FOR THE TROOPS

Special thanks to Tee it up for the Troops, whose recent gift enabled us to purchase more than 900 childrens books. Our Combat Casualty Assistance Visiting Nurses give the books to children whose mom or dad has been affected by wartime service to our country. These books, including titles such as Our Daddy’s Invincible, Big Boss Brain, and My Mom’s Deployment help children and families understand and cope with their situation. Tee it up for the Troops is a nonprofit organization that works to “honor, respect, remember and support all those who have served in our Armed Forces for this great nation.” NMCRS is truly grateful for this gift which benefited so many families of our Sailors and Marines. Thank you Tee it up for the Troops!
December 29, 2011

Aloha & Ha`ole Makahiki Hou,

I belong to a group of ladies who get together to celebrate our birthdays. Getting and receiving gifts is all well and good, but we finally decided that what would make all of us most happy was to help others in some way. So instead of giving gifts to each other, we would give to others. The “Birthday Girl” is given the opportunity to contribute to the charity or association of her choice. This month is my birthday and I thought of your organization.

My dad, Capt. Kenneth West, was a retired naval officer. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1935 and was a recipient of the Silver Star. Having been a Navy family for so many years, our family always had a soft spot for the Navy and Marine Corps. I thought that some families could use some assistance at this time of the year. So, enclosed with this letter, you will find six checks from my group of friends, for your use.

Sincerely,
Gretchen West
Honolulu, HI

3/13/2012

To Whom it may Concern,

Enclosed is a check in memory of my mother Marjorie W. Brothman who died on 3/4/12 at the age of 86. My mother was a proud veteran of the WAVES and served from 1945 to 1946 in Washington, DC.

She was given full military honors at her funeral on 3/6/12. It was a beautiful and moving tribute. So in deep appreciation I send this donation to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

God Bless the United States Navy, the Marine Corps & the United States of America.

Sincerely Yours,
David R. Brothman

Marjorie W. Brothman at her 1943 graduation from Hyde Park High School in Chicago. She received a WWII Victory Ribbon for her service as a WAVE in Washington, DC.
the best efforts of every agency – military and civilian – ultimately, the family is the long-term support system for anyone who returns from combat. We let the service member define his or her “family.” In some cases, “family” is the traditional group. In other instances, “family” becomes friends, neighbors, girlfriends or battle buddies. We help them learn what they need to know so that they can provide the support and encouragement to the service member and each other in the years ahead.

• Take the time: These families – whatever their composition – carry a heavy burden when their Marine or Sailor is seriously injured. No matter what the nature of the injury, life has changed. Our CCA nurses often find that as time goes by, the family needs emotional support more than anything else. Having someone who can sit with them in their home, laugh with them over day-to-day things, and cry with them over the dreams that may have been lost – this kind of support requires time and patience, and the skills to hear what isn’t being said as well as what is being said. Our Visiting Nurse Program allows families to take the time they need to talk – or to be silent – as they come to terms with their new lives.

• Courage: A Marine, “Jeff” was injured in Iraq. When his wife and mother arrived at the hospital in Germany, Jeff’s wife took one look at him and walked out. He never saw her again. The doctor told Jeff’s mother that Jeff wouldn’t live. She requested her son be seen by another doctor. It is now five years later. Jeff’s wife divorced him. His father left the family. Jeff’s mother devotes her time to caring for her son. On Christmas Eve two years ago, Jeff’s mother called her CCA nurse to say that Jeff had just taken his first steps since his injury. His mother said, “I just wanted to tell someone and you were the only one I knew who would appreciate what he has accomplished.” During a recent visit, Jeff’s CCA nurse asked him what made him so determined to recover. Jeff told her that he credits his improvement to that original doctor in Germany. When the nurse asked why he felt that way, Jeff said he actually remembers hearing the doctor say he wouldn’t live. Jeff then added with a twinkle in his eye, “NEVER tell a Marine he can’t do something!” Jeff’s attitude is a common theme among these service members and their families. They don’t want our sympathy, but they do deserve our respect and admiration. This may not be what they expected in life, but they meet their challenges with a courage and strength that is nothing short of amazing.

