



# THE BELLRINGER



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## Upcoming Events

### POW Luncheon Cancelled

#### 22nd Annual POW/MIA Luncheon

Based on the current COVID-19 conditions in our area, the annual POW/MIA Luncheon has been cancelled. We look forward to having Lt Col. Barry Bridger, USAF (RET), a Vietnam war POW and Medal of Honor recipient, as our guest speaker next year, Sept., 21, 2021.

### Escambia County Schools

#### Superintendent Malcolm Thomas Announces

#### Start Date Delay to Monday August 24, 2020

Having analyzed the results of the three INTENT TO RETURN options for parents, the response for the Remote Learning or Virtual School option was twice what was expected. Additional teacher training will be necessary to make this work. This also means students returning to Traditional School can improve social distancing within the classroom. Students and staff members will wear face coverings when they cannot adequately socially distance.

### Youth Conference

Due to the limitations placed on school trips in the first quarter of the upcoming school year, our participation in the FFVF Youth Conference has been postponed until April 2021. Our 2020 selectees will still be eligible to attend in the spring.



**September 18, 2020**  
**National Prisoner of War/Missing in**  
**Action Recognition Day**

**“You Are Not Forgotten”**

**82,478 service members are**  
**still missing**

## Did You Know ... ?

### What Happened to the Signers of the Declaration of Independence?

Fifty-six men from the original thirteen colonies signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Nine of the signers were immigrants, two were brothers and two were cousins. One was an orphan. The average age was 45. Benjamin Franklin was the oldest delegate at 70. The youngest was Thomas Lynch, Jr. of SC at 27.

Eighteen of the signers were merchants or businessmen, fourteen were farmers, and four were doctors. Twenty-two were lawyers (William Hooper of NC was “disbarred” when he spoke out against the King) and nine were judges. Stephen Hopkins had been governor of Rhode Island. 42 signers had served in colonial legislatures.

John Witherspoon of NJ was the only active clergyman to attend. Almost all were Protestants. Charles Carroll of MD was the lone Roman Catholic.

Seven of the signers were educated at Harvard, four at Yale, four at William & Mary, and three at Princeton. John Witherspoon was the president of Princeton and George Wythe was a professor at William & Mary. Thomas Jefferson had been one of his students.

Seventeen signers fought in the American Revolution. The British captured five signers during the war. Eleven signers had their homes and property destroyed. Carter Braxton and Nelson, both of VA, lent large sums of their personal fortunes to support the war effort, but were never repaid.

After the Revolution, 13 signers became governors. Eighteen served in the state legislatures, Sixteen became state and federal judges. Seven became U.S. Senators, Two became Supreme Court justices. Three became vice president and two of those became president.

Five signers played major roles in the establishment of colleges and universities.

Adams, Jefferson and Carroll were the longest surviving signers. Adams and Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826, on the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Charles Carroll lived the longest. He died in 1832 at the age of 95.

Reference: <http://www.celebratelove.com/whathappened.htm>

## 2019 Freedoms Foundation Liberty Bell Award Recipients



**2019 FL Superintendent of the Year - Malcolm Thomas**  
 Selected Florida's 2019 Superintendent of the Year, he has served for 38 years in multiple roles in the Escambia County School system. He has continued to tutor students every year. He is dedicated to student's success. We commend him for his leadership in our school district, which includes 42,000 students, 5,300 employees, and 50 institutions. He has been dedicated to public education for all students.

### Social Studies Teacher, Escambia HS - Keitha Brown

Considered an exemplary teacher, her impact is felt in the classroom and in the community. Having taught many civics related topics and 33 years of summer school, she will be retiring at the end of this school year. In 2019, Escambia High School selected her as their Teacher of the Year. She has gone above and beyond what is expected to mold our young people into patriotic, productive citizens.



### Above and Beyond the Call of Duty - Debbie Naylor

Delta Airlines flight attendant since 1968, she has been involved in the Civilian Reserve Air Fleet, shuttling military personnel on commercial aircraft to the Middle East after 9/11. In addition to serving as an international flight attendant on flights to Johannesburg, South Africa, she volunteers at the National Naval Aviation Museum and with the local Pearl Harbor Survivors.

### Baptist Health Care Nurse Honor Guard - Nova Francis

This nurses group honors deceased nurses at their funerals in a very special way. This service highlights the career of the deceased, recites the Nurse's Prayer and announces that this nurse's last shift has ended. They honor those who have gone before them with dignity and respect.



## 2019 Freedoms Foundation Liberty Bell Award Recipients

### R.E.A.P Alliance Pensacola - Vince Whibbs, Jr.

Women who have been incarcerated, served their time and are released, often face many hurdles upon re-entry into society. Re-Entry Alliance Pensacola, offers these non-violent offenders services. They include substance abuse counseling, job training, and temporary safe housing, with the hope that they will be able to establish productive and crime-free lives.



### Bruce Beach Revitalization - Dan Lindemann

Working with Keep Pensacola Beautiful, this project conducted a clean up campaign to re-introduce this beach front property to the community. City personnel helped clean up the area and created a park with sandy beach access to launch kayaks and paddle boards. Signage in the park retells the historic development of this area from shipyard to community swimming pool to abandonment and now revitalization.

