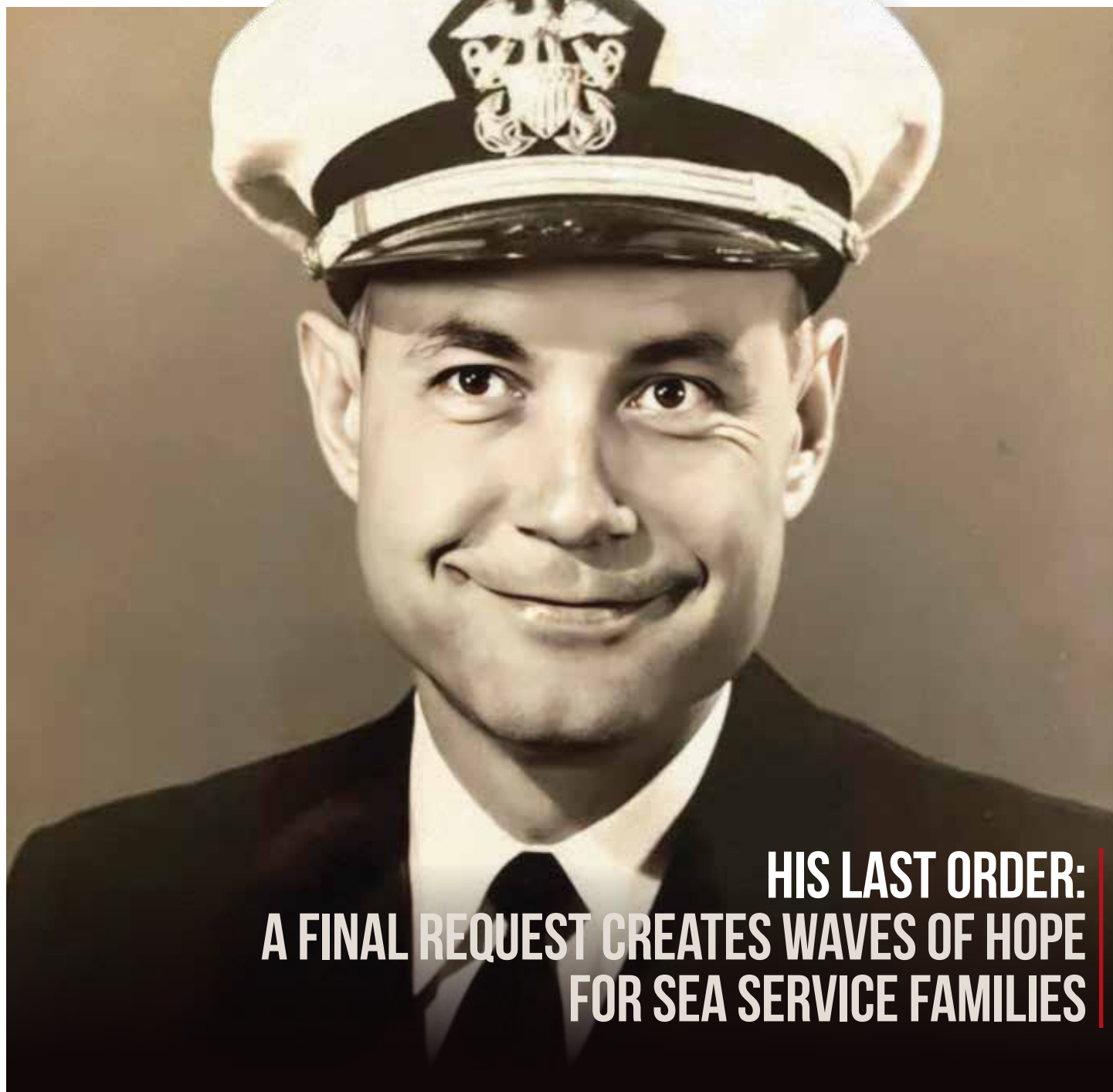




LEGACY[®]

