



THE BELLRINGER



Pensacola Chapter 41st National Awards Recipients Presentations November 4, 2025

Each year Founding Forward recognizes community members and organizations for outstanding leadership through the George Washington National Awards program. Pensacola Chapter is happy to honor Ten Organizations and Five Youth Essay medalists selected from among nominations submitted across our nation.

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Reject apathy and get involved





2025 National Award Recipients

Adult Community - George Washington Honor Medal



Military Award - Petty Officer Austin D. Reneau, USN

In addition to his Naval Air crewman (Operator), Course Supervisor training instructors and his Assistant Command Fitness Leader career assignments, Petty Officer Reneau dedicated 245 hours of community service volunteering at hospice and palliative care centers. He also hosted the National Naval Aviation Museum Tour of Honor for 22 local veterans to recognize their service. Petty Officer Reneau is also a Crisis Line Operator and a volunteer instructor for CPR and Life Support.



Prison Book Project - Johnny Ardis and Scott Satterwhite

The mission of Open Books is to improve the lives of prisoners, to provide educational resources to help recidivism, and to provide inspiration and knowledge for that growth through books. Manager Johnny Ardis and Open Books founder, Scott Satterwhite and their volunteers are motivated by a love of reading and empathy that believes there is hope of rehabilitation and re-entry into society for those proactive in improving their lives.



Health and Hope Clinic - Sally Bergosh

Health and Hope Clinic volunteers offer medical services to individuals who are uninsured or underserved. Last year the clinic provided over 36,000 volunteers. The clinic provided 14,819 patient visits in 2024. Executive Director, Sally Bergosh, credits the clinic's success to all the healthcare volunteers and community non-profit partners for their financial support and through "in kind" by all three major hospitals for lab work, x-rays, vaccines and surgeries.

Interested in a digital file? Contact: billieandrobort@gmail.com



2025 National Award Recipients

Educator Award - George Washington Honor Medal



Elementary Students Learn Civic Responsibilities - Mark Charles Goolsby, Teacher

As an educator, guide, advocate, and community-involved citizen, Mr Mark Goolsby is dedicated to developing responsible and informed citizens. He has the long-standing role as History Fair Coach for Warrington, Holm, and Ferry Pass Elementary schools. This extracurricular activity involves weekend mentoring of students in historical projects by organizing visits to historic sites and local libraries. Mr Goolsby also organizes other activities connecting students to disabled veterans and providing students with a practical understanding of the voting process by having a Mock Presidential Election.

School Award - George Washington Honor Medal



Socktober: Changing Lives One Sock at a Time - West Pensacola Elementary School, Kyle Kaye Teacher

This project began in 2020, initiated by music teacher Kyle Kaye, involves school students collecting new socks to be donated to Opening Doors Northwest Florida, for their homeless outreach. Clean, dry socks are the most requested donation homeless community members ask for. As the project continued, each year more community members and businesses have participated making storage in the classroom a challenge. Running Wild Pensacola volunteered to pick up the socks and serve as a storage area. Students bagged the socks in groups of three. Socktober 2025 has collected over 4,000 pairs of socks so far this year.

Public Communications - George Washington Honor Medal



Lecture Series - Pensacola Heritage Foundation - Reese Williams

With a mission to preserve and protect heritage through advocacy, education, and community involvement, The Pensacola Heritage Foundation continues its mission with its annual lecture series. The lectures provide an understanding of the American way of life in Pensacola. About 100 attendees share lunch and a lecture every other Tuesday.



2025 National Award Recipients

Special Events - George Washington Honor Medal

A Community Fundraiser Event to Combat Childhood Homelessness - The Family Promise Bed Race Dr. Donna Jacobi Pruett, Community Advocate



Family Promise, is a national organization that shelters families with children seeking affordable housing. To support and expand the shelter, respite and comfort services they provide, a “bed race” fundraiser was organized. Residents of Azalea Trace Life Retirement Community in Pensacola participated, running the course on downtown Zaragoza Street. Approximately 50 residents and staff were involved helping the fundraiser to exceed its goal.

Commemorating the Legacy of the USS Indianapolis National Naval Aviation Museum Foundation Diana Hayden and Dr. Patty Crisp



The legacy of one of the most famous and tragic incidents in WWII was celebrated at the NNAV Museum. The USS Indianapolis was sunk by a Japanese submarine after completing a top-secret mission. One of the survivors, Captain Charles McVay III, was charged with hazarding his ship and was court-martialed. A Pensacola sixth grade student’s involvement in a History Fair project on Captain McVay restored the captain’s reputation. (Now a US Navy Commander) Hunter Scott took his research to Congress, who passed a resolution to exonerate Captain McVay.

Out of the Blue Denim - Cooper Nolan



This nonprofit organization, created by a student who loves denim and enjoys creating items recycled from it, supports victims of human trafficking. Cooper sells the products he creates, including key chains and journal covers, in the local downtown market. He was invited to participate in an event celebrating trafficking survivors, “It’s Not What I Wore”, where he presented his first donation check of \$1500.



