



EDUCATE HONOR CHALLENGE

Dear Chapter Presidents and Representatives,

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season. We are back in the office and excited to start off the new year. Our busy program season starts in one month with La Canada Elementary's History Encounters Program. What better way to kick things off than with 100 fifth graders, followed by the first Spirit of America program.

As 2023 starts, not all is good news. Over the holiday break, CEO David Harmer, was involved in an auto accident at the Salt Lake City Airport. The accident left him with three pelvic breaks, multiple lacerations and sprains, internal and external bleeding, and severe bruising and swelling. Thankfully he is recovering now at home. The staff was able to have a Zoom meeting with him on Thursday. His spirits are high, but the road to recovery will be a slow journey. David will be undergoing physical therapy for 8-12 weeks and will not be able to travel until Spring. We are all just thankful David will make a full recovery. Here is a link to an article in the local news about David's accident: [Read More Here](#).

We are starting to receive the names of your students attending Spirit of America. Thank you so much. The numbers for 2023 are looking really good and we appreciate all of your efforts. Please remember to submit the names as soon as your list is finalized and we will work with you to get the registration links to all the participants. If you are interested in doing any extra tours or visits either prior to the start of the program or after the tour of Philadelphia on Sunday, please contact Deepak Bhagat, Associate Director of Education, at dbhagat@ffvf.org. He will assist you in making those plans.

Hopefully, you and your treasurers are beginning to work on the yearend reports. Please remember if you have any questions or are running into any difficulties, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or Bonnie Anderson, Director of Accounting. Bonnie can be reach at banderson@ffvf.org. The yearend reports also include sending us your most recent membership roster and current list of officers. It helps us greatly to have the most up to date and accurate information.

I will be refreshing the chapter webpages this month. Please make sure to send me any pictures you would like to see on your page and any updated program and event information you have for your chapter.

Finally, I would like to share a little video we created with our partners at AMVETS. AMVETS sponsors a Spirit of America session each November. During their last program we recorded some comments from students, members, and alumni. The AMVETS team is now using this video to help recruit students for 2023. This will give you an idea of the impact of Spirit of America on the partner side of things.

AMVETS Spirit of America Video – [Click Here](#)

All of us wish you and your chapters all the best for 2023. We are looking forward to a great year ahead with you.

Be safe, stay healthy, and take care.

Carolyn E. Santangelo

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