



**EDUCATE  
HONOR  
CHALLENGE**

## *Volunteer Chapters Newsletter*

February 2017

Greetings!

Happy Awards Season! The celebration of Presidents' Day in February brings George Washington Honor Medal award ceremonies across the country. Here are the dates of Chapter award ceremonies taking place throughout the next several months.

### **February**

- 9 - San Diego Chapter
- 9 - Utah Chapter
- 16 - Orange County Chapter
- 21 - Sacramento Area Chapter
- 23 - Dallas Area Chapter
- 23 - Los Angeles County Chapter
- 24 - Broward County Chapter
- 28 - Pensacola Chapter

### **March**

- 7 - Tuscon Chapter
- 25 - Valley Forge Chapter
- 26 - Chattanooga Chapter

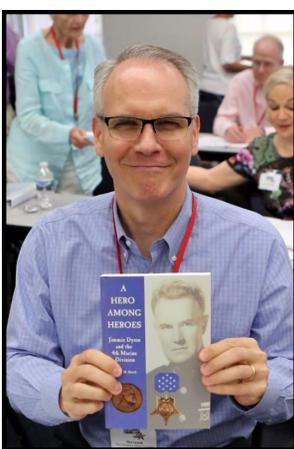
### **April**

- 11 - Oklahoma City Chapter
- 29 - Bay State Chapter

## *Love is in the Air!*

Whether it's a love for your Valentine, family, friends, pet, career, or county, love is in the air this time of year! In the spirit of Valentine's Day, I want to know, *why do YOU love Freedoms Foundation?!*





## Stan Leavitt

President: Sacramento Chapter

I love the founding principles of our country and I love that one of the main missions of FFVF is to insure those principles are taught to our youth and school teachers. I love to see the difference in the students that we send to the Youth Leadership Summit at Valley Forge and how inspired and impassioned they become about their country and civic duties. I love that we honor those who do acts of civic and community service and reflect what is best about our country.

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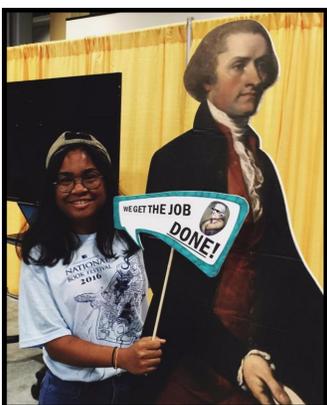


## Shannon Sisson

FFVF Staff: Marketing and Development Coordinator

I was an intern for a few months before starting full time and it was then that I knew this organization was something special. As a millennial, I think it's important to make sure everyone of all ages truly understand their rights as an American and I believe that Freedoms Foundation does a great job of implementing that. I love seeing students from across the country come to our Spirit of America program, really take away great life lessons from it, and know that they will go home and spread their new knowledge with others.

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## Celine Calpo

Youth Advisory Council / Spirit of America Alum / San Diego Chapter Member

I love Freedoms Foundation because of all the awesome people I got to meet from my year and the years before. It was one of the most formative experiences of my life.

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## Christine Thieme

Student Program Staff / YAC Adviser

I have had the pleasure of working at FFVF for almost five years now. I love that FFVF is always looking for new ways to engage diverse groups of people to participate in our society, through our local community and chapters. As a high school history teacher, I see the importance and value in dedicating time to helping our young people become engaged and active citizens. Working specifically with our student programs at FFVF, I have been able to meet so many different students and adults who have challenged me to make a difference. My FFVF family has motivated me to help our students become contributing members of society. I am

grateful and have been humbled by these positive experiences and wonderful people.

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## Shiela Edwards

Grad Teacher Program Alum

As you enter the driveway of Freedoms Foundation in Valley Forge you come face to face with the Bill of Responsibilities, which reminds us that "*Freedom for all of us depends on responsibility by each of us.*" This is the essence of the foundation. Freedoms Foundation works with the Medal of Honor Foundation and together they provide life changing experiences for teachers and students. In the two summer seminars I've attended I have been inspired by Medal of Honor recipients, visited the 9/11 Memorial museum and many historical sites in Philadelphia, learned from prominent professors and experts on our nation's history and been given the chance to interact with some of the most engaged, motivated teachers in the country. The lessons I've learned and the relationships I've forged will last a lifetime.

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## *Freedoms Foundation Winter Newsletter*

Did you receive the Winter 2017 National Newsletter?

[Click here to read!](#)

Contact Louise with your current address if you have not received this newsletter to ensure you do in the future.

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## *Jack Tomarchio*

*Former Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Intelligence  
Department of Homeland Security*

On January 25, we welcomed Jack Tomarchio to campus for a speaker series open to the public. The video of the lecture is now available! Click below.

[Hacking, Politics, and the New Russia](#)

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## *Graduate Teacher Programs*

*Applications now being accepted!*

The application process for the 2017 Graduate Teacher Program has opened! All teachers are welcome to apply. Look for the [Teachers section](#) of our website for more information on the programs being offered this summer and how to apply.

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## *Upcoming Events*

*Here's a look at what's happening in 2017:*

## Events

- *An Evening with Freedoms Foundation: April 27th*
- *WWII Event: May 6-7*
- *National Volunteer Chapters Conference: September 14-17*

## Student Programs

- *February 23-26: Partners Spirit of America*
- *March 2-5: Volunteer Chapters Spirit of America*
- *March 16-19: Volunteer Chapters Spirit of America*
- *April 6-9: Volunteer Chapters Spirit of America*
- *April 20-23: Military Order of the World Wars Spirit of America*
- *June 15-18: VFW Voice of Democracy*
- *July 6-9: National Sojourners Spirit of America*
- *July 30: August 4 - Service Learning in Public Policy (SLiPP)*

## Seminars

### *Graduate Teacher Programs*

- *June 18 - 23: Medal of Honor Legacy: WWII*
- *June 25 - 30: Medal of Honor Legacy: War on Terror*
- *July 9 - 14: Biography and Character*
- *July 16 - 21: Medal of Honor Legacy*
- *July 23 - 28: Medal of Honor Legacy: Vietnam*

## Workshops

### *Graduate Teacher Traveling Programs*

- *June 24 - July 1: Civil War South*
- *July 15 - 21: American Revolution South*

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## *Treasurer's Chest*

### *February's Fundraising Idea!*

*Treasurer's Chest*



### ***Spring into Fundraising!***

*Spring is around the corner, here are some great ideas for bringing in some extra funds for your chapter in fun, seasonal ways!*

- *Spring Cleaning Garage Sale*
- *March Madness Bracket*
- *Spring bulb/plant sale*
- *High Tea Party*
- *St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl or Beef and Beer*
- *Lawn Mowing for a Cause*
- *Host a Birdhouse Painting Class*
- *Host a Spring Fling Dinner*





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## Stay Connected



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

