



Dear Chapter Presidents and Representatives,

Happy Memorial Day Weekend! One small positive that may come out of this pandemic is people will now have time to reflect and learn the true significance of Memorial Day without holiday sales, large parties, and vacations stealing the spotlight. We should all remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country while serving in the military to secure and protect our freedom.

Headquarters has been busy the past week preparing for the online summer teacher programs and ongoing fundraising efforts. I am excited to share with you that we announced the Leavey Class of 2020 this week. This will be the last Leavey Class. We are honoring 5 educators. The teachers are from Vermont, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Georgia. They represent 1 elementary school, 2 middle schools and 2 high schools. The list of honorees can be found on our website at [Leavey Awards 2020](#).

As with most things this year, we are left to reimagine the way we honor these exceptional educators. We will be unable to gather them together this summer for an awards ceremony and summit. However, we still have many things planned. We will be conducting the Leavey Summit online this summer and inviting all of our supporters to attend. We will also be conducting small ceremonies at each teacher's school. This way the students, administration and families of the recipients will be there to celebrate with them. Please be sure to check-out our website starting June 11<sup>th</sup> to see weekly profiles on each Leavey Recipient leading up to the Leavey Summit on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

I hope many of you were able to participate in the panel discussion on the Constitution and COVID-19 last week. We will be continuing to offer more opportunities through our partnership with The Union League Legacy Foundation. We also plan on sharing our own programming including speakers from our graduate seminars, the 2020 Leavey Summit and other events in the pipeline. The next event with The Legacy Foundation will take place this Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM ET. This will be a Civil War Round Table with professor and author Elizabeth Varon. Dr. Varon is the *Langbourne M. Williams Professor of American History* at the University of Virginia. She will be discussing her new book *Armies of Deliverance: A New History of the Civil War*. To register for this program simply [click here](#) to be directed to the Legacy Foundation website. Please feel free to share.

One thing that has grown in popularity and use during the pandemic has been Zoom. I know many of you are using Zoom for chapter meetings, work, and family chats. I would like to start using it for our presidents calls. Our next call is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 ET. I will be setting this call up as a Zoom Meeting. I will send the details and link out a week prior to the meeting. I think this will help us better communicate with one another during the meeting and become a new tool to use moving forward.

Staying on the topic of Zoom, the idea of having chapter “happy hours” via Zoom was recently brought to my attention. Freedoms Foundation staff and members of a selected chapter would have a “happy hour” Zoom meeting. It would be a chance for members to meet with each other along with an opportunity to talk with FFVF staff on a variety of topics. A new chapter would be invited every other week to participate in a “happy hour” hosted by headquarters. Do you think your chapter would be interested in participating? If so, are there topics you would like to see discussed? Would you like a Q&A style session with staff or a pre-determined topic with a formal presentation or just a simple conversation? Your feedback on this new initiative is appreciated and will help us move forward in planning.

Finally, I am pleased to share another video this week in our video series. This week's video is in honor of the announcement of the Leavey Class of 2020. This video features the Leavey Class of 2019 and their award winning programs. It was shown during this past July's awards ceremony.

Leavey Class of 2019 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nllftZOnrA&t>

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication. If you need anything or have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out via email or my cell at home 610-212-2792. And don't forget, mark your calendars for June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3pm ET for our Zoom presidents call.

Be safe and stay healthy!

*Carolyn E. Santangelo*

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**Educate**  
**Honor**  
**Challenge**