



ANNUAL VETERANS DAY PROGRAM HELD

The Greater Cincinnati Chapter sponsored its annual Veterans Recognition and Remembrance Service on Monday evening November 11 at the Sycamore Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. Representatives from the Northern Kentucky Young Marines greeted each person at the door with a program as well as a small American flag.

The evening began with a posting of the colors by the USAF Junior ROTC from Edgewood High School. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation offered by Rev. David Poland, Chaplain of the Civil Air Patrol, the Little Miami High School Select Choir led those assembled in the National Anthem. The Choir also performed the Battle Hymn of the Republic and led the congregation in God Bless America.

Representative Brad Wenstrup shared a powerful video message as he reflected on the power and importance of veterans. Ms. Cheryl Popp, Chairman of the Board and Director of Honor Flight Tri-State was the keynote speaker, sharing stories from their 75 flights with over 6500 veterans.

Mrs. Barb Harrison, member of Quilts of Valor organization, spoke as well and presented two Quilts of Valor to two Korean War veterans.

The evening ended with a short message about the Essence of Remembrance and a Prayer for Remembrance led by Rev. Theodore Kalsbeek, Pastor Emeritus of Sycamore Church.

After the benediction and the playing of Taps, those assembled left in reverence.

A touching moment followed in the vestibule as Brian K, one of the elementary members of the Young Marines, greeted 99 year old Wayne N, a WWII veteran. Their handshake spoke loudly of the respect for our veterans.



ANNUAL CHAPTER CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 2019

The national office of Freedoms Foundation sponsored its annual conference for representatives from chapters across the country. Theresa and Wayne Bradley represented the Greater Cincinnati chapter along with representatives from California, Utah, Oklahoma, Florida, and Virginia.

While Theresa attended the seminars, Wayne volunteered in the Medal of Honor Grove, raking and cleaning the Georgia acre.

The participants were able to hear Dr. Allen Guelzo from Princeton University on the Ten Things Everyone Should Know About American History. (See separate article). They also were able to visit a variety of revolutionary homes and churches. Seminars included one on financial best practices since chapters are accountable for using the donations and funds appropriately. They also heard about some of the new initiatives at the national level and discussed sustainable leadership.

The participants ended the conference on Sunday morning by attending the Washington Memorial Chapel for worship. The congregation is an active Episcopal congregation in the Valley Forge community.



Wayne Bradley working in
Medal of Honor Grove

SPIRIT OF AMERICA 2020 PARTICIPANTS

Seven high school students and one adult chaperone will represent the Cincinnati Chapter at the Spirit of America Conference March 12 – 15.

Five schools will be represented.

Jens Bartel – Talawanda

Jared Burke – Schilling School

Gaven Carter – North College Hill

Devlin Cassidy – Highlands

Gavin Halsey – Edgewood

Katie Johnson – Highlands

Ethan Morris – Schilling School

Keith Franklin, chaperone

North College Hill

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO...

Aarian Lynn attended the Spirit of America Conference as a high school junior in 2018. As a college student, she now reflects on the impact that the Conference had on her. Thanks to Aarian for sharing her experiences.

My first time ever being involved with Freedoms Foundation was in the year of 2018, when I had taken a field trip to the Tri-State Warbird Museum with McAuley's history club. There, my high school's history club was greeted by a few Freedoms Foundation representatives. After the representatives took us to our table, a young man had greeted me. We began to chat about our schools and what we wanted to do in college. Once I told him that I wanted to become a lawyer and work for the federal government, he pulled out a Spirit of America Youth Leadership Conference pamphlet and an extra application. He then began to reminisce on his amazing opportunity at the Spirit of America Youth Leadership Conference.

Later, during the car ride back to McAuley High School, I flipped through the pamphlet and the application. After pondering on whether to write the essay and submit the application and risk not being selected, I decided to risk it and honestly, this was the best decision I made. In February of 2018, I received a large packet congratulating me on my acceptance! I could not believe it! I had never been on a plane before nor had I ever been to Philadelphia.

In April of 2018, Freedoms Foundation presented me with a scholarship to attend the Spirit of America Youth Leadership Conference! Freedoms Foundation paid for my room and board and even my plane ticket! After arriving to Philadelphia, I immediately pounced on every opportunity presented to us. I networked with people from many states from Utah to California and Florida. Additionally, we encountered college admissions officers, who spoke to us about how to become a competitive college applicant. Afterward, I spoke to Penn State Brandywine's college admissions counselor and we exchanged information. I ended up applying to the institution and being admitted! Having someone in the office on my side was a nice benefit.

The Spirit of America Youth Leadership Conference taught me how to successfully create a resume. Years later, I was able to use what I learned from the resume workshop to successfully build a resume in college that secured me an internship and on campus job.

