



The Friends Focus! Fall 2022 Newsletter



Hometown Heroes Gen. Michael V. Hayden and Jeanine Carrier Hayden Join Capital Campaign Team as Honorary Co-Chairs!

As Pittsburghers, you all know that Pittsburgh roots run deep. You never really leave the 'Burgh, you take it with you wherever you go!

At Friends of the Pittsburgh Fisher House, we've learned that these strong connections ring true in our diverse and far-reaching band of friends and supporters from all places! Recently we connected with a hometown hero when we had lunch in Northern Virginia with General Michael V. Hayden USAF (Ret.) and his wife Jeanine Carrier Hayden.

You might know the story of General and Mrs. Hayden but in case you don't, their resumes include an impressive array of achievements and service. General Hayden, a retired four-star general, was formerly Director of the National Security Agency (NSA), Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence, and Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). He was born and raised in Pittsburgh and is an alumnus of North Catholic High School and Duquesne University. Prior to his impressive military career, one of his first jobs was as a water boy for the Pittsburgh Steelers! He remains true to the Black and Gold and still attends Steelers games when he is in town! In 2008, in his native Northside neighborhood, the city of Pittsburgh named a part of a street going past Acrisure Stadium in his honor. Jeanine Carrier Hayden is a devoted military spouse, mother of three, and yet still found time to make her mark as an advocate of active duty families by her long-time leadership on the board of governors of the National Military Family Association and as a contributing writer for the Cipher Brief, a media outlet focused exclusively on bringing you a higher level of confidence around national security events via news, analysis, and interviews with government and private sector leaders.

The Haydens are strong believers in taking care of our military veterans and their families! They know that the care and support families receive at the Fisher House helps in healing and recovery. With this in mind, they eagerly offered to support "Helping Heroes Heal" our Capital Campaign to build the second Pittsburgh Fisher House. **As Honorary Co-Chairs of the campaign committee, they are spreading the word about the new house and making connections with Pittsburghers who have a heart for veterans! We are happy to have their help.** Our hometown heroes like General and Mrs. Hayden, whether you live near or far, really highlight the deep ties to Pittsburgh. No matter your connection to this great city, Pittsburghers should be proud to work together to build a second Pittsburgh Fisher House that will accommodate more military families and will improve the lives of veterans who serve our country. **Thank you to General and Mrs. Hayden for leading the way!**

We're Better Together
Support the Capital Campaign



You Can Help Families -- Donate a Gift Card!

It's already time for back-to-school shopping and the holidays aren't far behind! You may have already seen decorations popping up in your local stores! **This holiday season, won't you please consider donating one or more gift cards to support our guests and operations at the Pittsburgh Fisher House?** Each year, families who are staying at the Fisher House during the holidays are given gift cards to assist with expenses and to cover items they may have forgotten or need to replenish during their stay. The Fisher House also uses gift cards to purchase seasonal items or assist with the special needs of our guests. The cards are a tremendous convenience and truly help in a time of need. The most useful gift cards for families and the Fisher House are:

Visa Walmart Target Giant Eagle

Your gift card contribution is fully tax deductible. When mailing gift cards, please include your email and full contact information so we can send you a receipt. Cards in denominations between \$25 - \$100 are most useful and can be mailed to:

**Fisher House Manager
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
Pittsburgh Fisher House**

University Drive, Building 33

Pittsburgh, PA 15240

If you have any questions or need more information, please call 412-360-2030.



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Pittsburghers Travel to Support Warrior Games

The Warrior Games are an annual paralympic style sporting competition that celebrates the resiliency and dedication of wounded, ill, and injured active duty and veteran service members. The Games bring together hundreds of elite warrior athletes and their families from all branches of the military and from around the world in the hopes of inspiring resiliency and recovery through adaptive sports. **Since 2012, Fisher House Foundation has sponsored the Warrior Games Family Program to enable families to be with their service member or veteran to cheer them on and celebrate with them at the games.**

[2022 Warrior Games | August 2022 \(dodwarriorgames.com\)](https://www.dodwarriorgames.com)

This year, Dr. Rory Cooper, Honorary Co-Chair of the Friends of the Pittsburgh Fisher House Capital Campaign, and Tessa Paivanas, Assistant Manager at the Pittsburgh Fisher House, both had the honor of attending the 2022 Warrior Games at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando in August!

Dr. Cooper, a paralyzed Army Veteran, bioengineer, inventor, and paralympic athlete, understands the healing power of physical activity and camaraderie in the recovery process. He knows that the love and encouragement of family and friends also plays a vital role. That's why Dr. Cooper took time from his packed schedule as the Founder and Director of the University of Pittsburgh's Human Engineering Resource

Laboratory (one among many of his leadership positions at Pitt, Carnegie Mellon and across the country) to cheer on the athletes, hand out medals and encourage families.

[Rory A. Cooper | Human Engineering Research Laboratories | University of Pittsburgh](#)

Tessa Paivanas is a shining star in hospitality at the Pittsburgh Fisher House! You can bet she took this winning attitude with her to the Warrior Games where she provided special staff assistance for Fisher House Foundation's Family Program.

The Friends of the Pittsburgh Fisher House (and your donations!) made this trip possible for Tessa. Whether she's representing Fisher House at the Warrior Games or welcoming families at the Fisher House here in Pittsburgh, you know Tessa is making a positive impact helping veteran families! *"The gratitude expressed by the families and athletes at the Fisher House Hospitality Suite was overwhelming. They were appreciative of a place to spend time together between competitions— not having to worry about their next meal or how to entertain their kids.*

Many of the athletes and their families stayed at one of the Fisher Houses during the Veteran's recovery journey. They often shared their stories and how incredibly thankful they were for the care and support they and their families received. It was truly inspirational to see how far these athletes and families have come on their journey."

The Warrior Games were an incredible experience. I am so grateful to have been a part of something that promotes resiliency, recovery, and companionship for warrior athletes and their families.

[Family Services - Warrior Games Family Program](#)

Your donations to the Friends of the Pittsburgh Fisher House help fund initiatives like Tessa's trip to the Warrior Games that benefit veterans and their

families throughout their healing process.

[Ways for You to Give and Get Involved](#)



**THANK YOU
for HELPING HEROES HEAL!**

Thank you to all our donors and friends! You may never meet the veteran families you support, but you are changing their lives. Remember we have online giving and convenient monthly giving options for you!

Ways You Can Help Heroes Heal....

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You Can **CLICK HERE** to Give and Get Involved!



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