• Commitment: The Society’s visiting nurses make a difference in more lives than anyone ever realizes. Their commitment, caring spirit and quiet understanding have provided comfort to countless Navy and Marine Corps families facing the most difficult times in their lives.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2012 NAVY-MARINE CORPS BALL

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society was founded in 1904 with a donation of $9,000 – the Navy’s share of proceeds from the sale of tickets to the 1903 Army-Navy football game. The Society was originally formed to aid indigent widows and orphans. Today it responds to almost every crisis that Sailors, Marines, and their families encounter.

Beginning in 1914, an annual gala hosted by the Navy-Marine Corps Ball Committee, a distinct 501(c)(3) nonprofit comprised almost exclusively of volunteers, has raised funds to support the Society’s programs and services.

Here are a few highlights from this year’s event:

★ 1,042 attendees
★ $531,780 raised for NMCRS
★ Special appearance by the Navy Silent Drill Team
★ Music performances by Elements of “The President’s Own” U.S. Marine Corps Band and U.S. Navy Band
Dr. John E. Folk was a highly successful biochemist who worked for more than 50 years at the National Institutes of Health. “Jack,” as he was known, was a dedicated scientist, teacher, and mentor to all who worked with him. To his friends and co-workers he was seen as a private, unassuming man who stayed out of the spotlight and never talked about his accomplishments, of which there were many. A research chemist his entire career, Jack became an emeritus scientist and continued his research well into retirement and even after the death of his beloved wife of 54 years, Ann.

Jack grew up in Washington, DC and served in the Navy during WWII, stationed at Charleston, SC. After the war, he returned to DC and attended Georgetown University earning his undergraduate degree, followed in quick order by an MS and a PhD, both in biochemistry and organic chemistry.

Jack died in December 2010, and true to his nature, never informed the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society that we were to be the beneficiary of his entire estate. According to his cousin, Louise Babb, Jack researched the Society extensively and realized the good work we do for Sailors and Marines and that the organization is fiscally responsible and well-run. Jack’s first – and only - gift to the Society leaves a legacy of support for Sailors, Marines, and their families for generations to come.

The Society is indebted to Jack for his exceptionally thoughtful generosity. If you are interested in learning more about including a gift to the Society in your will, please contact Kate Hillas, Director of Planned Giving Programs at 1-800-654-8364 or kate.hillas@nmcrs.org. If you have already included a gift to the NMCRS in your estate planning, we hope you will be willing to share your plans with us so that we can thank you and be sure we are able to use your gift according to your wishes.

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**GOT POINTS?**

Many hotel and airfare rewards programs offer unique donation opportunities. For example, Choice Hotels International® offers customers the opportunity to redeem their points for cash contributions to one of three charities, one of which is the Armed Forces Relief Trust – which includes the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. If you have customer rewards points that you won’t be able to use before they expire, consider donating them.

**Share the news** of the good work of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society by giving your newsletter to a friend when you are finished. We will be happy to send you additional copies upon request, or to add the names of your friends to our mailing list. Everyone is welcome to learn about how we help Sailors and Marines and their families.
NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY
875 N. Randolph Street, Suite 225
Arlington, VA 22203-1767
www.nmcrs.org

In 2011, the American Institute of Philanthropy recognized the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society with an A+ rating, their top rating. Only 3 of 43 Veteran and Military charities reviewed received this exceptional rating which is based on “cost to raise $100” and “% spent on program services.”

Since 1904, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society has provided financial assistance and education to active duty and retired members of the United States Navy and Marine Corps, their eligible family members and survivors.

Sailors, Marines and their families depend on us. The Society does not receive any government funds. We rely on your compassion and generosity. To learn more or talk with someone about opportunities to make a gift, call (800) 654-8364, or email legacy@nmcrs.org

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It Takes All Hands

To ensure that Sailors and Marines are given compassionate support in their time of need, please include the following language in your estate plans:

I give and bequeath to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, a non-profit, charitable organization (EIN 53-0204618) which is incorporated in Washington, DC, and whose headquarters is located at 875 N. Randolph Street, Suite 225, Arlington, VA 22203-1767, (choose one) the remainder of my estate after all other distributions have been made, OR ___% of my estate, OR $___ (specific dollar amount). This gift is to be used by the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society for such purposes and in such a manner as deemed appropriate.