NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY
Serving Sailors, Marines and their families
How does the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society make an impact? Through you. Your renewed commitment and support through the annual Secretary of the Navy's Active Duty and Retiree Fund Drives continue to preserve the legacy of By our Own – For our Own, across generations of Sailors and Marines. These two fund drives provide more than 60 percent of the Society's annual contribution revenue and are vitally important to the quality of life for military families.

In this issue of Legacy® newsletter, we offer a look across the generations. We hope you'll be inspired as you read about a Sheriff's Deputy who, because of his own military service, knew about the military aid societies and kept an ailing military retiree from eviction. Our story about Ozz Ben-David, a young, patriotic high-school student whose passion to someday be a Navy SEAL reminds us that the next generation of Sailors and Marines will proudly carry on our values and traditions.

There's a wonderful story about Captain Albert Lawler on page 7, who chose to volunteer with the Society after he retired from the Navy. And of course we hope you'll enjoy all the other Legacy® stories in this issue that highlight the Society's service to Navy and Marine Corps families, survivors and children.

It's you, our faithful donors, whose gifts make our work possible. In January, the Society proudly celebrated 112 years of volunteer service to generations of Sea Service members and their families. Our actions are made possible by generous donors like you. Our goal is to continue to make a positive impact in this century and beyond. Thank you for all you do to support this effort. We are truly grateful.

Sincerely,

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

When This Retiree Needed Help, You Were There

When the Sheriff’s Deputy arrived at the apartment to serve an eviction notice, he sensed something was wrong.

Inside the apartment, he recognized memorabilia that told him the man living there was a retired naval officer. The resident looked to be in his mid-sixties. He was disoriented and suffering from cognitive impairment. Determined not to put the Navy retiree out on the street, the deputy asked the apartment manager to contact the American Red Cross (ARC) Hero Care Network to get help.

The ARC caseworker worked with the apartment manager to contact the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) for urgent financial assistance to cover the three months of overdue rent, and let the Navy retiree stay in his apartment.

“`We're your safety net. We're always available—around the globe, 24/7.”

In addition to paying the overdue rent, the NMCRS caseworker asked the deputy to contact the local adult protective services (APS) agency for a safety assessment and to notify the retiree's family. The APS caseworker contacted the retiree's sister, who lived across the country. The retiree's sister and mother then flew to California, packed up the apartment, and took their son and brother back to their home. Today, the retired naval officer lives in an assisted living facility close to his family and gets medical attention through the Veterans Administration.

The ARC faithfully serves active duty and retired military families, and since 1998, has partnered with the four military aid societies – Army Emergency Relief (AER), Air Force Aid Society (AFAS), Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA), and Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) – to ensure that every U.S. service member can get emergency help, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, anywhere in the world.

On behalf of the four military aid societies, the ARC can even arrange emergency leave transportation for service members and provide financial assistance. The military aid societies reimburse the ARC for the expenses incurred by service members.
The military aid societies also work together to provide financial assistance to any active duty or retired service member — not just the society for their branch of service. “If a service member is within 50 miles of their branch of service’s military aid society, they should go to their own aid society’s office,” said NMCRS Director of Casework Cheri Nylen. “If there isn’t a military aid society office for their branch of service within 50 miles, service members should go to the closest aid society office. If a sister military aid society office is not reasonably available, the ARC can assist service members over the phone.”

Debbie Fulkerson is the caseworker who helped with the retired commander’s case. “NMCRS caseworkers have a good relationship with the ARC,” she said. “We know their caseworkers and are confident in their ability to assist Navy and Marine Corps service members and their families. We have the ability to confidentially share electronic files so we’re all working from the same documents and information.”

NMCRS headquarters caseworkers work with the ARC and other military aid societies to handle an average of 12 to 15 USN and USMC client requests for assistance each day. “More than half of these cases are for medically retired service members and retirees who don’t live near a military aid society office,” Fulkerson said.