NEWSLETTER

2024 Volume 1, Issue 41



**HIS LAST ORDER:
A FINAL REQUEST CREATES WAVES OF HOPE
FOR SEA SERVICE FAMILIES**

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR SAILORS, MARINES, AND THEIR FAMILIES

From the Signal Bridge



In January, the Society celebrated 120 years of being the official charity and trusted partner of Navy and Marine Corps leadership, playing a key role in keeping our sea services mission ready. Throughout our history, NMCRS has provided needs-based interest-free loans, grants, budget education and disaster relief. Thanks to your generous donations, in 2023 we

provided over \$50 million in financial assistance and relief, and more than 198,000 active duty and retired Sailors, Marines, and their families used our programs and services.

The top areas of assistance in 2023 remained consistent with previous years: basic living expenses, transportation/car repairs, and emergency travel/family emergencies. The paygrades receiving the most assistance were active duty E3-E5. Last year we also saw Typhoon Mawar devastate Guam, and the Society provided \$1.3M in immediate needs grants to over 3,000 Sailors, Marines, and their family members.

We strive to be a first resource for Sailors, Marines and their families in their time of need. The need may not be financial; it could be anything from saving money at one of over 30 NMCRS Thrift Shops to utilizing our Visiting Nurse Program. Read about Major Jim Capers, USMC (Ret), who, after 86 years, two wars, and a nomination for the Medal of Honor, looks forward to monthly visits from a local NMCRS visiting nurse. You will also learn about the amazing generosity of Captain Peter Swanson, USN (Ret) and his family. CAPT Swanson had a legacy of caring for others that he ensured would continue after he was gone.

Thank you for your commitment to the Sea Service community and to the Society's mission. We are humbled by the trust you place in us. As a "4 star" rated charity by Charity Navigator, and a "platinum" rating for transparency from Candid, the Society holds the highest possible ratings for financial responsibility and is committed to being a good steward of your generous donations.

Thank you for your continued support!

Semper Fidelis and very respectfully,



LTGEN ROBERT R. RUARK, USMC (RET.)

President and Chief Executive Officer

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Cover photo: Captain P.S. Swanson, USN (Ret.)

A Lifetime of Support, That Ended With One Final Gift

By James E. Brooks, LCDR, USN (Ret.)



Photo: Captain Peter S. Swanson

Captain Peter S. Swanson always looked at the bright side of things and found humor in everything around him. But if he is to be remembered for anything, it was for his love of the Navy, the enlisted men and women who serve in it, and his family's dedication to the sea service and its community.

"He was a huge advocate of caring for Sailors and their families," said his daughter Carrie Edwards.

In 1954, Lt. Swanson returned to his alma mater, the U.S. Naval Academy, to teach math. He was already a Naval Aviator, who survived Korean War deployments where he twice ditched his AD-1 "Skyraider" in Wonsan Harbor after being a target of North Korean anti-aircraft guns. Newly married, he and his wife DeEtte began their "Navy" family. Kathleen Swanson arrived first, followed by Carrie then Peter. Throughout his career, his family followed him from one duty station to another. They "saw" the world as Navy recruiters promised. But they also saw more than just beaches and attractions in tourist pamphlets.

"WE WILL NOT FORGET HOW THE SOCIETY'S PROGRAMS REALLY TOUCHED HIM AND MY MOM BECAUSE THEY PROVIDED ASSISTANCE WHERE NO OTHER ASSISTANCE EXISTED."

—Carrie Edwards

"Our father and mother would take us around to where the enlisted men and their families lived. There was a great disparity between the officers and enlisted housing, living conditions and pay. I think this disparity and the way society was treating the military during and after the Vietnam War really touched my father and mother," said Carrie.

According to Carrie, she thinks this is why her father had such an affinity for Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. If the Society's aims did not prioritize taking care of Sailors and their families, then he would find one that would.