### Kicks for a Cause - Ransom Middle School

During the Random Acts of Kindness week last year, librarian Chrystal Roberts presented the 35 Book Club members with a service project challenge to collect shoes which could be exchanged for funds to help train Wounded Warriors and their new canine companions. The collected shoes were then sent to third world countries to aid needy families abroad. This three-fold project aids needy families, returning wounded soldiers, and homeless dogs. They exceeded their 100 pair goal by collecting another 266 pairs of shoes. Veterans and their dogs from Ft Walton Beach came to personally thank the group for their assistance.



Photos from this event available for purchase. Contact Billie Nicholson @ [BillieandRobert@gmail.com](mailto:BillieandRobert@gmail.com)

## 2019 Freedoms Foundation Awards



### Spirit of '76 Award - Cherie Arnette

Escambia County Schools Social Studies Specialist, Ms Arnette, has spent many years promoting the program opportunities of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge to students and teachers alike. She also was responsible for arranging an in-service luncheon for teachers to learn about the Medal of Honor program. In addition, she has been involved in many organizations which share her passions for education, history and patriotism.



### Lifetime Achievement Award - Georgia Blackmon

A lifetime resident of Pensacola, she learned at an early age if you take care of your community and your children, they will take care of you. That is what she loves doing. As a result, she established the Mother Whitt Institute devoted to promoting history and diversity with two agendas: community outreach for children and historic preservation. To that end, the Institute is committed to the restoration of the Ella Jordan House (AKA The Pink House). Purchased by Ella Jordan in 1929, who used her home as a teaching center for the Black community, a center for voter registration, and a meeting space for a variety of women's organizations. Over the years, the home has suffered extensive damage from bad weather and neglect. The restoration of this house is currently underway thanks to Ms Jordan's spearheading the fundraising efforts. When complete the facility will house the Ella L. Jordan African-American Museum and serve as a community hub for cultural and educational activities.

## A Little Known Truth About the Declaration of Independence

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The Declaration of Independence is our mission statement. Usually you make a mission statement aspirational, something that is a hard reach. The real hard reach back in the 1700's was, "all men are created equal."

What does the Declaration of Independence really say? First it says that it is the unanimous declaration of the thirteen united states of America. They all voted before they wrote it that what they wrote had to be unanimously agreed upon, because they knew that some one person's disagreement could kill the whole thing. They all had to stick together. This Congress was no different than any other Congress, there were weasels, there were 'fraidy cats among them. They ran, they abandoned Philadelphia multiple times.

"When in the course of human events ..." Things happen in life and if we're going to break up, we need to talk about the things that are a problem. You don't listen to me any more, so we need to be separate, but EQUAL. "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal and they are endowed with certain unalienable rights." The reason this is so important is that rights must not come from men. Because if rights come from men, they can be taken away. Because they come from God, men can't change them. We all have divine rights. They include the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. They get to choose how to live their lives. "And to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men."

So the government's job is just to secure these rights. "And they derive their just powers from the consent of the governed." We give them the power to protect those rights. "And when any government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness." You can't just overthrow this government without replacing it with something better. Most people will take a lot of abuses until they get so bad that the people can't take it any more. Then it is their right, it is their duty to throw off such government and provide new guards for their future security.

Have you ever wondered why the writers start out with this "All men are created equal ..." and didn't eliminate slavery in this document? Here's the answer. The first draft of the Declaration was found in 1947 in a box of Thomas Jefferson's papers in the Library of Congress. It explains why we didn't eliminate slavery. Our founders were passionate about slavery and tried to eliminate it. They included a long paragraph about its source and abuses along with their attempts to eliminate it.

"The King has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of distinct people, who never offended him. Captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere or to incur miserable death in their transportation. This piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the welfare of the Christian King of Great Britain? He is determined to keep open a market where MEN should be bought and sold. He has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or restrain this commerce ... he is now exciting those very people and giving them arms to rise up among us to purchase that liberty, which he has deprived of them and murdering the people among whom he also obtruded them. Thus paying off former crimes committed against the liberty of one people with crimes he urges them to commit against another. And at every stage of these oppressions, we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms."

Why is that not in the Declaration of Independence? Because of South Carolina and Georgia, two out of the thirteen states. Eleven states said "no" to slavery. Two said "yes." Because the Declaration had to be unanimous, they had to drop it. If they lost the agreement of those two states, no one would be free of the King.

Transcribed from "Time to Set the Record Straight," video by Glenn Beck, July 6, 2020  
<https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/declara/ruffdrft.html>

## FREEDOMS FOUNDATION BOARD - 2020

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**Fillable Form: Membership Application**



**APPLICATION FOR  
PENSACOLA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP**

Effective 2020  
Please Print Clearly

Name (Mr./ Mrs./ Ms./ Dr.) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse/Partner \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Desired**

Patriot (Basic)	\$30.00 - Membership + newsletter
Dual Patriot	\$45.00 - Membership + newsletter
Family Patriot	\$60.00 - Membership + newsletter
Patriot Academic (Full time student)	\$15.00 - Membership + newsletter
Patriot Military (Active Duty)	\$25.00 - Membership + newsletter

Scholarship Fund Donation: Will be used exclusively for sending students to Valley Forge Youth Conference. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

[www.FreedomFoundationPensacola.org](http://www.FreedomFoundationPensacola.org)

Please join today - send check to FFVF Pensacola Chapter, P. O. Box 1012 Pensacola, FL 32591