Another recent call was from Nellie Kimbro, the widow of Chief Petty Officer Sammy Kimbro, who joined the Navy in 1966 and passed away in 1991. Nellie’s medication costs were putting her into debt, and she couldn’t make her car payment. Her marriage license had been destroyed in a flood. She was not registered with Tricare, but was receiving a survivor benefit check from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. Nellie called the ARC, which helped her make a request to NMCRS for financial assistance. Working together, the ARC and NMCRS got Nellie registered in DEERS, issued a military ID card, and enrolled in Tricare. Today, this Navy widow makes her monthly car payments and enjoys the independence of owning her own car.

The partnership between the ARC and the military aid societies ensures that service members and their families can always get help. “If you own only one vehicle and it’s broken down and you can’t get to a society office, call the ARC,” said Nylen. “If you’re on emergency leave and having trouble getting home or back to your duty station, or you’re stuck in an airport because your flight’s been canceled, call the ARC. You’ll get immediate assistance.”

When a crisis hits, active duty and retired service members can turn to the ARC and the four military aid societies. “We’re your safety net,” Nylen said. “We’re always available — around the globe, 24/7 — thanks to our volunteers and generous donors.”

IRA Charitable Rollover — A Permanent Giving Option

The Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act of 2015, signed into law by President Obama on December 18, 2015, made permanent what is popularly known as the IRA charitable rollover. Here’s how it works:

- Donor must be 70 ½ or older.
- Donor’s gift must be transferred directly from the IRA account to a nonprofit/charitable organization.
- Donor’s gift is a transfer of funds from his/her IRA to a charity, therefore it does not create taxable income for the donor and is not considered a charitable tax deduction for the donor.
- The transfer of funds does count toward the donor’s annual required minimum distribution from their IRA.

Many donors have found direct transfer of funds from their IRA to be a great way to support Sailors, Marines and their families, and now it is a permanent option. If interested in this popular way to support the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, contact your IRA administrator and instruct that person to transfer all or a portion of your annual minimum distribution to the Society. Additional information and a sample donor request letter can be found at www.myplanwithnmcrs.org/gifts-during-your-lifetime. You may also be asked to complete a specific form from your IRA provider. Please ensure your IRA provider clearly identifies you as the donor when they send the check, so we can properly thank you for your gift. If you have questions, please contact our Director of Planned Giving Kate Hillas at 703-696-7481 or kate.hillas@nmcrs.org.
His Legacy Goes On: A Loving Daughter Honors Her Dad

You know what they say — like father like daughter. This is a story of a father and his loving daughter – both humble and unassuming, yet immensely accomplished and devoted to honor, duty, and service.

Captain Jack Ollinger began his naval service in 1941 and remained on active duty until the end of World War II. But even after that, he continued to serve. He entered the Navy Reserve and served for 25 years, retiring with the rank of Captain. He was Commanding Officer of the Naval Reserve Division and Naval Reserve Battalion at Fort Douglas in Salt Lake City.

Everyone knew and respected Jack’s love for the Navy. And that included top brass. After completing active duty, Jack received a special letter from Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal.

“My dear Captain Ollinger,” Secretary Forrestal wrote in part, “I want the Navy’s pride in you, which it is my privilege to express, to reach into your civilian life and remain with you always.” The letter is a memento that Jack always prized, along with a Certificate of Merit from the Navy, an award and a trophy from the Twelfth Naval District competition, and many more honors. Jack always gave his best, and he instilled that spirit in his daughter.

“Jack and Janet really respected each other,” said Jane Edwards, a friend of Janet’s since childhood. “Janet received unconditional love from her dad, and she inherited his sense of humility and kindness.”

Like her dad, Janet had impressive accomplishments. She graduated with an Honor’s degree in Chemistry from the University of Utah and then earned a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Illinois, as well as a Certificate in Management from Wharton. She joined the Rohm and Hass Company, becoming the first woman Ph.D. chemist in the research division. And she received the Chairman’s Award, the company’s highest honor, and had several patents to her credit. With all her success, she naturally began thinking about giving back.