"I know the NMCRS mission really touched him. He and my mother contributed to the Society regularly and he made sure we were aware. As we grew older and had families of our own, he made donations to NMCRS in our names as birthday and holiday gifts," said Carrie.

Capt. Swanson and DeEtte continued their love for the Navy in their "Golden Years" as they traveled to Europe, the Caribbean, and

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Photo: CAPT and Mrs. Swanson

(Continued from page 3)

enjoyed family time at the Outer Banks of North Carolina, Seattle WA, and Shenandoah National Park. Sadly, DeEtte died in 2015.

Before Capt. Swanson died last year, he left his children one last request in his will. It was no coincidence it was written on their mother's birthday. As part of their inheritance, he asked that "each of you donate in the vicinity of \$34,000 to my favorite charity, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, to make a total of \$100,000. Donate it in the name of Capt. Peter S. and DeEtte B. Swanson Family. Include that I was a member of the USNA Class of 1949."

On Dec. 12, 2023, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society received checks from Kathleen, Carrie and Peter as their father requested. It was also no coincidence that the checks were dated on Capt. Swanson's birthday.

"This family legacy is something we intend to carry on. It is something we've grown up with and we are raising our families with the same sense of community service and giving back," said Carrie.

The Swanson family \$100,000 donation, along with numerous other donations they have made throughout the years, provides NMCRS the ability to deliver programs and services that assist active duty and retired Sailors, Marines and their families in financial need.

"We will not forget how the Society's programs really touched him and my mom because they provided assistance where no other assistance existed," said Carrie.

Education Assistance



Photo: Kristin Martin

In a world of rising costs, college tuition is no exception. At the same time, military families experience unique challenges that make qualifying for academic funding more challenging. Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is proud to celebrate 60 years of Education Assistance in 2024, helping Sea Service families achieve their academic goals with less financial stress.

"This scholarship is more than financial assistance, it's a deeply appreciated investment in my future that will empower me to excel in my studies. Amidst multiple recent PCS moves, rising childcare costs, and rising housing costs, it has been hard to maintain a savings, let alone pay for textbooks, tuition, and other related expenses without taking out loans. The financial support provided by this scholarship will alleviate a degree of stress and enable a greater focus on my studies," said Kristin Martin, 2023 NMCRS Scholar, Creighton University student, and Navy Spouse of 17 years.

Kristin is one of 359 NMCRS Scholars who received a needs-based grant or interest-free loan for post-secondary education in 2023. Looking into 2024, MECEP/MECP students and children and spouses of active duty, retired, and qualifying deceased Sailor and Marines can apply for assistance during our open application season of March 1 through May 15, 2024. Applications can be found online at [HTTPS://NMCRS.SCHOLARSHIPAPPS.ORG](https://nmc.rs.scholarshipapps.org).



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

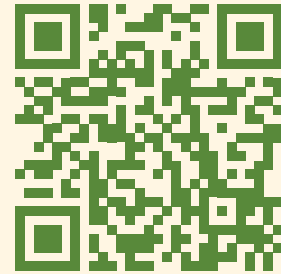
April 21-27, 2024

The Society is grateful for all of our volunteers!

WE LOVE OUR NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS!

Want to say
thank you
to a special nurse?

Share your story
of how an NMCRS Visiting
Nurse demonstrated
compassionate
care today!



Use your phone's camera to click on
the QR code and nominate a nurse
for the **DAISY Award!**

Nominations close March 15.



NAVY-MARINE CORPS
RELIEF SOCIETY®

SPRING INTO GIVING!

If you're done with your car, do something good with it.

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE TODAY
NMCRS.CAREASY.ORG

The process is easy, the pick-up is free, and your gift is tax-deductible

Ask a Marine About the NMCRS Visiting Nurse Program

By James E. Brooks, LCDR, USN (Ret).

