

SPRING
2026

Gift Planning

C O N N E C T I O N S

INSPIRING AND CREATING A LASTING IMPACT FOR MARY WASHINGTON'S FUTURE

Taking Flight

Alumna's veterans scholarship gives former airman his wings

As a teenager, **Evan Fletcher '26** spent a summer working for the University of Mary Washington facilities department. Doing construction alongside a UMW student majoring in biology helped him begin laying building blocks for his own future.

"Hearing him talk about scientific breakthroughs sparked an interest in me to pursue this field of study," Evan said.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army right after high school, becoming a helicopter pilot. But he never forgot the conversations he had with his construction crew co-worker at UMW. Eventually, Evan was medically discharged and returned home to Spotsylvania and Mary Washington, this time as a student.

Now a biology major himself, Evan is grateful for the generous donors who established the Roland J. and Frances Holsclaw Brown; Thomas Lee Johnson, Ph.D.; and Biology scholarships. He's also the first-ever recipient of the Col. Patricia Hess Jernigan '64 Veterans Scholarship, created by an alumna who passed away in January.

"I'm sorry we never had the chance to meet, but Col. Jernigan made a tremendous impact on my life," said Evan, who was, coincidentally, stationed in his donor's hometown of Fort Campbell, Kentucky, during his service.



Evan Fletcher '26

Evan has enjoyed learning from UMW professors like Andrew Dolby—he's conducting field research with him on the rapid urbanization effects on downy woodpecker populations this spring—and providing a student perspective on the Bachelor of Liberal Studies committee.

He also connects with fellow service members in the Veteran's Resource Center on the first floor of the Cedric Rucker University Center. "It's a big blessing for the campus," he said.

With his military experience and biology background—and the security and conflict studies minor he recently added—Evan hopes to work for the federal government, preventing biological warfare or embarking on a career in conservation biology. Wherever he lands, he'll remain thankful for the private support that made his UMW education possible.

"College would not have been a reality for me without the donors who've given back," Evan said. "In the future, I hope I'll be able to make similar donations to help veteran students like me."

For information about supporting student success through scholarships now and through your estate plans, contact Jeremy Vaughn by email at jvaughn@umw.edu or call 540-654-2063.





A Spring Legacy Tune-Up: five quick checks worth doing now

Spring has a way of nudging us toward fresh starts—clearing closets, opening windows, and getting life a little more in order. It’s also a perfect season for a light “legacy clean-up.” These small updates can spare your family confusion and ensure your philanthropic intentions are honored.

Here are five actions that typically take less than 30 minutes. Small updates—done regularly—tend to prevent the biggest headaches later on.

- 1. Review your beneficiary designations.** Retirement accounts and life insurance pass by beneficiary form—not your will—so take a moment to be sure the names, percentages, and backup heirs (who can receive your assets if loved ones cannot) still reflect your wishes.
- 2. Revisit your “who and why.”** Life changes—marriage, divorce, a new grandchild, a move, or a cause that’s become especially meaningful. Make sure your plans still reflect what matters most to you.
- 3. Update decision-makers.** Are your executor, powers of attorney, and healthcare agent still the right people for the job? Be sure they know where to find important documents when they’re needed.

4. Create a “legacy file.” One page is enough: your key contacts, a list of accounts, where passwords are stored, and any notes about your intentions. Even a simple checklist can be a gift to those who may one day need to help.

5. If you’ve included Mary Washington in your estate plans, please let us know. Sharing your plans allows us to honor your generosity and welcome you into our Heritage Society—there’s no minimum gift, only our sincere gratitude.

At Mary Washington, Heritage Society members receive a pin, invitations to special events throughout the year, and more—so your spring tune-up can also keep you connected to the people and programs you care about.

Article written by Executive Director of Gift Planning and Major Gifts Jeremy Vaughn '08

Visit our website to learn more about estate planning or contact Jeremy Vaughn by email at jvaughn@umw.edu or call 540-654-2063.

In Support of Service

Alumna's military roots inspire scholarship for service members and their families

Sallie Galloway Gill '65 knows the sacrifices military families make in service to their country.

On the night she was born, her father sailed for North Africa during World War II and didn't return until she was 3. Her brother was a decorated U.S. Army lieutenant killed in Vietnam. And her husband spent over three decades in the Marine Corps Reserve.

