



THE BELLRINGER



SAVE THE DATE MEET 'N GREET

Please join us April 17, 2025 for a get together with our local members of Founding Forward.

Pensacola Yacht Club, 4:30 to 6:30 pm
We will have complimentary finger foods and a no host bar.

Please come and meet the board members. Learn what we accomplished in 2024 and hear what we have planned for 2025 and how you can be a part.

Bring a friend.

RSVP by April 10, 2025

Email: beachrun49@cox.net

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Reject apathy and get involved



AWARD RECIPIENTS 2024

Founding Forward Pensacola Chapter (formally Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge) held their 40th Annual Awards Banquet, November 19, 2025. We presented 8 nationally approved George Washington Honor Medals and 5 Youth Essay medals on neck ribbons. In



The Blue Anchor Belles are a group of military wives who are talented singers. Their mission is to serve their community by providing uplifting entertainment to veterans, and their families, and the greater Pensacola community. They bring the beloved patriotic music of the 1940's and 1950's to a variety of eager and appreciative audiences. Their music brings memories of the past and



Jenn Lusher, Executive Director
Family Promise of Escambia County supports families facing housing woes. Family Promise is an interfaith, nonprofit organization having partnered with community churches volunteering to provide night shelter for families for a week at a time. Needy families can also use the newly opened day center at First United Methodist Church providing computers to help create resumes, do job searches, and find housing.



Petty Officer Cindy Islas, USN is a wonderful ambassador of the United States Navy and a strong supporter of the Pensacola community. She organized multiple events to positively occupy the time of new Sailors, and she earned 300 volunteer hours working with local charities strengthening relationships between service members and civilian counterparts. Her exemplary leadership and dedication to teaching and mentoring are unmatched.



AWARD RECIPIENTS 2024



Alicia Tappan: Survivor-Led Solutions

Referring to herself as a survivor-leader, centered, and trauma-informed, Alicia Tappan aims to cultivate safe spaces where other survivors can recover, find their voices, and share their stories. Through her non-profit, she provides a platform for survivor leaders to engage in professional development, public speaking, training, and networking. She also leads retreats to help.



Young Citizens Development Project

Audrey Foss and Dylan Patterson (were unable to attend, award accepted by Alice Zhang), students of Pensacola High School, founded this project as part of their IB Program Service Project. The mission is to educate young students on civic rights and responsibilities and the virtues of democratic citizenship.



Tools for Teachers: David Gardner initiated an innovative idea to ensure district school employees receive supplies to do their jobs, particularly providing for disadvantaged families. Working with Escambia County Schools Foundation, he orders needed supplies through the District Warehouse in bulk. Teachers then order what they need from an online resource store, which delivers them to their school.



An Innovative Teacher Dedicated to Student Success: Dominic Lumbrazo, a civics teacher in Escambia County Schools, is a phenomenal educator. He uses multiple strategies to create an engaging class that is academically rigorous and fun. Lumbrazo draws daily political cartoons, writes original rap songs and uses a student led mock Congress to help youth understand the law-making process.



AWARD RECIPIENTS 2024



Escambia High School: Honoring the Fallen at the 57th Memorial Ceremony - Dr. Dana Buddy, Principal

On November 10, 2023, the Escambia High School Memorial Ceremony took place to honor the memories of the Escambia High School alumni who have given their lives in service and protection of the United States of America while serving as active-duty military. As each name of the 27 honorees were called, a bell was sounded in their memory and a flower bouquet was given to a family member present at the ceremony.



Youth Essay Awardees

Alice Zang, Murray Turner, Penelope Emerson, Jayla Barnett, and Victoria Reed, absent.

The essay question was:

Why are responsible citizens important to our system of government? What can I do to develop the necessary traits to become one and encourage others to do so as well?



Donald Partington: Pensacola Difference Maker

Don Partington has made a lasting difference in Pensacola through his contributions to the rich arts culture of our city. He acquired and donated an authentic Daniel Chester French bronze casting of the Lincoln Memorial to the Pensacola Museum of Art, together with Vaughn Hedrick. As one of the founders of the Pensacola Opera, he has served on the board and performed in over 50 operas. The Opera Center on Tarragona Street is named for him. The Great Gulf Coast Arts Festival, one of the best-regarded juried arts festivals in the United States was also one of his ideas. His projects have had an enduring impact on the cultural life and vitality of our community.



