

THE FORGE

NEWS FROM THE SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

May 2024

Our Mission: "We create an informed and engaged citizenry through education about the principles, rights, and responsibilities enshrined in the Declaration of Independence and Constitution of the United States, empowering individuals to participate in and uphold our system of self-government."



Joyce Truett, President

<https://foundingforward.org/>

May 2024

NATIONAL RECIPIENTS OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON HONOR MEDAL



Honored at the Annual Awards Luncheon in February, five awardees received the George Washington Honor Medal for their outstanding contributions to the community.

Shown are the recipients and dignitaries (L to R) Charlotte Perry, Alyssa Huckleberry, James and Regina Gamboa, Marcey Brightwell and Neil O'Connell.

Back row: Jenn Halter, FFVF CEO David Harmer, Brenda Ferich, Sharon Henry and San Diego County Chapter President Joyce Truett.

STUDENT DELEGATION TO VALLEY FORGE STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Students attending the "Spirit of America" Leadership Program at Valley Forge shown with Abigail Adams are (L to R) Ryan Jackson, Nuhamin Woldeyes, BrehSyria Nodd, Alison Hernandez, Melissa Barrera Medina, Vanessa Limon, Blanca Plascencia, Erika Preciado, Abigail Adams, Byanca Ocegüera, Iris Romero-Reyes, Julia Farschon, Jacob Coleman, Diego Duenas, Joshua Kozak, Katherine Foulks and chaperone, Monica Gutierrez.





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

...Joyce Truett

Hello! I'm hoping that our "April Showers will bring Flowers" and not May Gray this year.

The last few months have been very busy for our chapter: The Awards Luncheon; students' trip to the "Spirit of America" Leadership program at Valley Forge and their extended visit to Washington D.C.; members identifying community leaders and preparing nominations for National Awards.

The Awards Luncheon in February was a great success. Nearly 100 guests enjoyed meeting Freedoms Foundation CEO David Harmer and learned about the Foundation's 75 years of service. Then the National Awards were presented to the deserving recipients, who described their projects and personal contributions to the community

On February 12, 2024 there was an announcement concerning the merger of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge and the Union League Legacy Foundation. The new name of our organization will be Founding Forward. The mission is "leading the way in civic education." David Harmer was named the National Director.

The Valley Forge programs for students, teachers, and the public will continue to be offered. Our students enjoyed their trip to Valley Forge and Washington D.C. They met new friends from other states, participated in hands-on activities, listened to learned professors of history, experienced tours to historic sites, walked the Medal Grove of Honor and watched the changing of guard at the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier in Washington.

Our board members are busy planning and identifying members of our community who go "above and beyond" to make our city a better place in which to live. If you know of any community member who would be a good candidate for this National Award, please let us know.

The Day of the Races is scheduled for Sunday, August 18, 2024 at Del Mar Thoroughbred Club. Be sure to mark your calendars and join us in this truly exciting and enjoyable event.



***This Memorial Day,
we remember those
heroes who
courageously gave
their lives***



DONORS

Many thanks to members and friends for their continued support.

***Michael Anderson
Clairemont High School Foundation
Chuck and Paula Day
Dave Dickson
Brenda Ferich
Bill Glover
Sandy and Tom Helmantoler
Sharon and Brian Henry
Michelle and Stephen Johnson
Julian Woman's Club
Jo Liddell
Marcy McCann
Optimist Club of Allied Gardens
Optimist Club of Imperial Beach
Rose Perkins
Francine Poirier
Sally and Jim Syren
Virginia Syverson
Joyce and Henry Truett***

MEMBERSHIP JOIN US!

We welcome you to join or renew your Founding Forward (formerly Freedoms Foundation) San Diego Chapter membership. The membership levels are \$35 Single, \$50 Couple, \$100 Patron, or \$1,000 Life (Lifetime membership can be donated in four annual gifts of \$250 each.) A one-year subscription to our newsletter *The Forge* is included with your membership. Our tax ID number is 23-7375538 and your membership is a fully tax deductible donation. Contact Treasurer Paula Day for more information: phone: or 619-395-1405 or Email: phday@cox.net.

ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON - FEBRUARY 10, 2024
2023-2024 GEORGE WASHINGTON HONOR MEDAL RECIPIENTS



Jenn Halter, Alyssa Huckleberry, David Harmer



David, Virginia Syverson, Regina and James Gamboa



David, Sharon Henry, Neil O'Connell



David, Marcey Brightwell, Brenda Ferich



Sally Syren, Charlotte Perry and David Harmer



David Harmer, Founding Forward



Rose Perkins and her lovely gift baskets!



2024 Student Delegates to Valley Forge

FLY AWAY BREAKFAST HOSTED BY THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF ALLIED GARDENS - MARCH 28, 2024
STUDENTS AT VALLEY FORGE AND WASHINGTON D.C. - APRIL 4-10, 2024



Bill Glover with Joyce Truett accepting the generous donations from Optimist Club of Allied Gardens.



Brenda Ferich and Paula Day enjoy listening to students tell what they hope to learn.



Students enjoyed the Fly Away Breakfast sponsored by the Optimist Club and are ready to go – just one week away from the big day.



Erika Preciado



Shark Tank Activity



Work Party



Students in front of Capitol at twilight



FOUNDING FORWARD...Did notice our new NAME, new SHIELD on the front page and our new LOGO?

In February, 2024, Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge merged with the Union League Legacy Foundation to create FOUNDING FORWARD, a national, non-partisan, non-profit charity leading the way in civic education. Our work and educational programs will continue with more resources and greater impact.

- The two foundations joined forces to carry on their work with more resources, greater reach and a bigger impact. This will also ensure that our work will continue for generations to come.
- There will be no change in any of our chapters, programs, scholarships, awards, historic assets, or other activities.
- Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge and Union League Legacy Foundation share the same goals and have complementary programs. At a time when our work is more important than ever, it made sense to join forces so that we can have an even bigger impact.



**FREEDOMS FOUNDATION
AT VALLEY FORGE
ANNUAL DAY AT THE RACES
SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2024
DEL MAR THOROUGHBRED CLUB**



Invitations will be in the mail in July.

*Watch for yours and be sure to come and bring your friends.
The afternoon of excitement and fun is also a fundraiser for our
STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM*