

Dear Chapter Presidents and Representatives,

I am so excited to report that we have teachers on campus! We are currently wrapping up our first in person program since March 2020. It has been a very successful week with 34 teachers participating in Medal of Honor Legacy: Vietnam. The staff is just thrilled to have life on campus again, and we are looking forward to a busy summer.

Just in time to help with the summer rush, we are happy to welcome Katelin (Kate) McAndrew to the FFVF Team as Associate Director of Education. Kate is a 2015 graduate of Penn State University, earning degrees in Secondary Education, focus Civics and Government (B.S.), Political Science (B.A.), and History. She has taught for the New York City Department of Education in a small public school in the Bronx, New York, before coming to teach in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In this time, she started coursework for her Master's degree in the Teaching of Social Studies at Teachers College at Columbia University, where she will be graduating this year. Kate is excited to join the dedicated team at Freedoms Foundation where she can tie together her loves of civics education, history, and political science to curate learning experiences for all who access the Foundation's vast resources. You can reach Kate at [kmcandrew@ffvf.org](mailto:kmcandrew@ffvf.org) or at ext. 221. Welcome Kate!

This week is officially 90 days until our 2021 Gala scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup>. We launched our promotional campaign as part of the 90 day mark with a Constant Contact email, a website update, and some social media posts all featuring the save the date card. We also announced our 2021 honorees of the Distinguished Citizen Award - William P. Benac, Sr. of the DFW Alliance for Religious Freedom, Ala Stanford, MD, of the Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium, and The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation. [To learn more about our recipients, visit our website.](#)

As part of this year's gala, we will once again be running a silent auction. This year we are looking to make the auction a true national event with not only participants from across the country but items from different areas as well. We would love to have our chapters participate by donating an item to the auction as well as bidding. Our Los Angeles County Chapter members step up each year with some amazing items. Jacquelyn Heebner donates chocolate covered wine and Diane Deshong sends us wonderful recycled flip flop animal sculptures from Sunnylands. The possibilities for auction items are endless. You can send an item representing your area of the country like a cowboy hat from Texas or a basket of tea from New England. If you have something you would like to donate to the auction or just want to run a few ideas by us, please contact Collin McClain at [cmccclain@ffvf.org](mailto:cmccclain@ffvf.org). He will be happy to assist you.

We are putting the final touches on our Summer E-newsletter. If you have an event you wish to highlight, please send in a small write-up and picture so that we may include it in this upcoming edition. Please send submissions by July 1st to [csantangelo@ffvf.org](mailto:csantangelo@ffvf.org).

Finally, in celebration of the return to programs, we would like to share a clip from this week's Medal of Honor presentation. We were honored to have Medal of Honor Recipient Sammy Davis on campus to speak with the teachers. Sgt. Davis received his Medal for his actions during the Vietnam War. In this clip, he shares with the teachers the story of how he learned a new talent while in Vietnam. Please enjoy!

[Army Sergeant Sammy L. Davis Video](#)

Thank you again for all you do for Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. Let us know how we can be of service to you and your chapter.

Be safe, stay healthy, keep cool, and enjoy the summer!

*Carolyn E. Santangelo*

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