“We were talking on the phone,” Jane said, “and Janet was thinking about giving to charities. Since she loved her dad so much and always took care of him until his death in 2013, I said, ‘Why don’t you give something that honors your dad?’”

Because Jack was so devoted to the Navy, it was easy to decide which organization to give to – the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

Shortly after, Janet passed away, leaving an extremely generous gift to the Society in honor of her dad, Captain Jack Ollinger. “I know she felt really good about giving that gift,” Jane said. “And the appreciation from the Society for her generosity really meant a lot.”

The Society is grateful for the generous gift from Dr. Ollinger to support the Combat Casualty Assistance Visiting Nurse program.
Fueled by Your Support, Sarah Maddox Helps Service Members and Retirees

“I won’t stop until I can make a difference in that service member or veteran’s life,” said Sarah Maddox, resource coordinator for the Society’s Visiting Nurse program. “It’s not a job. It’s always been a passion for me.”

Sarah has worked for the Society for two years, but she’s spent her entire career helping service members, veterans, and their dependents. After serving in the U.S. Army, she earned her Master’s degree in professional counseling and volunteered as a counselor for POWs, MIAs, and WWII veterans. “My heart goes out to those who served in combat,” she said. “When I was working with WWII POWs, I knew I was hooked for life, and this was what I wanted to do.”

“I won’t stop until I can make a difference.”

Sarah became an accredited National Service Officer for multiple service organizations and has worked for the Virginia Department of Veteran Services, the Virginia State Division of Child Support, the Department of Medical Assistance, Dillwyn Correctional Center, and as a Recovery Care Coordinator (RCC). As an RCC, she helped active duty service members navigate the Medical Board process and develop a comprehensive transition plan to prepare for civilian life.

The Society’s visiting nurses help clients with diverse, complex issues – from finding resources for adaptive medical equipment, to locating a food supplier for a military child with a peanut allergy. Typically, Sarah handles multiple requests every day by researching and contacting her resource network. She has helped Society Combat Casualty Assistance Visiting Nurses assist Marines and Sailors who have served in combat to identify and advocate for service-connected benefits and entitlements, increasing their monthly income and improving their quality of life.

“I love the structure of the military,” Sarah said. “I understand the military-to-civilian transition process. It’s not easy, unless you understand how to navigate it.”

NMCRS Director of Nursing Ruthi Moore feels that Sarah’s skills and background are vital to the Society’s Visiting Nurse program. “Before Sarah joined us, Society visiting nurses spent hours researching hundreds of potential resource providers. With Sarah as our central resource coordinator, our visiting nurses can focus their time and attention on face-to-face visits to families with newborns, home-bound retirees and widows, and combat-served veterans and their families.”

Recently, a Society visiting nurse was working with a client who needed furniture for his apartment, help with the paperwork to apply for VA benefits, and a referral for legal assistance for child custody and support issues. Sarah contacted several organizations that helped furnish everything from a bed, to dish towels and food. She also located pro bono legal assistance and connected the veteran to the local Child Support Enforcement agency.

Sarah’s extensive lists of resources and contacts are shared through the Society’s internal website, so Society employees and volunteers around the world can benefit from her knowledge and experience.

“There’s not much a service member could need that I haven’t researched before, or a resource I can’t locate,” Sarah said. “I’m a people person and am comfortable advocating for military members and their families to ensure those who serve our country get the assistance they need.” Sarah’s great work is just one example of the dedication you support through your generous gifts to NMCRS. Thank you!

Thank a Nurse! The Society is thankful for our Traditional Visiting Nurses and Combat Casualty Assistance Visiting Nurses

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK
MAY 6-12, 2016

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society’s Legacy Newsletter is published three times each year. Its articles help donors understand the impact of their gifts. It also informs active duty and retired Navy and Marine Corps members and their families about the programs and services available to them. We value your privacy. The Society does not rent or sell names, addresses, or e-mails to third parties.