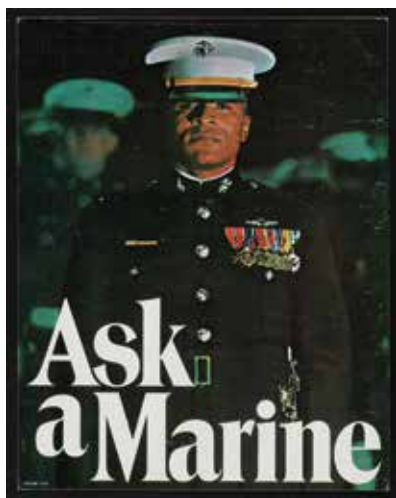


Photo: USMC Recruitment Poster

he led a specialized group of Force Recon Marines in 64 long-range reconnaissance patrols and five major campaigns, including a POW rescue mission ordered by President Johnson, amphibious assaults in the DMZ, recovery of a B-57 rumored to have a nuclear bomb, and search and destroy patrols in Phu Loc.

Today, he is a familiar face around Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, and other military reunion gatherings like those with his Marines in "Team Broadminded" during the Vietnam War. In 2015, after living alone since the loss of both his wife and son in 2003, he needed help managing his health. A hospital social worker referred him to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society's Visiting Nurse Program. Capers said he was familiar with the Society's emergency loan programs, to whom he referred many Marines under his command when they needed help, but not the nurse program. He accepted the help. Since then, a visiting registered nurse has come monthly to see him with her compassion and professional knowledge.

"The nurses have been a godsend. If it weren't for them, I'd be sitting alone by myself." said Capers.

If you ever wanted to know about the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society's Visiting Nurse Program, ask a Marine; more specifically, retired Major Jim Capers, USMC.

Capers' career and commendations are legendary within the Marine Corps and Special Warfare communities.

Following a battlefield commission in Vietnam,

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Visiting Nurse Program has 21 registered nurses operating from 20 Navy and Marine Corps bases worldwide. In 2023 alone, the nurses had 12,000 patient contacts both face-to-face and virtually. The hallmark of the program are home visits where nurses can educate both patients and their families on available, local resources.

"Health education is where we spend most of our time. We provide prenatal education, postpartum concerns, breastfeeding or other infant feeding instruction, and a great deal of newborn and pediatric help for our active duty military families," said Director of the Visiting Nurse Program Rosemary Perdue, MSN, RN. "For our retired service members like Major Capers, we help keep an eye out for health issues that come with aging: diabetes, hypertension, and congestive heart failure. The nurses will look for safety hazards of our at-home patients and review their medication with them. Our nurses also demonstrate and teach self-care of dressing changes, injections, glucose monitoring, and how to use common machines like a nebulizer, CPAP machine, and metered-dose inhalers."



Photo: Mr. William Strand, Natatia DePaoli, RN, and Maj Capers

THE RELATIONSHIP AND TRUST BETWEEN PATIENT AND NURSE IS AS SPECIAL FOR CAPERS AS IT IS FOR DEPAOLI.

Registered Nurse Natatia DePaoli joined the Visiting Nurse Program in Naples, Italy, in 2014. As an overseas Navy spouse, the part-time position with the Society allowed her to keep her nursing skills up-to-date while raising a family. She moved with her family to Jacksonville, NC, where she continued working with the Visiting Nurse Program. It was there that she first met Major Capers eight years ago. She looks forward to each monthly visit with him.

"I love the home visits with Major Capers and my other patients. I enjoy being one-on-one with them and not being 'on the clock' like at other hospitals or clinics. I get the chance to listen to them and help them out. I especially like visiting with retired Sailors and Marines like Major Capers. These patients are dearer to my heart. They need extra time to understand some of the health instructions I provide. I do safety assessments to find potential problems in their home, like rugs that can be a fall hazard or areas where a support rail can be helpful," said DePaoli.

