



Volunteer Chapter Newsletter

In the blink of an eye 2021 is coming to a close, and the holiday season is now upon us. As the year draws to a close, Freedoms Foundation is thankful for our steadfast chapters who have persevered through the pandemic and continuing variants to return to in-person programming and events during the second half of this year. As an organization, we are especially thankful to have students, teachers, and partners back on campus.

The summer and fall saw the return of many traditional programs both on campus and throughout our chapters. Below we share some of those special events.

We look forward to a busy 2022 with a full schedule. Until then, we wish all of you a healthy and happy Thanksgiving and a joyous holiday season.

San Diego Chapter Holds Day at the Races

The San Diego Chapter was able to once again hold one of their signature events - *Day At the Races*. On July 29th chapter members and friends gathered at the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club for this annual fundraiser. All proceeds raised go towards sending students to Spirit of America. Those in attendance enjoyed good fellowship and exciting racing action.

[See More Pictures from the Fun Day!](#)



Pictured above are the San Diego Chapter members with the winning horse from their featured race at the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club

Dallas Chapter Celebrates With its 50th Annual Awards Banquet

The Dallas Area Chapter held its 50th Annual Awards Banquet on



Monday, November 8th at the Museum of Biblical Art. The chapter welcomed nearly 180 guests to this special occasion which featured the presentation of the George Washington Honor Medal to the chapter's 2020 and 2021 recipients.

2021 Youth Essay Winners

During the event, Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge bestowed the Distinguished Citizen Awards on William P. Benac, Sr. and Mark W. Romney from the DFW Alliance for Religious Freedom, based in Dallas, Texas. Foundation CEO, David Harmer was there to make the presentation along with national board members Steve Cotton and Larry Brasher.

[Learn more about those who were honored and see additional pictures here!](#)



Front row (Left to Right): Abigail Williams (GWHM recipient), Judy Sullivan (GWHM recipient), William Murchison (GWHM recipient), Kay Poynor (Dallas Area Chapter VP Awards), and Phil John (Dallas Area Chapter President). **Middle Row:** Mark Romney (Distinguished Citizen Award recipient), Meg Moschetto (accepting GWHM on behalf of Cochran Heights Neighborhood Association), Bill Benac (Distinguished Citizen Award recipient), Bev Darling (GWHM recipient), Phil Blazek (accepting GWHM on behalf of son Luke Blazek), and T.L. Holden (Sons of the American Revolution). **Back Row:** Drake Peddy (Sons of the American Revolution), Steve Lobo (accepting GWHM on behalf of Cochran Heights Neighborhood Association), David Harmer (Freedoms Foundation CEO), and Mirza Faizan (GWHM recipient).

Greater Cincinnati Chapter Honors Veterans

Submitted by Theresa Bradley, President of the Greater Cincinnati Chapter

On Sunday evening November 7th, the Greater Cincinnati Chapter sponsored its 10th Veterans Recognition Service. Over 180 people attended the service and experienced a moving tribute to

the veterans in attendance.

Col. Brad Wenstrup, US Congressman, in his videotaped welcome, urged listeners to remember that we remain free because of the sacrifice of those who went to war. He reminded the audience that America's "great experiment" can continue with renewed civic engagement on the part of citizens.

The Little Miami High School Select Chorus, pictured, sang powerful renditions of the National Anthem, America the Beautiful, God Bless America and the Battle Hymn of the Republic



The keynote speaker was Leonard M. Randolph, Jr. M.D. Major General USAF (Retired). His anecdotes kept the audience listening. He not only spoke about veterans but to the veterans, saying that we need to work together as one to heal the current division in our country.

A special event was the giving of four Quilts of Valor, made by local quilters with the goal to remember the veterans and help them remember that they are surrounded by thoughts and prayers.

[Read more about the service and see more pictures.](#)



Pensacola Chapter President, Betty Williams (center) presents one of the winning gift baskets

Membership Drive in Pensacola

On July 1st the Pensacola Chapter celebrated finally being able to gather together in person. The chapter hosted a Meet and Greet event at the Pensacola Yacht Club. Members and interested community members were invited to attend this fun social occasion.

[See more photos of the event here!](#)

Recently the Pensacola Chapter was informed they were a grant recipient of the Navy Federal Credit Union's *Dollars for Doers Program*. The money they receive will go towards sending students to Spirit of America.

Congratulations Pensacola!

FFVF National Board Chapter Committee Profile - Marvell Ruppel

Marvell Ruppel served as the 71st National AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary President from 2017-2018. As national



president her project was the replacement of campus streetlamps at Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. Through the years, Marvell has held many positions in AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary on the local and state levels. Marvell currently serves as the AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary Parliamentarian. She sits on the Board of Trustees as their Secretary. She is also an active life member of AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary #60 in St. Francis, Wisconsin where she serves as President and Hospital Chairman.

Marvell holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her professional career has spanned over 30 + years. She is a Licensed Clinical Social worker and currently works at Fresh Start Family Services, where she is a treatment foster care case management supervisor, clinical advisor, and trainer. She is also an adjunct lecturer for the School of Social Welfare at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Marvell is the daughter of a Navy WWII veteran. Her brother and husband both served in the Army during the Vietnam War. Marvell and her husband, Jim, of Cedarburg, WI, have been married for 48 years. They have four children and eight grandchildren. Three of their children attended the Spirit of America AMVETS sponsored youth conference.

[Visit The Chapter Section of Our Website for the Latest News and Updates](#)

Upcoming Events

**Los Angeles County Chapter Annual Noel Luncheon
and Awards Ceremony**





Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge

Los Angeles County Chapter

Cordially Invites you and your guests to our

Annual Noel Holiday Luncheon

Old Fashioned Christmas Activities

Sunday, December 12, 2021

11:00 A.M. Wine Reception

Noon Luncheon & Program

George Washington Medal Awards

Special Award for Ernest Cowell

Peninsula Beverly Hills

9882 Santa Monica Boulevard

Beverly Hills CA, 90212

Please reply by December 7, 2021

2021 Calendar of Events

Student Programs, Teacher/Adult Programs, Headquarter Events

February 11-13: RYLA sponsored by Rotary District 7450

February 24-27: Spirit of America Program - OPEN

March 3-6: Spirit of America Program - Volunteer Chapters

March 10-13: Spirit of America Program - Volunteer Chapters

March 17-20: Spirit of America Program - OPEN

March 25-26: BYU

March 31-April 3: Spirit of America Program - MOWW

April 7-10: Spirit of America Program - Volunteer Chapters

April 21-24: Spirit of America Program - OPEN

April 28-May 1: Spirit of America Program - OPEN

May 2-6: La Canada Elementary School – History Encounters

May 9-13: Palm Crest Elementary School – History Encounters

May 16-20: Paradise Canyon Elementary School - History Encounters

Summer 2022 - 5 Teacher Programs to be Announced

Call to Action Items



Mark Your Calendars!

There will be a Chapters and Partners Conference in 2022. Mark your calendars for October 6-9, 2022. If you have a suggestion on what you want to see included for the conference, please contact Carolyn Santangelo at csantangelo@ffvf.org.

Consider making an end of year contribution!

In this season of giving, don't forget Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge and our Volunteer Chapters. As programs look to be running full steam in 2022, all donations matter to make sure the most students and teachers can attend a program on campus. You can donate through Amazon Smile too!

[Give Today!](#)



Submit your events for publication!

Things are once again happening in chapters across the country. Submit your event or program to headquarters to be included in the next e-newsletter. Send information to Carolyn Santangelo at csantangelo@ffvf.org.



