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PRESS RELEASE

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**Freedoms Foundation Presents Philadelphia Philanthropists
with Distinguished Citizen Award
Robert and Penny Fox Honored for Civic Contributions**

VALLEY FORGE, PA- APRIL 24, 2017- Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge presents *An Evening with Freedoms Foundation: Celebrating Teachers, Character, and the Medal of Honor*. It will take place on April 27th at 6:00 PM in the Freedoms Foundation Galleria. The annual event recognizes the contributions of teachers, civic leaders and Medal of Honor Recipients while raising funds for 2017 graduate program scholarships.

Philadelphia entrepreneurs and philanthropists, Robert and Penny Fox will be presented with Freedoms Foundation's *Distinguished Citizen Award*. Since 1952, this prestigious award has been presented to those individuals and organizations that reflect the best of the American Spirit and cherish the highest standards of civic virtue. Mr. and Mrs. Fox are being recognized for their many contributions, namely their endowment of the Fox Leadership Program at The University of Pennsylvania, The Wistar Institute, and their many positive economic contributions through RAF Industries.

Michael Di Yeso, president and CEO of Freedoms Foundation stated, "The Fox Leadership Program encourages students to find their passions, put people first, and succeed the right way. These pursuits are closely aligned with the mission of the Freedoms Foundation that challenges young people to become engaged citizens and undertake leadership roles in their communities."

Four Medal of Honor Recipients – Major General Patrick Brady (Vietnam), Captain Thomas Kelley (Vietnam), Colonel Walter Marm, Jr. (Vietnam), and Senior Chief Special Warfare Operator Edward C. Byers, Jr. (Afghanistan) will appear as special guests of Freedoms Foundation in support of an ongoing partnership between the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and Freedoms Foundation to promote character development. The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force

which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States.

Freedoms Foundation's 2017 teacher scholarships provide recipients with summer graduate-level professional development. These programs focus on American history, character development, and civic education. The goal is to support teacher curricula that foster citizen engagement among young people. Jason Raia, vice president of education, stated, "The money raised from this event will help us to host 350 teachers, and through them, reach as many as 35,000 students in the next school year. That is a significant impact in extending the Freedoms Foundation mission."

Keynote for the evening is 2016 VFW Teacher of the Year Will Ellery, an American history teacher who has been recognized for studying the sacrifices of America's veterans, from the founding of the Republic to the present and integrating the lessons they provide into his instruction. His efforts have resulted in numerous awards from major universities and veteran organizations.

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About the Freedoms Foundation

Freedoms Foundation is a national nonprofit organization located in Valley Forge, PA. Its mission is to educate about American rights and responsibilities, honor acts of civic virtue, and challenge all to reject apathy and get involved. It has over 25 chapters throughout the United States that support this mission through local programs and fundraising efforts. To learn more about Freedoms Foundation, visit www.freedomsfoundation.org.