Mark Your Calendar

History Fair Awards February 11

Youth Leadership Conference - April 3-6

Meet 'n Greet - April 17

POW Luncheon - September 17

Annual Awards Banquet - November 4

Escambia County History Fair Awards Ceremony

The competition entries will be judged the first week of February and the awards will be presented Tuesday, February 11, 6:30 PM, at Washington High School Auditorium, 6000 College Parkway. If you are unable to attend: Youtube Link for the History Fair Awards https://youtu.be/_4-8Ye8VxeE

Youth Leadership Conference Progress Report

Escambia County Students who entered this year's competition have completed the submission process, selection of finalists have been made and interviews are planned. The Conference will take place April 3-6, 2025. Students and chaperons will fly to Philadelphia and travel to the Founding Forward campus in Valley Forge. Students from across the country participate in fun, thought-provoking and engaging activities as they learn about history, civic engagement and how to be a leader. Your donations make this life-changing experience possible.

Summer Teacher Graduate Credit Program

Founding Forward offers summer in-person professional development courses for teachers, with graduate credit available. These programs include multi-day in-class seminars at the beautiful Union League Liberty Hill conference center, as well as traveling workshops visiting important historic sites. Travel stipends for first timers available, if accepted. To learn more visit: <https://foundingforward.org/teachers/seminars-and-workshops/>



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Did You Know ... ?



George Washington's Inauguration

While the roots of these traditions go back to the very first U.S. presidential inauguration — that of George Washington in 1789 — the events of that particular day were noticeably different from what transpires now.

On April 14, 1789, George Washington was informed that he received the Electoral College's unanimous vote as first President of the newly formed United States of America. Charles Thomson,

the Secretary of Congress, arrived at Mount Vernon to share the news. Washington accepted the honor with a brief speech and two days later departed his Virginia estate for New York, the new nation's capital.

Following a week's journey from his beloved Virginia plantation Mount Vernon, which saw him feted by residents of every town he passed through, Washington arrived at his new home, leased and prepared for him by Congress, at 3 Cherry Street in New York City, on April 23, 1789. His wife, Martha Washington, who was still tending to business at Mount Vernon, did not join him for another month.

At sunrise on the determined day of April 30, a military salute was discharged at Fort George near the southern tip of Manhattan. At 9 a.m., church bells sounded throughout the city for approximately half an hour, summoning their congregants for a morning service. Meanwhile, Washington, who'd had barely any downtime since adjusting to his accommodations in a three-story brick building on Cherry Street, dressed in a Connecticut-made brown broadcloth suit, adorned with gilt buttons engraved with the arms of the United States, as he awaited the military procession that would escort him to Federal Hall on Wall Street.

The escorts arrived around noon and set off with the president in his coach about half an hour later. Numbering some 500 men in total, the procession included two companies of grenadiers, a company of light infantry, members of the Senate and House committees, and the Spanish and French ministers. Within 200 yards of Federal Hall, the procession split into lines on either side of the street, its participants presenting arms and lowering flags as Washington and his party passed between them on foot and entered the federal building. Inside the Senate Chamber, Washington was greeted by his vice president, John Adams, and members of both the Senate and House of Representatives. At about 2 p.m., Adams informed Washington that it was time to take the oath of office, and the gathered congressmen escorted the president to a canopy-covered balcony decorated with red and white curtains.

Before a crowd of spectators gathered on the streets below, and on the roofs and balconies of neighboring buildings, Washington placed his right hand on an open Bible and repeated the oath of office administered by the chancellor of New York, Robert R. Livingston. After the president finished by kissing the Bible, Chancellor Livingston turned to the crowd and ignited a celebratory roar by proclaiming, "It is done; long live George Washington, President of the United States."

With all elected representatives back in the Senate Chamber, Washington stood before them to read the nation's first presidential address. Despite his self deprecating remarks, he left no doubt about his grasp of the tasks that faced the country in the days to come: "The preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the republican model of government are justly considered as deeply and perhaps finally staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people," he said.

Following a prayer service and a dinner alone at the presidential mansion, he journeyed out to watch a show of fireworks. About 10 p.m., the tired president retreated to his carriage in an attempt to return to his new home. However, the crowded streets forced him to abandon his ride and complete his task on foot.

May we always revere the "governmental experiment" with which we have been entrusted.

<https://historyfacts.com/us-history/article/george-washingtons-inauguration/>



APPLICATION FOR PENSACOLA
CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP



2025

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