2025 National Award Recipients

Youth Essay - George Washington Honor Medal



National Youth Essay

John David Peaden, Ruby Seacrest, Cooper Nolen, Katelyn Nguyen and McCulla Gilmer (not pictured)

When applying to attend the Youth Leadership Summit, students are asked to submit an essay. Those essays are then entered in the Founding Forward Essay Contest. This year, these future leaders were asked to reflect on points they believe should have been included in the U.S. Constitution. Five submissions from Pensacola were selected as winners. Though each was unique and insightful, they revealed some common themes and concerns regarding the practice of slavery and the plight of Native Americans and other indigenous populations who have suffered the effects of forced annexation and imperialism.

Pensacola Difference Maker



Pensacola Historic Preservation Society - Ed Muller, President

The Quina House, built in 1810, is the oldest structure in the city of Pensacola that is still located on its original site. It is maintained by volunteers who are members of the Pensacola Historic Preservation Society. This home was the long-time residence of Desiderio Quina, a native of Genoa, Italy and a member of the Louisiana Infantry stationed in Pensacola.



His son established a pharmacy in Pensacola. The family owned and occupied the house until just after the Civil War, selling it in 1869. Scheduled for demolition in 1966, it was purchased by the Society and gradually restored over several years thanks to donations by generous citizens and creative fund-raising efforts.



Did You Know ... ?

Reverend John Peter Gabriel Mulenberg



John Peter Gabriel Mulenberg Statue
National Statuary Hall Collection
United States Capitol, Washington, DC

Today, in the United States Capitol building, stands a statue of a minister removing his clerical robes revealing the uniform of a Colonel in the Continental Army. Visitors to the Statuary Hall may not recognize the significance of this man's story.

Reverend John Peter Gabriel Mulenberg, son of a minister, was encouraged by his father to follow in the family profession. In 1771, he accepted a call to a Lutheran congregation in Woodstock, Virginia. His work led him into politics, and he served in the VA House of Burgesses. Over the next two years he became involved with the leaders of the Revolution. The more he became involved in political interests, the more criticism he received from his superiors in the Lutheran Church. His response when criticized, *"I am a clergyman, it is true, but I am also a member of society ... and my liberty is as dear to me as to any man. I am called by my country to its defense ... I am convinced it is my duty so to do, a duty I owe to my God and to my country."*

Some members of his congregation believed his preaching was too controversial for a minister of the gospel, but others were inspired by his fiery and often emotional messages. General

Washington had sent letters to Congress requesting assistance in recruiting volunteer soldiers. Mulenberg was driven to help recruit them. Although he believed his preaching had helped inspire those who had joined the cause, he began wondering if he was doing enough. He believed that God was calling him to do more for the cause in which he believed, and he was determined to follow that calling.

On a cold January Sunday morning, in 1776, following an hour and a half service where he preached about duty, responsibility, and obedience to God's calling, he paused, placed his Bible on the pulpit, and said, *"In the language of the Holy Writ, we see there is a time for all things. There is a time to pray and a time to preach, but the time for me to preach has passed away. There is also a time to fight, and that time has now come."* Then, to the surprise of the congregation, he slowly removed his clerical robe, revealing the uniform of a Colonel in the Continental Army. As church members gasped in astonishment, he descended the pulpit and walked down the aisle to the back of the sanctuary. Upon reaching the back of the church, he opened the doors. In the street stood a drummer, in full military uniform, who began playing the "Call to Recruits." Mulenberg turned to the congregation and asked *"Who will join me in the fight for liberty?"* By the end of the day, over three hundred men responded to his call, and the Eighth Virginia Regiment was established. They immediately marched off to South Carolina to assist in the relief of Charleston. He never returned to the pulpit, but he continued serving God through an illustrious service to his country.

Reference: Loudermilk, Barry, "And Then They Prayed" ©2025, Second Edition



FOUNDING FORWARD PENSACOLA CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cherie Arnette

Escambia Public Schools
850-380-3541
carnette@ecsdfl.us

Connie Brown

VP-Youth Leadership
850-484-8567
850-450-4227
conniebrown991@gmail.com

Donna Harper

Director
850-748-4121
harper2paint@gmail.com

John McGill

Director
850-380-4653
jmcgill49@yahoo.com

Lynn Mott

Treasurer
850-501-7218
beachrun49@aol.com

Billie Nicholson

BELLRINGER Editor
Website Admin
850-375-5900
billieandrobort@gmail.com

Robert Nicholson

Membership
850-602-0650
billieandrobort@gmail.com

Beth Partington

Director
850-572-5245
beth-partington@cox.net

Dr. Anita Schmitt

Secretary
850-393-9623
anitaschmitt53@gmail.com

Traci Stitt

Director
850-206-9264
traciestitt61@gmail.com

Betty Williams

President
850-944-3237
850-712-7221
herbwilliams@prodigy.net

Michele Wilson

Director
850-453-8726
850-516-8692
michelewilson2898@gmail.com



APPLICATION FOR PENSACOLA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP



2025

Please Print Clearly

Name (Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr.) _____

Spouse/Partner _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Membership Desired

- Patriot (Basic) \$30.00 - Membership + newsletter
- Dual Patriot \$45.00 - Membership + newsletter
- Family Patriot \$60.00 - Membership + “
- 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