



The Campus Voice

February 12, 2021

Videos Offer a Way to Be Where the People Are

In the almost 11 months since Chaplain Scott Harrison has been recording videos that play every Thursday on Channel 970, he has touched on a broad variety of subjects. In their own way, the videos take the place of events that would have been accompanied by a community gathering – including holidays that have occurred without the usual celebrations or memorial segments for those who have passed away.

“I try to keep the videos from being too religious,” says Scott. “I keep it pretty basic so anyone could watch it without feeling like they are being preached to. I don’t want to be patronizing, especially since the audience is between the ages of 75 and 104. They’ve heard a lot of sermons and homilies. I try to keep it encouraging and uplifting. I try to keep it upbeat.”

These videos very much reflect Scott’s personal views on faith, spirituality, and community. After earning his master’s of divinity from the seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina, Scott served as an associate minister for several years. He eventually left the service of the church to serve in community-based non-profits. After 15 years of this work in Richmond and in Washington, D.C., Scott took a closer look at what he wanted from his career.

He then began on a path that included earning certification in clinical pastoral education through Washington Hospital Center, where he served as a chaplain.



When not in the middle of a pandemic, Scott Harrison loves to travel and take photos. Above is a photo of Scott from a trip to Scotland in September 2018.

Then he heard of an opening for a chaplain at VHRC. During his interview here nearly 14 years ago, he was asked what his agenda would be. He recalls that his response to this unexpected question was, “If I had an agenda it would be to be wherever the people are. It’s all about the people who live here.”

Being where the people are – amid this year of loss – is where Scott hopes the videos can also be. As Scott said in his first video, we are “communal, we are tribal, we need to be in touch with those we love.” Scott hopes that the videos have helped remind us that we are in this together.

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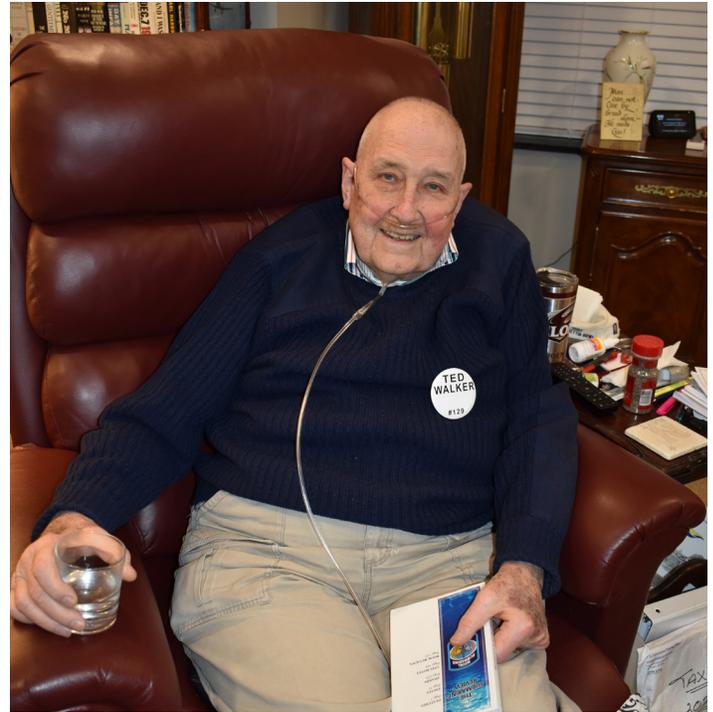
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Call of the Sea

For Ted Walker, Navy life started at birth. Born in Annapolis while his father was at the Naval Postgraduate School, Ted moved to Hawaii at age eight in 1941 after his father got orders to become operations deputy, submarines, U.S. Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor. "I was home raking leaves when the bombing began," says Ted of that infamous day. "I climbed the roof and could see the guys in the planes when the second wave came over, they were flying so low!" The family returned to Annapolis for Ted's high school years, where he met his wife at a party. "My friend said, 'Go dance with Carol Ann.' I did, and I never danced with anyone else again for the rest of my life. We had a wonderful 48 years together."

Ted attended the Naval Academy and was sworn in with George Zeberlein, VHRC resident and a lifetime friend. Both men ended up living next door to each other as supply officers in Panama with their families. "My two girls will tell you, we're closer with the Zebbies than with most members of our own family." Then came the orders "that changed my whole life," says Ted, who was sent to Spain to open the first submarine base in Europe. "The submarine force was just coming out of hiding to say, 'Hey, we're a force to be reckoned with.' With 80 percent of our nuclear deterrent in our submarines, suddenly they were the number one weapon in the U.S."

Ted's Navy path continued to take him on quite a journey – including to the Pentagon, supply officer of a sub tender



and two squadrons, Chief of Naval Operations staff where he helped create the first submarine branch, and finally becoming the 35th Chief of Supply Corps. After retiring as rear admiral in 1988, VHRC became his new base. He has served 32 years on the Board, and is happy to live down the hall now from his old friend George – "we go back 71 years!" Still, the sea calls, and whenever possible he slips away to his yacht near Annapolis. "It's my Boca Raton condo!" says Ted, who loves being back on the water. "It just feels like home."

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This publication is created for Vinson Hall Retirement Community in an effort to inform and delight. This publication is produced by the Office of Philanthropy and Engagement, but attempts to reflect the work and efforts of all VHRC residents and staff. Please direct inquiries, corrections, suggestions, or brief submissions to Amiee Freeman, Communications and Public Relations Specialist, amieef@vinsonhall.org or 703-538-3069.