Read more inspiring stories - visit www.legacy.planwithnmcrs.org
How This Young Student Helps Service Members and Their Families

As a second grader, Ozz Ben-David saw a book about U.S. Navy history, and he was fascinated by the Navy SEALs. "My grandfather told me Navy SEALs were the best," Ozz said. And ever since, he has set his sights on becoming a SEAL.

“A junior at Fork Union Military Academy (FUMA) in central Virginia, Ozz pursues his goal of joining the SEALs. He’s also found time to create a nonprofit dedicated to helping military families recover after natural disasters. He credits a summer enrichment course in U.S. government at Princeton University with enhancing his understanding of the U.S. Constitution and appreciation for the military. “I thought about the young men and women fighting today to preserve our freedoms,” he said.

Not long after his course, Ozz saw the devastation caused by tornadoes in Oklahoma on the news, and that spurred him to action. “People who were deployed were coming home to no home,” he said. “I called my dad to see what I could do.”

Ozz wanted to help service members, so he created the Ozz Project in 2012. He asked friends, family, classmates, and his father’s colleagues for support, raising more than $5,000. After talking with his family. Ozz decided to divide the proceeds among reputable organizations working to support active duty and retired service members and their families recovering from natural disasters or other crises. Ozz generously donated $3,000 to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

“I hope to raise another $5,000,” Ozz said. But that won’t happen right away. Ozz is a company commander at FUMA, leading 100 cadets. He’s also taking Judo, SCUBA, and swimming classes. “I’m doing everything I can in mind, body, and spirit,” Ozz said, “to prepare for becoming a Navy SEAL.”

To learn more about the Ozz Project, visit www.theozzproject.org.

Gunnery Sergeant Bob Young’s Legacy of Service to the USMC

Gunnery Sergeant Bob Young was in Vietnam, and the artillery fire was coming in hot.

“I was sent up to a place called the rock pile,” Bob said. “It was a rock outcropping where recon was being done.” At the bottom of the rock pile, there was a fire base, with a bunker housing the communications equipment.

“I remember sleeping in a tent outside when they’d get a fire mission at zero dark thirty,” he said. “And when you’re on a hill a little bit above muzzle level, it gets pretty intense.”

The artillery thundered, the muzzle flash lighting up the night sky. “There were one-seven-fives and eight-inch guns,” he said. The rounds passed right overhead. “The running joke was that when we’d hear a round, somebody would yell out, ‘Open the door and let it go through,’” he said, chuckling.

Bob started his service in 1961. He went to Parris Island and then to Camp Lejune to the Infantry Training Regiment. Next was MCRD – the Marine Corps Recruit Depot – in California for schooling in electronics and telephone and teletype repair. After that, Bob was stationed at Camp Pendleton, where he spent the rest of his enlistment.

When he was released from active duty, Bob wanted to extend his stay for two years because his unit was going to Vietnam. But he was told he’d have to reenlist for four to six years.

“I left that gift because of the positive work that the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society does.”

It worked out, though. “When I did go back in the USMC in 1968, I went directly to Vietnam anyhow,” he said.

A dedicated Marine who enjoyed his time in the service, Bob lived...
Profile in Caring: Why This Retiree Volunteers to Help

A Naval officer for 30 years, Captain Albert Lawler steered his destroyer into ports all over the world – places like Taormina, Sicily; Beirut, Lebanon; and Cannes, France. “When I was commissioned in 1961,” Albert said, “there were 1,000 U.S. Navy ships. You could send them anywhere.”

Albert has continued to support the Navy by volunteering in the Pensacola office of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. “I’ve always taken care of the troops,” he said. “It went with the job.”

