



THE BELLRINGER

20th Annual POW Luncheon

The Pensacola Chapter of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge jointly co-hosted a POW/MIA luncheon with the Pensacola Navy League on September 18, 2018. The guest speaker was Ellen W. Vinson, a retired Escambia County Social Studies teacher and local jazz performer. Ellen is on a mission to retrieve the remains of her mother's first husband, Army Air Corps pilot John L. "Blackie" Porter III.

In the China, Burma, India (CBI) Theater, Captain John L. Porter put together a small ad hoc jungle rescue unit in October of 1943. Based at Chabua, India, the unit consisted of aircrew, medical, and survival specialists that would go in by air or ground means to assist survivors of crashes in the eastern Himalayan supply route, known as the "HUMP," during World War II. Porter, the leader of "Blackie's Gang" was shot down by Japanese Zeros on December 10, 1943, while attempting to rescue a downed aircraft. In total, "Blackie's Gang" is credited with rescuing more than 120 U.S. military personnel from more than 50 crash sites.

Porter's remains were never recovered, nor were those of the other four men on board when the plane crashed. Ellen wants to bring the remains home to the United States and is hoping to persuade the U.S. government to take action. The wreckage of the B-25D plane were found in 2011 in the Himalayan mountain range by explorer Clayton Lühles of miarecoveries.org.

Mrs. Vinson is doing this work for her mother, who died before the crash site was identified, for the memories of heroes lost, and for the conscience of the United States.



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Add these faithful members to your contact list.

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Reject apathy and get involved.

POW Luncheon Photo Gallery



Photos by Karen & Todd Kline and Billie Nicholson

Did You Know ... ?



[Dwight D. Eisenhower](#)

“Freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, the spirit of men and so it must be daily earned and refreshed -- else like a flower cut from its life-giving roots, it will wither and die.”

– **Dwight D. Eisenhower**

As supreme commander of Allied Forces in Western Europe during World War II, Dwight D. Eisenhower led the massive invasion of Nazi-occupied Europe that began on D-Day (June 6, 1944). Following WWII, he went on to command NATO forces in Europe, where he worked to create a unified military organization that would combat potential communist aggression around the globe. He became the 34th president of the United States and served two terms. He strengthened the Social Security program, increased the minimum wage, and created the Interstate Highway System, which would construct 41,000 miles of roads.

Constitution Quiz

Take this quiz and test your knowledge!

1. What state was the first to ratify the Constitution?
2. What are the five rights guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution?
3. When was the Constitution ratified by the ninth state, meaning that it officially became the governing document of the US?
4. How many delegates signed the Constitution?
5. Six Founding Fathers signed both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Can you name them?
6. Who was the oldest delegate at the Constitutional Convention? Who was the youngest?

How did you do? Check your answers below!

1. [Delaware](#). With a vote of 30-0, Delaware was the first to ratify the Constitution in December 1787.
2. The [First Amendment](#) prohibits Congress from making laws restricting religion, speech, the press, assembly, and the right of petition.
3. On [June 21, 1788](#) New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify the Constitution.
4. [39 of the 55 delegates](#) to the Constitutional Convention actually signed the Constitution.
5. George Clymer, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Morris, George Read, Roger Sherman, and James Wilson signed both [the Declaration](#) and [the Constitution](#).
6. Benjamin Franklin was the [oldest delegate](#) to the Constitution Convention at 81 years old. Jonathan Dayton was the youngest at 26.

From walbuilders.com

Freedoms Foundation Pensacola Chapter in the Community



BELK CHARITY SALE



Board Members enjoy working with the Belk Charity Sale. This is one way we get additional funds to provide scholarships to the Youth Leadership Conference each year.



Francis Scott Key (AKA Robert Nicholson) shared his experiences on a British ship in Baltimore Harbor the night that the British attacked Fort McHenry. This emotional event stirred Key to write the poem, “The Defense of Ft. McHenry”, later renamed *The Star Spangled Banner*. He helped set a patriotic mood during a dinner and talent show at The Pensacola Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Flags were flying and 47 copies of the **Constitution** were shared with guests.



Youth Leadership Conference Does It Have an Influence on Lives?

**EDUCATE
HONOR
CHALLENGE**

Board Member Michele Wilson, from Navy Federal Credit Union, received a phone call one day from a fellow Credit Union executive, Thomas Greek. He had just read about Michele's affiliation with Freedoms Foundation. As it turns out, Thomas had attended the Youth Leadership Conference in 1995 and loved it. In the following interview, he shares the influence it has had on his life.

Thomas Greek: "I went to Potomac High School in Dumfries, Virginia. My Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Wakefield, was the sponsor of the Junior Civitan Club (a student-led service organization for middle and high school students). I learned about the regional Civitan conference and bus trip to Ocean City, MD and decided that I needed to join this club so I could go on the bus trip. Once I joined, I was hooked. I realized how much I enjoyed working with the community. We became fast friends. She saw something in me, even at that young age. She wanted to cultivate me as a leader of the organization as she saw how passionate I was. She had a very robust club (it often vied for Civitan Club of the Year)."

"Fast forward to my junior year and I am in a leadership role. She continued to encourage me to develop self-confidence. She really saw something in me that I hadn't seen in myself."

"Eventually she comes to me with this scholarship opportunity. 'I need you to fill out this form and write an essay,' she said. She saw this as an opportunity for me to get out of my comfort zone, and develop some skills that I could bring back to the club. I got awarded the scholarship, which was very exciting. I really had no idea what it was all about, but off I went. Soon I was off on a charter bus to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania - off to place that seemed like a world away. I showed up to this gorgeous campus, it was overwhelming in all the right ways. The paces they put us through, I just didn't know what to expect. It was such an enriching experience. It dove-tailed so well into the focus of Civitans - service and responsibility."

