



Dear Chapter Presidents and Representatives,

The summer season has drawn to a close on campus. We had a very successful summer season with 6 graduate teacher programs and 3 student programs. We are turning attention now to a busy fall with our annual gala, board meeting, three Spirit of America Programs, and a History Encounters Program.

As part of our summer teacher programs, we invite all participants to join the Joshua Chamberlain League (JCL). Membership into the league is a way for teachers to pay it forward as all membership donations are applied to teacher scholarships for the following summer. We had 190 teachers join the JCL, representing 78% of all participants. Together the teachers raised \$20,341 for future scholarships. Thank you teachers!

I am excited to announce that we have hired a Director of Communications. Sarah Rasmussen has accepted the position and will begin on September 1st. Sarah is coming from Pennsylvania State Senator Bob Mensch's office where she has been District Director and Communications Director. Sarah is looking forward to joining the team. She recently sent me a message stating: "look forward to working closely with FFVF's chapters, members, and partners as we continue to highlight and promote FFVF's incredible mission and values." Sarah comes with a connection to Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge already, her aunt received our Leavey Award for Excellence in Private Enterprise Education in 2013.

As the school year approaches, we are happy to share with you the 2022 Youth Essay topic which reflects upon the sixth responsibility in the **Bill of Responsibilities**: *To share with others our appreciation of the benefits and obligations of freedom.* The 2022 topic is "**Discuss one freedom that you enjoy as an American and the responsibilities that come with that freedom.**" An essay nomination form is attached for your use.

The 2021 Gala is just around the corner. The official invitations were mailed last week. We are still looking for items for the online auction. We are hoping to attract a national audience for this year's gala so even regional experiences or gift certificates are welcome. Collin McClain is heading up the auction and is happy to discuss possible donations and overall participation. Collin can be reached at cmcclain@ffvf.org. Thank you to those of you who have already reached out with donations and suggestions.

The submissions for National Awards are starting to pick up. Thank you to all the chapters who have already submitted nominations. You still have a few weeks to get your nominations in for 2021. Please note that we have had a few issues with the online submission process so please feel free to email your documents directly to csantangelo@ffvf.org if you have problems.

Finally, I am going back to Medal of Honor Recipient, Melvin Morris, for some inspiration in this week's video. It is an excerpt from his remarks this summer at Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. In this clip he talks of love of country. Please enjoy!

[SFC Melvin Morris. US Army](#)

Thank you all for your work on behalf of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. Enjoy the remainder of your summer and don't hesitate to reach out to us if you need any assistance.

Be safe and stay healthy!

Carolyn

PS – I will be away on vacation the week of August 16th, but please still reach out with any problems, questions or concerns. I will follow-up as soon as possible. Thank you!

Carolyn E. Santangelo

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