One of the most useful opportunities The Spirit of America Youth Leadership Conference has presented to me was the opportunity to attend the Service Learning and Public Policy conference in the summer of 2018. I was the only student from the state of Ohio representing the Cincinnati Chapter in Philadelphia! This opportunity led me to being far more advanced during my senior year in my Advanced Placement Government course and eventually in college.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO... (CONT.)

In my college dorm room, I still have my Freedoms Foundation folder. In this folder, it holds a pocket constitution, a print out on how to draft a public policy and much more. This had helped me tremendously, due to the fact that I am a political science major. In my lectures, I use my experiences that I gained from the conferences as reference point in class discussions.

Freedoms Foundation has helped me become aware of the change I can create in my community. At Bowling Green State University, I am a part of Undergraduate Student Government, where I was elected senator. Furthermore, I am on the Student Affairs Committee, my residence hall's executive council and the Chapman Service-Learning Community. Due to the critical skills I gained from the conferences, I secured a spot on the dean's list, finishing with a 3.7 GPA and secured an internship after my very first year of college! Moreover, the leadership skills I gained from the conferences has guided me in taking charge in my class discussions and predisposed me to being able to take charge on campus and in the classroom!

Thank you for presenting me with this fantastic opportunity!

**No one is born a good citizen; no nation is born a democracy.
Rather, both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime.
Young people must be included from birth.
A society that cuts off from its youth severs its lifeline.**

Kofi Annan



10 THINGS EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT AMERICAN HISTORY

Dr. Allen Guelzo, Princeton University.

Dr. Guelzo presented these ideas at the Annual Conference. Below is a summary of his lecture. The points provide food for thought.

Abraham Lincoln was worried that Americans would forget the vision of the Revolution.

What is being remembered today? And why?

1. The Founding was an unbelievably unique event, and still is, in human history.
Typically, governments were organized by a hierarchy of reciprocity and obligation. The authority was at the top. The Founding Fathers, because of Enlightenment thinking, abolished a hierarchy with no nobility, no king. The authority was with the people. They believed in the inherent rights and that people could rule. The Revolution cut ties to the hierarchical structure of the past.
2. The Great Awakening was our greatest cultural upheaval.
Religion was how they taught virtues. It provided norms of behavior. The Great Awakening shaped the power of the people.
3. Power and liberty are antagonistic but necessary to the survival of the nation.
The Founders were apostles of liberty. They set power and liberty to work together: 3 branches, separation of power. Power and liberty were domesticated. The Constitution safeguarded the Republic.
4. The Louisiana Purchase was the greatest land deal in the history of the world.
It secured New Orleans, opened the vista to the Pacific and started the idea of a two ocean nation. It unleashed the hunger for economic independence. The unpleasant consequence was how the indigenous people were swept away.

5. The creation of the electric telegraph was the greatest invention in history.
Americans had been at war with time. It took so long to communicate across the new states. Eventually the steamboat, canals, railroads cut the distance, which helped the time to receive news. These inventions annihilated distance and time. They erased state lines. America became wrapped in an information grid, and it unified American discourse. Eventually radio, tv and digital communication increased the speed of news.
6. Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves.
Slavery was the birth defect of the republic. Lincoln freed the slaves in the Confederacy but not in the states that remained loyal to the Union. Later the 13th Amendment freed all slaves.
7. The United States saved the Allies from defeat in WWI.
Without American help, there would have been German domination in Europe, and fascism would have ruled.
8. The Great Depression only ended with the onset of WWII.
WWI caused the dislocation of the economy and disrupted world banking. FDR's New Deal rescued the economy. The race to re-arm for WWII dropped the unemployment.
9. Dropping the atomic bomb was unavoidable.
10. The Cold War ended in American victory
Reagan confronted the Soviets, and there was Containment.

America is an Enlightenment nation, a religious nation (the minority voices leaven the lump), an inventive people, an idealistic people and a practical people.

The 10 Lessons from the past teach us who we are. Understanding who we are arises from understanding who we were.



118 Tremont Avenue
Fort Thomas, KY 41075

THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

We thank Blue Ash Design and Printing Services and Sandra Faith Hall for generous donations to our Scholarship Fund. This will help our students attend the Spirit of America Conference in March.

Anyone interested in donating toward the Scholarship Fund, please contact :

Theresa Bradley

118 Tremont Avenue
Fort Thomas, KY 42075

The most serious danger Americans now face – greater than terrorism – is that our country's future may not end up in the hands of a citizenry capable of sustaining the liberty that has been America's most precious legacy.

Professor William Damon,
Stanford University