"They did spend a lot of time talking about the Constitution, responsibility, and the history and context from which our nation was founded. That moment in time really had an impact on me. I still have some of the things we made during that conference. There is a connectedness between what we did at that conference and my day job now, which is helping to develop other leaders for a world class financial institution. I'd like to be able to inspire students - to help them understand what they are getting themselves into and how impactful it can be. There are many skills required to be a good leader - to inspire people to do good work. Some of the things I learned at Valley Forge include responsibility, to be a good leader means serving, harnessing the power of equity and diversity, decision making and critical thinking. Those were the seeds planted in me at that time."

"For all these long years since then, I had never known how to get involved until I learned Michele was involved. Now I want to be a member of our local chapter and help inspire other students."



Thomas Greek

Vice President

Learning, Development &
Communications

Founding Father Facts



John Jay
([Gilbert Stuart portrait](#))

John Jay was an American statesman and Founding Father who served the United States in numerous government offices. The New York native drafted the state's first constitution in 1777, and was chosen president of the Continental Congress the following year. Jay served as the key negotiator at the Treaty of Paris, which ended the American Revolutionary War and recognized the independence of the United States. He later served as the first chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and the second governor of New York state.

Jay, a graduate of King's College (now Columbia University) and prominent in New York politics, initially promoted a

peaceful resolution with Great Britain instead of independence. He urged the British government to reconcile with the colonists. When war became increasingly likely, he supported the Revolution. He spent much of the Revolutionary War as a diplomat to Spain where he spent three frustrating years trying to garner financial support.

In 1782, Jay joined the peace commission tasked with negotiating a peace treaty with Great Britain after the American-French victory at Yorktown ended the fighting. Working with Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, he helped secure all the land east of the Mississippi River, with the exception of the British territories in Canada and Spanish territory in Florida. It was signed on 3 September, 1783, as the Treaty of Paris.

After the American Revolution, Jay believed in a stronger central government than that created by the Article of the Confederation (the first constitution of the US). Along with Alexander Hamilton and James Madison, Jay wrote a series of essays promoting the ratification of a new U.S. Constitution. These essays (known as the Federalist Papers) were very influential in shaping the Constitution we know today.

President George Washington appointed him as the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Jay soon came to hate his new job. At the time Supreme Court justices were required to travel to circuit courts around the country in order to hear cases. Given the era's road and travel conditions, it was an arduous task. Jay considered the job of justice intolerable.

After the Revolution, tensions remained high between Great Britain and the US. Britain blocked American exports with trade restrictions and tariffs while continuing to occupy North American forts they had agreed to vacate. Jay went again to England seeking to achieve peace and better commercial ties. The treaty solved some of the problems but was very unpopular in the states. Critics found it too favorable to the British, although president George Washington supported it. His effigy was burned in several U.S. cities and Jay joked that he could travel at night from Boston to Philadelphia by the light of his burning effigies.

Jay adamantly refused President John Adams' offer to resume his judgeship.

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EDUCATE HONOR CHALLENGE

APPLICATION FOR PENSACOLA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Effective July 1, 2018

Please Print Clearly

Name (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Dr,) _____ Date _____

Spouse/Partner's Name (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Dr,) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Telephone _____ Cell _____

Email Address _____ (Please Circle Below)

Membership Opportunity Desired? _____ How Many Years?: 1 2 3 4 5

(Patriot, Dual Patriot, Family Patriot, Patriot Academic, Patriot Military,
Patriot's Circle - Supporter, Patriot's Circle - Advocate, Patriot's Circle Ambassador,
Patriot's Circle - Leadership Society or George Washington Council Benefactor)

PATRIOT MEMBER (basic)	\$30.00 - Membership + e-newsletter
DUAL PATRIOT (same household)	45.00 - Membership + e-newsletter
FAMILY PATRIOT (all children/grandchildren under 18)	60.00 - Membership + e-newsletter
PATRIOT ACADEMIC (full time student)	10.00 - Membership + e-newsletter
PATRIOT MILITARY (active duty)	25.00 - Membership + e-newsletter
PATRIOT'S CIRCLE - SUPPORTER	100.00 - As above + Support of ongoing outreach programs
PATRIOT'S CIRCLE - Advocate	600.00 - As above + Sending one educator to Valley Forge training program
PATRIOT'S CIRCLE - Ambassador	1500.00 - Membership + e-newsletter + Sponsorship for the POW Luncheon (including a table for Eight at the Luncheon) & Acknowledgement printed in the POW Luncheon Program & From The Podium
PATRIOT'S CIRCLE - Leadership Society	1600.00 - Membership + e-newsletter + Sending one student to Yearly Spring Leadership Program at Valley Forge + Acknowledgement printed in the Annual Awards Dinner Program
GEORGE WASHINGTON COUNCIL BENEFACTOR	1850.00 - Membership + e-newsletter + Awards Banquet Table Named for Benefactor + 8 dinner seats + Acknowledgement printed in the Annual Awards Dinner Program + Acknowledgement from the Podium

Scholarship Fund Donation: Will be used exclusively for sending students to Valley Forge to attend Youth Conference. **DONATION** _____

Remembrance Fund Donation: In Honor of or in Memory of _____
DONATION _____

Freedoms Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization and all donations are tax deductible.

www.FreedomsFoundationPensacola.org

Please Join Today - send Check to: FFFV Pensacola Chapter, P.O Box 1012, Pensacola, FL 32591