"A life in the military is honorable and good, but it puts strains and stresses on families that most people will never know, experience, or understand," said Sallie, who earned a bachelor's degree in history from Mary Washington.



George Gill, Sallie Galloway Gill '65, and their scholarship recipient, Jarad Ponce '24, at the 2024 Scholarship Luncheon. Photo by K Pearlman Photography.

"Our goal is to help future generations by supporting young people in the way others once supported us."

Both Sallie and husband George relied on private support to attend college, inspiring them to create the Carrie S. and Arthur L. Galloway Scholarship at the University of Mary Washington. Their generous gifts—including recognizing UMW in their estate plans—have supported numerous students from military families, veterans, and current service members earning their degrees.

"We wanted to honor my parents and family by helping others who've chosen to serve their country," said Sallie, the first-ever recipient of the Lt. Gen. Albert J. Bowley Scholarship at Mary Washington. "George and I were both raised in homes where finances were tight, but love, guidance, and a desire for us to succeed were abundant."

As a child, Sallie's family moved across the U.S., Taiwan, and Germany. Everywhere they went, her parents encouraged their children to learn about languages, history, and people.

At Mary Washington, faculty members like Myra Irby, Donald Glover, and Samuel T. Emory "opened up new worlds for those of us lucky to learn from them," Sallie said. She furthered her love of history while working at the James Monroe Museum and Memorial Library as part of the Bowley Scholarship.

After graduation, Sallie taught high school geography in her hometown of Newport News, Virginia, and soon met George, stationed in Yorktown. They married a year later and moved across the country, eventually settling outside of Chicago.

The couple returned to her alma mater two years ago to attend the spring Scholarship Luncheon and Student Showcase, where they met their recipient, Jarad Ponce '24, a veteran who is now an early venture consultant with UMW's Small Business Development Center.

"George and I were delighted our scholarship was helping someone so deserving and willing to work hard to achieve his ambitions," Sallie said. "Our goal is to help future generations by supporting young people in the way others once supported us."

For more information about estate planning contact Jeremy Vaughn by email at jvaughn@umw.edu or call 540-654-2063.

Opportunities



A Message from President Troy D. Paino

Dear Alumni and Friends:

Spring is such a special season at the University of Mary Washington. The air is filled with energy and excitement as we celebrate our UMW men's basketball team winning its first-ever national championship, beloved traditions like the 100th anniversary of Devil-Goat Day, and, of course, Commencement. I also recently enjoyed the Scholarship Luncheon and Student Showcase, where we witnessed the impact of your generosity firsthand and learned how you've made a UMW education a reality for so many students.

Soon, each new graduate of the Class of 2026 will begin a bright future shaped and supported by your belief in them and by your thoughtful investments in Mary Washington. One example is Evan Fletcher '26, a veteran majoring in biology

and preparing for a future career of continued service to his country, thanks to a scholarship created by the late Col. Patricia Hess Jernigan '64. Likewise, Sallie Galloway Gill '65 and her husband, George, have given back to her alma mater, establishing a scholarship to ensure that those who have served our nation and their families have access to a transformative education at UMW. I hope you feel inspired by their stories.

Thank you for remaining forever true to our students and to Mary Washington.

A Life of Learning

As a Mary Washington student, **Carolyn Eldred '66** discovered a love of the liberal arts and a nurturing environment for inquiry and learning that continued throughout her entire life.

After earning a bachelor's degree in psychology, Carolyn pursued a master's degree and a Ph.D. in the field. She then spent 35 years as an applied research psychologist, surveying underserved populations, exploring interventions, and conducting research to help design and administer social programs. She later helped facilitate Mary Washington ElderStudy, an organization focused on fostering lifelong learning among local retirees.

Carolyn, who passed away on May 14, 2025, recognized her alma mater in her estate plans, establishing the Carolyn Anne Eldred '66 Scholarship for psychology students and an endowed internship for theatre majors, also in her name. These awards will ensure that future generations of students benefit from a UMW education throughout their lives, just as she did.



Carolyn Eldred '66

Learn more about establishing scholarships. Visit our estate planning website or contact Executive Director of Gift Planning and Major Gifts Jeremy Vaughn '08 by email at jvaughn@umw.edu or call 540-654-2063.

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