

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 23, 2015

Contact: Elle Thomas

Phone: 703-538-3069

Email: [daniellet@vinsonhall.org](mailto:daniellet@vinsonhall.org)

McLean, Virginia- On Thursday, January 22 at 2 p.m., Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation (NMCGRF) and Vinson Hall Retirement Community (VHRC) in McLean, VA joined with guest speaker and Fairfax County Board Supervisor John Foust, Chairman of the Board Vice Admiral John Cotton, CEO Admiral Kathy Martin, and local armed services veterans in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Independent Living apartment building and Community Building. The additions to VHRC add 75 new apartments and 12 new short-term rehabilitation suites to the Continuing Care Retirement Community.

The ribbon cutting ceremony culminated nearly a decade of designing and planning. Board members and administration came together in May 2012 to break ground on the new addition sites which would continue under construction until the late fall of 2014. The original VHRC campus, established in 1969, includes Vinson Hall Independent Living apartments, Arleigh Burke Pavilion Assisted Living and Health Care, and The Sylvestery memory support assisted living. Together, the new \$42 million Independent Living building and \$14 million Community Building add 268,000 square feet to McLean's premier retirement community.

Within the first two month of planning, 75 percent of the apartments were reserved. Just five months later, before even a shovel was put into the ground, 100 percent of the building was pre-reserved with a growing waitlist. As a community of veterans and government officials, the VHRC Independent Living apartments are open to commissioned military officers and their immediate family members from all U.S. Uniformed Services, and government employees of equal rank from select government agencies. Residents of the new Independent Living building include several retired generals, three former ambassadors, CIA officials, and a published author. The building's new residents add to VHRC's already rich history of government service.

Admiral Martin, CEO and executive director of VHRC remarked on how this process has changed the community: "People used to tell me that they did not know anything about Vinson Hall Retirement Community or even where it was located– not any more. I believe we have very nicely placed ourselves on the map and with an excellent reputation. I attribute this to our many partners, the leadership of an excellent Board, the professionalism of many talented staff members, and an awesome community of residents."

Standing five stories tall, the Independent Living apartment building offers sweeping views of the uninterrupted McLean skyline. All 75 apartments offer 9-foot ceilings, gourmet kitchens, and screened-in porches. Many upper level apartments offer 14-foot domed ceilings and balconies. The new apartment homes range in size from 1,200 to 2,150 square feet and include floor plans from one to three bedrooms. The Independent Living apartment building includes indoor access to other buildings within the community.

Drew H. Kepley, senior vice president of SFCS Inc., an architectural firm, worked closely with VHRC's leadership to design the buildings with the community's military sea service heritage in mind. "We thought about the VHRC's motto of Dignity, Security, and Friendship as we designed the new buildings. We tried to convey those values in the new structures. We also studied Carl Vinson, VH's namesake, and VH's relationship with the US Navy, Marines and other service branches and relate the structures in some way. For instance, the round windows make reference to the naval connections."

Situated in the middle of VHRC's campus is the new four story high Community Building. Inside the first floor of the Community Building is a state-of-the-art short-term rehabilitation unit that holds 12 private suites outfitted with European showers, leading age equipment, and modern finishes. The new unit also houses a country-kitchen as well as a reading room, and a spacious physical therapy area is located on the ground floor. The second floor holds executive offices, a reading room, convenience store, beauty salon, and a bistro. The Bistro features a full-service bar and updated menu influenced from DC's hottest trending restaurants. The grand ballroom is located on the top floor of the and inside the French doors of the ballroom is a stage and floor for concerts and performances and which can hold up to 550 people. This Community Building is the centerpiece of the campus and will bring together all the different levels of care within VHRC through events and performances

Particular care was given when decorating and furnishing the Community Building's and Independent Living Building's public areas. Senior Director of The M Group Karen Lewis kept residents convenience in the foreground of the design. "The M Group worked closely with the architectural firm, SFCS, and the VHRC team on the finish palette that was established so that the furnishings, fabrics, window treatments, signage, and artwork were a complement to the new construction as well as the existing facility. Artwork includes a few resident pieces that were matted and framed to match the other art selections and a special collection of military art can be found in the halls of the new Independent Living Building. Color is an important factor in wayfinding, thus the Independent Living Building has a different color scheme than the Community Building but with common colors that tie the two facilities together and also relates back to the

existing facility. Furniture and fabrics were selected for function and performance while maintaining the elegant aesthetic...as well as be comfortable for the population that is using it.”

With the gorgeous and convenient McLean location, VHRC’s beautiful campus will remain green as the additions undergo LEED “green” certifications. Both buildings have green roofs that include grassy areas which insulate and filter stormwater. The sleek new designs pay tribute to the classic design of the campus and capture the strong military history of many of the community’s residents.

Vinson Hall Retirement Community is a not-for-profit Continuing Care Retirement Community supported by Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation. Located on 20 pastoral acres in Northern Virginia, we’re just minutes from countless Washington, D.C.-area attractions. Our active, vibrant community features independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing, and memory care which allow our residents and their family members to enjoy peace of mind knowing that our continuum of care can accommodate changing needs.