



News Release



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**WORLD WAR II VETERAN HERBERT M. SHEANER, JR. TO BE HONORED AT
FOUNDING FORWARD DALLAS AREA CHAPTER 54TH ANNUAL
ACCOLADES AWARDS DINNER SET FOR VETERANS DAY, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11**
101-year-old U.S. Army veteran to receive President's Salute Award
Tickets available online or by mail

Dallas, TX—The Dallas Area Chapter of Founding Forward will hold its 54th annual *Accolades* Awards Dinner on **Tuesday, November 11** at the Communities Foundation of Texas, 5500 Caruth Haven Lane in Dallas.

With this year's *Accolades* Dinner being held on Veterans Day, it was announced today that 101-year-old World War II U.S. Army Veteran Herbert M. (Herb) Sheaner, Jr. will be honored with a very special recognition that night.

Mr. Sheaner, who resides in the Lakewood area of Dallas, will receive the **Founding Forward Dallas Area Chapter's President's Salute Award**, which recognizes individuals whose service reflects exceptional commitment to both community and country.

Tickets for the *Accolades* Awards Dinner are now on sale online or via mail. More information can be found at foundingforward.org/chapter/dallas-tx/. **Accolades begins with a reception at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner and the program at 7:00 p.m.**

Born in Dallas in 1924, Mr. Sheaner served in the U.S. Army's 106th Infantry Division, Company G of the 422nd Regiment, from 1943-45. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium and was taken prisoner by the German Army in late December 1944 before escaping from a holding pen in Eastern Germany in April 1945. He received both a Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his valor in combat.

After the war, Mr. Sheaner received his BBA at the University of Texas and his MBA at the University of Michigan before founding his own insurance agency back in East Dallas. He also served as the cross country/track & field coach at Dallas' Jesuit College Preparatory School from 1955-75 and was a noted track & field official in Texas until 2019. His memoir, *Prisoner's Odyssey* chronicles his experience as a soldier and prisoner of war.

Each year, the Dallas Area Chapter honors individuals and organizations for their contributions and efforts to make America a better place for everyone. **Mr. Sheaner will join the other 19 2025 *Accolades* Awards Dinner honorees:**

2025 George Washington Medal of Honor Recipients:

Adult Community Honorees— **Jim Rodriguez, The F.L.A.G. Program, Dallas** for instilling respect for the U.S. Flag
John Shearer, Academy 4, Fort Worth for Mentoring the Next Generation
Mariana Steelsmith, United Rocks, Plano for Rock Climbing for Special Needs
Taylor Toynes, For Oak Cliff, Dallas for serving the South Oak Cliff community

Public Communications Honoree—**Ken Hersh, former President & CEO, George W. Bush Presidential Center** for Focus on America's Founding Principles

Educator Honoree—**Jane Rose, Grapevine High School** for Educational Excellence in promoting school culture and community engagement

Youth Essay Honorees—Isabella Ackerman, Lainey Chamberlin, Alonso Cosme, Emiliano de la Torre, Alesandra Deuillet, John Edmondson, William Guo, Bea Haddock, Logan Jones, Navya Kammend, Ryleigh LaRue, Amelia Peng, Lillian Wiles

The 13 students listed above will be honored for their essays on the topic: *What do you believe the Founding Fathers should have included in the 1787 Constitution that was not and why?*

The Founding Forward Dallas Area Chapter sent nine students from six area high schools to the youth leadership conference at the organization's education campus at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania for a four-day program from April 3-6, 2025. Two of those students were selected to attend the Service Learning in Public Policy program in Philadelphia, August 3-8, 2025. In addition, the Dallas Area Chapter sponsored 12 teachers to attend graduate programs in Philadelphia this past summer. Students or teachers interested in attending 2026 Founding Forward programs can contact the chapter's Vice President-Education Kyle Norwood at kn108714@gmail.com.

For information on becoming a member of the Founding Forward Dallas Area Chapter, please contact the chapter's Vice President-Membership Sam Bonney at Bonneylaw43@gmail.com.

ABOUT FOUNDING FORWARD: In February 2024 Founding Forward was formed through the merger of two longstanding American institutions: Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge (the previous affiliation of the Dallas Area Chapter) and the Union League Legacy Foundation. Its mission is to inform and engage citizens through transformational educational experiences grounded in American history. These experiences enable students, teachers, and citizens to understand, appreciate, and practice the principles, rights, and responsibilities of American citizenship.