

# THE BELLRINGER



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## 37th ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET POSTPONED



George Washington Honor Medal

We were looking forward to honoring our 2020 George Washington Awardees. Unfortunately, with the continuing restrictions on gatherings due to the COVID-19 virus, we have decided to postpone the award ceremony until March 15, 2022 at the Pensacola Yacht Club.



## Happy Presidents' Day

George Washington

William Henry Harrison

Abraham Lincoln

Ronald Reagan

## Did You Know ... ?



Dr. Carter G. Woodson

During the dawning of the twentieth century, it was widely-presumed that people of African descent had little history besides the subjugation of slavery. Of course, it is obvious today that Africans have significantly impacted the development of the social, political and economic structures of not just the United States but also the world. Credit for the evolving awareness of the true place of blacks in history can, in large part, be bestowed upon one man, Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Dr. Woodson's parents had been enslaved, so he understood the importance of a proper education. Though he didn't begin his formal education until the age of 20, he earned his high school diploma, bachelor's and master's degrees in the span of a few years. Then, in 1912, he

became the second African American to earn a PhD from Harvard and was the first person of enslaved parents to earn a PhD in history!

Black history month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. This event grew out of "Negro History Week," started by historian Carter G. Woodson in 1926, designated for the second week in February, to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The black United Students and Black Educators expanded this idea to include an entire month, beginning the first of February in 1970. Every American president since Gerald Ford has endorsed this designation and encouraged a specific theme. The theme for 2021 is "Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity," explores the African diaspora, and the spread of Black families across the United States.

Interested in researching your African American family history? Try this [class](#).

## In Memoriam - Butch Wallace



Walter G. "Butch" Wallace  
1938 - 2020

Walter G. "Butch" Wallace was a native of Memphis, Tennessee, and a U.S. Navy veteran who retired as the Command Master Chief at Corry Field, Pensacola, after 30 years. His distinguished Navy career included training in Chinese and Arabic, linguistics and cryptanalysis, and duty with the National Security Agency. While at Corry Field, Master Chief Wallace received the Gift of Giving Award from the Pensacola News Journal. He set up the Saturday Scholars Program that enabled Corry Field's students to mentor underachieving public school students, initiated over 100 programs and events that benefited the Navy and his community, and was instrumental in implementing Corry Field's Special Olympics program.

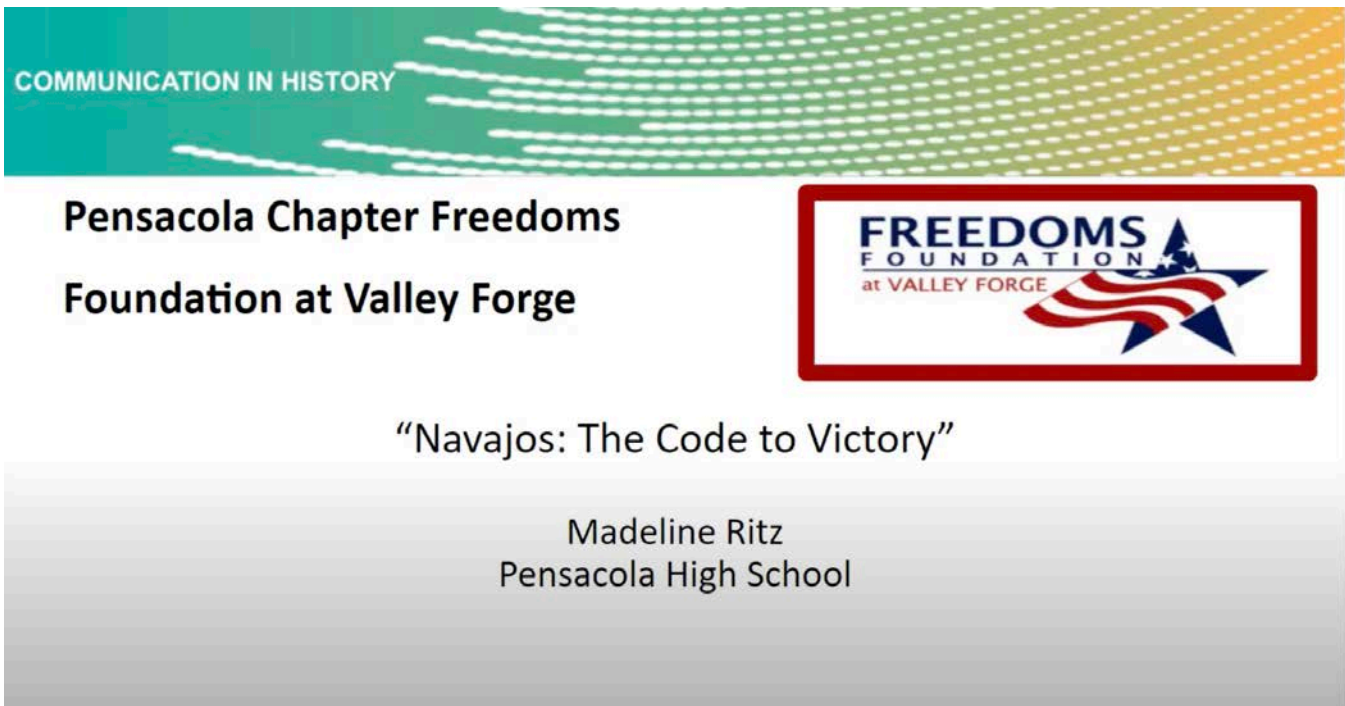
When he retired, his commanding officer said Master Chief Wallace "wanted to be the best chief there ever was and he is."

