



FOUNDING
forward
PENSACOLA CHAPTER

THE BELLRINGER



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A FUTURE ROOTED IN LIBERTY

Now, more than ever, we need a citizenry
educated
to uphold our system of democratic
self-government.

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge
and
The Union League Legacy Foundation
have merged to form Founding Forward,
a national non-profit charity
dedicated to educating and empowering
individuals to participate in and uphold our
system of self-government.

Together as Founding Forward, we will combine
our greatest assets and strengths to become the
leading voice and institution in
Civic Education.

We educate and inspire the leaders of today and
tomorrow to carry forward the founding
principles of the Declaration of Independence
and the Constitution of these United States.



Spirit of America Youth Conference April 12 - 14, 2024



Spirit of America Youth Leadership

Conference is a transformative residential program that engages high school students in grades 10 -12 from across the country with the first principles of freedom.

Pensacola provided scholarships for five local students and two chaperones to attend this year's conference at the Valley Forge campus in Pennsylvania.

The students' experience was filled with inspiring and educational activities, including a mock congressional debate, free enterprise challenge, workshops, and historical site visits. This develops leadership skills and identifies their future contributions to society. Students live on campus throughout the duration of the program. They meet students from across the country, allowing them to learn different points of view and to create new and lasting friendships.

Thank you notes from our students expressed their gratitude and amazement to experience opportunities where they could learn to express their opinions respectfully among their peers. They had discussions with actors representing historic figures, and learned about the importance of participating in current civic affairs.





Meet 'n Greet

Our annual member meeting featured this year's Spirit of America Youth Conference attendees and our History Fair awardee.



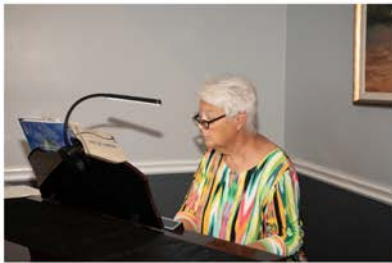
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Community Activities



Save the Dates

Sept. 4, 2024 - POW Luncheon

Nov. 19, 2024 - 40th National Awards Banquet

25th Annual POW/MIA Luncheon

Wednesday, September 4th, 11:30 AM
 Pensacola Yacht Club
 \$25.00

Guest Speaker: Dina G. Linn
 Museum Curator, Naval Aviation Museum
 History of POW Artifacts



Valerie's House

June 27th, we were honored to attend an Open House for Valerie's House which offers grief support for children and their families in Escambia County, to cope with the loss of a loved one. We were greeted with an enthusiastic staff, as well as some alumni, who gave us a tour of their facilities both inside and outside, explaining the function of each area. We enjoyed the various creative activities displayed throughout.

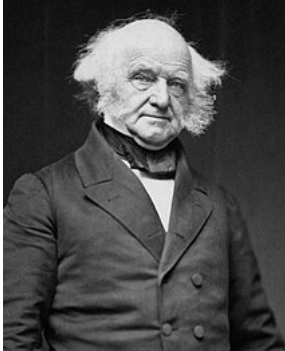
Valerie's House received a National Freedoms Foundation George Washington Honor Medal Award in 2023. They continue to make an impact throughout our community.



Crista Brandt and Jenni Elzweig

Did You Know ... ?

Martin Van Buren was the First President Born in the United States



Martin Van Buren

None of the first seven U.S. Presidents were born in the United States. The first President who could actually claim to have been born a U.S. citizen was the country's eighth president, Martin Van Buren. He was born in 1782 in Kinderhook, New York, which also makes him the first native of the Empire State to be elected to the presidency.

Most of the residents of Kinderhook were of Dutch descent and spoke Dutch as their primary language. Van Buren learned to speak English as his second language when he went to school.

Trained as a lawyer, he entered politics and won a seat in the New York State Senate and was elected in the US Senate in 1821. In the 1828, election he became governor of New York.

Before becoming President in 1837, Van Buren served as Secretary of State, a minister to Great Britain, and ultimately Vice President under Andrew Jackson. With Jackson's strong support he ran successfully for president in the 1836 election. However, his popularity eroded because of his response to the Panic of 1837. This was a financial crisis that began a major depression, which lasted until the mid 1840s. The ailing economy of early 1837 led investors to panic, and a bank run ensued, giving the crisis its name. On May 10, 1837, banks in New York City ran out of gold and silver. A significant economic collapse followed creating a recession that persisted for nearly seven years. Over 40% of all banks failed, businesses closed, profits, prices, and wages dropped, westward expansion was stalled, unemployment rose, and pessimism abounded. The lack of a central bank to regulate fiscal matters, which President Andrew Jackson had ensured by not extending the charter of the Second Bank of the United States, was also key.

Van Buren refused to use government funds to address the crisis, such as emergency relief and increasing spending on public infrastructure projects to reduce unemployment. He was accused by his political opponents of contributing further to the hardship and duration of the depression that followed. This severe economic downturn sunk his bid for a second term.

He was defeated in his campaign for reelection by William Henry Harrison, who was born in Virginia in 1773, making him the last U.S. President to come into the world a subject of the British Empire. Harrison, however, gave his extremely long inaugural address in the bitter cold without wearing a coat. He caught pneumonia and died about a month later, making his tenure the shortest in history.

Reference: <https://historyfacts.com/famous-figures/fact/martin-van-buren-was-the-first-president-born-in-the-united-states/>



FOUNDING FORWARD PENSACOLA CHAPTER
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APPLICATION FOR PENSACOLA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP



2024
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 \$ _____

Founding Forward is a 501(c)3 organization and all donations are tax deductible

www.FoundingForwardPensacola.org

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