The relationship and trust between patient and nurse is as special for Capers as it is for DePaoli.

"I'm so proud of her and what she does for our Sailors and Marines. She's like a daughter to me. She's quick to remind me when I'm not doing the right thing. I'm lucky to be at my age and have someone

who is honest and will help me. It's good to just have someone like Natatia to talk to."

After 86 years, two wars, a nomination for the Medal of Honor, a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars and Combat V, three Purple Hearts, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Major Jim Capers still encourages young men and women to join the Marines just as his image did on recruiting posters more than 50 years ago. But once a month, he is the one who will receive encouragement and guidance for his own health and happiness by the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Visiting Nurse Program. Nurse Natatia DePaoli, one of 21 dedicated registered nurses in the program will see to that.

More information about the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Visiting Nurse Program can be found at:

[HTTPS://WWW.NMCRRS.ORG/OUR-SERVICES/VISITING-NURSES.](https://www.nmcrrs.org/our-services/visiting-nurses)



Photo: Maj Capers and NMCRRS visiting Nurse Natatia DePaoli

IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

HOW DID NMCRRS HELP YOU TODAY AND WHAT IMPACT DOES THIS HAVE ON YOUR LIFE?

"My husband was a Navy Chaplain for 26 years. During that time he sent many a Sailor or Marine in need of help financially to Navy Relief. During the Afghanistan war, I remember a young Marine Sergeant heading back to his office. 20 minutes later he returned, tears streaming down his face. My husband told me that his grandmother lived in a small trailer and had no money for the rest of the month. She was 66 and in poor health. My husband referred him to Navy Relief. The next Sunday the Sergeant was back to his military self. What a difference you make."

—GW, Navy Spouse

THINKING ABOUT SUPPLEMENTING YOUR RETIREMENT INCOME?

A charitable gift annuity with Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society can provide you with a lifetime income and tax savings while making a difference for Sea Service families.

A charitable gift annuity may be right for you if:

- ★ You wish to make a generous gift of \$10,000 or more to NMCRS.
- ★ You are at least 65 years of age.
- ★ You want to maintain or increase your cash flow.
- ★ You want the security of fixed, dependable payments for life.
- ★ You want to save income taxes or capital gains taxes.
- ★ You would like income that is partially tax-free.

NMCRS Development team is happy to provide you with a no-obligation, personalized illustration of your payment rate, annual payment and tax savings. To learn more, contact us at **(800) 654-8364** or **GIVING@NMCRS.ORG**.



“As a retired Navy Nurse, I know first-hand how much our dedicated Naval and Marine Corps personnel sacrificed to keep this country free. Because of their unselfish commitment to our country, I wanted to give back as my way of showing respect and gratitude for all they have done for us.”

– CDR Doris MacClelland, NC, USN (Ret.) and CGA donor

NMCRS does not receive any government funds, we operate entirely on private donations. Thank you for your support!

To explore ways you can support Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, please contact NMCRS Development Department at giving@nmcrs.org or (800) 654-8364.



**NAVY-MARINE CORPS
RELIEF SOCIETY®**

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MARK YOUR 2024 CALENDARS!

**01
MARCH**

Applications for education assistance opens

**01
MARCH**

ADFD to benefit NMCRS kicks off!

**15
MARCH**

Daisy Award nominations close

**16
MARCH**

NMCRS Ball

**08-10
APRIL**

NMCRS at Sea-Air-Space Expo

**21-27
APRIL**

National Volunteer Appreciation Week

**30-02
APRIL-MAY**

NMCRS at Modern Day Marine

**15
MAY**

Applications for education assistance closes

Platinum
Transparency
2024

Candid.

Charity
Navigator



★ FOUR-STAR ★

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society does not provide legal or tax advisory services. Work with your attorney and financial advisor to plan charitable arrangements that work best for you and your estate. The information contained herein is intended solely for general informational purposes.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR SAILORS, MARINES, AND THEIR FAMILIES