Albert and his wife often donated items to NMCRS thrift shops, but they didn’t know about the Society’s other programs until they volunteered. That’s when Albert noticed a stack of widow-assistance case files needing attention. He collected the records and started working on them. Soon, the Chair of Volunteers and Albert worked together to create a Widow’s Assistance Lead volunteer position, and Albert was appointed to serve Navy and Marine Corps widows in Pensacola.

When Albert officially retired last spring, Admiral Steve Abbot (Retired), President, NMCRS commended Albert for his service. “As expected, under Captain Lawler’s expert supervision, each widow received both exceptional service and caring attention, as well as the chance to live with dignity. Captain Lawler always displayed an abiding passion to assist our extended naval family,” wrote Admiral Abbot. “With a singular dedication, he seized challenging cases – always approaching both the task and the client with an infectious enthusiasm.”

For his part, Albert is unassuming. “I enjoyed helping the Sailors and Marines and retirees,” he said. “I enjoyed working with the people in Pensacola – it kept me in touch with the Navy.”

Thank you, Captain Lawler, for your service as a destroyerman and a Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society volunteer.

The Society is grateful for each of our 4,000+ volunteers.
Read stories on our blog www.legacy.planwithnmcrs.org

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all around the world, including two years in Hawaii and four years in Okinawa. One time in Okinawa, he was snorkeling when a sea snake swam by. “They’re poisonous, and they can definitely ruin your day,” Bob said with a laugh. “Luckily, he just kept going.”

During his years as a Marine, Bob was always aware of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, and he’s always given annual gifts. One part of the Society’s work that he considers especially helpful is money management and financial planning. “Sometimes younger people don’t really know how to budget their money,” Bob said. “They say, ‘I can’t be overdrawn — I still have checks!’”

Although he’s never needed the Society’s help, he knows how important it is for the Society to be there. “There are always emergencies that come up,” he said. “We have to take care of our own.”

In addition to his annual gifts, Bob has decided to do even more. In a significant act of generosity, he named the Society as a beneficiary of his retirement account.

“I left that gift because of the positive work that the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society does,” Bob said. “They do good work. They help people.”

Doing good and helping people — now, that will be Bob’s legacy, too.

Thank you, Captain Lawler, for your service as a destroyerman and a Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society volunteer.

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Volunteer TODAY — www.nmcrs.org/helping
“Even though I'd been a Marine for a long time, I really didn’t have an appreciation for what the Society did until I went to work for them,” said retired Lieutenant Colonel Pete Hasser, former CFO for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. “I was amazed at the amount of financial assistance the Society provides to thousands of Marines and Sailors every year.”

Pete served for 22 years as a Marine Corps infantry officer before retiring and working as a certified public accountant for the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory for 18 years. Since retiring from the Society in 2011, he continues to demonstrate his commitment to supporting Marines and Sailors through donations from his USAA mutual fund account.

“As the CFO, I began to understand the Society’s finances and recognize how critical it was for active duty and retired Marines and Sailors to support the Society through their charitable donations,” Pete said. “That’s why it’s critical for people like me who are fortunate enough to be able to give generously, to do just that.”

Pete credits his wife, retired Vice Admiral Nancy Brown, with setting the example of donating to the Society. “As a Naval officer, I frequently had opportunities to refer Sailors who needed assistance to NMCRS,” Nancy said. “I always felt that NMCRS served a real purpose and was always supportive. I enjoyed supporting the work they did for Navy and Marine Corps service members. I supported the Society every year through the active duty fund drive, and even ran our local fund drive several times. I’ve also named the Society as a beneficiary in my will.”

NMCRS recently established an account with USAA so donors can transfer appreciated shares directly to NMCRS and receive a charitable deduction. “Making a direct transfer of mutual funds from USAA to NMCRS,” Pete said, “is a terrific and simple way to give.”

Enjoying retirement, VADM Nancy Brown, and Lt Col Peter Hesser, still find creative ways to support sailors, Marines and their families.