After retirement, Butch continued his lifelong service to his country and community through his many volunteer activities in his adopted hometown of Pensacola. He served as President of the Corry Station Toastmasters Club, Commander of American Legion Post 240, President of the Pensacola Chapter of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, President of the Pensacola Council of the Navy League and editor of its journal the Bull Horn. He spent many years as a volunteer providing tax assistance to senior citizens. His work with the Pensacola Chapter of the Freedoms Foundation included as president and editor of its journal the Bellringer. He received the Spirit of 76 Award for his lifetime achievements in the U.S. Navy and his many contributions to the Pensacola community. He was a member of too many charitable organizations and the recipient of too many awards to mention here. Suffice it to say, Master Chief Wallace left his mark.

After retirement, he met the love of his life, Loretta Micek. He and Loretta started a life together and filled it with travel, adventure, dance, family, love, hospital visits, and lots of critters. Butch loved all creatures great and small. And they loved him back. From goats and ducks as a child, to dogs and birds as an adult, Butch was an accumulator of fauna. And, he was a skilled gardener — he could start a tree from a twig. He spent his last days pulling weeds from his beautiful garden, feeding the wild squirrels, talking to his birds, cuddling with his dogs, all under the watchful eye of Loretta. He leaves behind many people and creatures who love him. His memory will live on in each of us. **In his memory, checks may be made to FFVF, Pensacola Chapter, P.O. Box 1012, Pensacola, FL 32591.**

## Out and About - Members Active in Our Community

**Pensacola Chapter** members participated in judging at this year's Escambia County School System's History Fair. This year's theme was "Communication in History." Due to COVID restrictions, interaction was limited and the awards were announced via a [video](#). Judges awarded the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge award to Madeline Ritz from Pensacola High School. Her presentation was "Navajos: The Code to Victory." Our congratulations to Madeline!

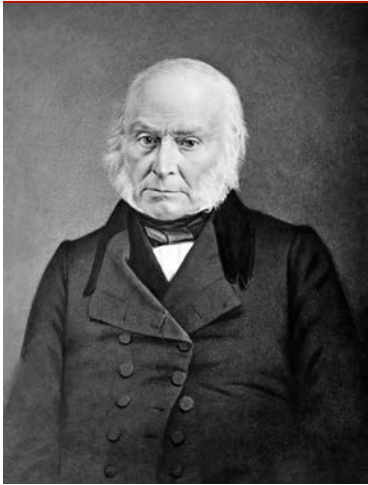


**Pensacola Chapter** members were invited to participate in the winter Belk Charity Sale. Due to COVID restrictions, we were not able to work in the store during this event. We were able to sell tickets, which were good for multiple purchases. Proceeds from that sale go toward our Youth Conference Scholarship fund.





## John Quincy Adams



A man who believed in God, hard work, education, honor and American prominence, John Quincy Adams was a great defender of free speech. He began his first overseas government mission at age 10, with his father John Adams. At age 14, primarily because of his foreign language fluency, Adams received his first official government posting and was sent as a secretary on a mission to Russia.

After returning, he attended and graduated from Harvard and started a law practice arguing a case successfully before the Supreme Court in 1809, about interstate land sales. He served in ambassadorships under several presidents, where he focused on developing American relationships

with many European countries. Upon return to the states, he was elected to the Massachusetts Senate and they elected him to the United States Senate. He was in agreement with the expansionist ideas of President Thomas Jefferson and the blocking of imports from Britain to punish them for their attacks on American shipping during the ongoing Napoleonic wars. When he supported the Embargo Act of 1807, the Federalist-controlled Massachusetts legislature elected Adam's successor several months before the end of his term and he resigned shortly thereafter.

President Madison appointed John Quincy as the first United States Minister to Russia. While there he witnessed Napoleon's invasion of Russia, his defeat and withdrawal. He befriended Tsar Alexander I and was appointed to a delegation with him to mediate the conflict and negotiate an end to the war. The British rejected Alexander's offer as mediator and the negotiations moved to Ghent, where a treaty was signed. From there, Adams was appointed US ambassador to Britain, where he negotiated a trade agreement with Britain and spent much time helping stranded American sailors and prisoners of war.

President James Monroe appointed him as Secretary of State. During his term, in April 1818, without government permission, Andrew Jackson invaded Spanish territory and captured two Spanish forts starting the First Seminole War. Instead of punishing Jackson and knowing that Spain could not fight back, Adams gave Spain two choices, police their territory or sell it. Spain sold Florida and their claims to part of the Pacific Northwest (Oregon territory) for \$5 million.

In an attempt to thwart other European countries from attempting to colonize territories in the Americas, Monroe issued the Monroe Doctrine written with Adams' assistance. Its three major points were: 1. European interference in US affairs would not be tolerated and the US would stay neutral in European colonies or conflicts. 2. The US would not tolerate new colonization in the Americas. 3. Any attempt by Europe to do so would be considered an act of Aggression. This policy marked the country's shift away from Europe and toward the Americas, with a focus on western expansion.

Adams was one of four men aspiring for US President in 1824. None of the four received enough electoral votes to win so the decision was made by Congress. His opponent Henry Clay threw his support to Adams, giving him enough votes to win the election. Clay was named Secretary of State with much objection from Andrew Jackson supporters. His one-term presidency had little to show for it.

In 1830, Adams won a position in the US House of Representatives, becoming the only former president to serve there. He regularly argued against slavery and against the House's "gag rule" to table any more petitions against slavery. "The right of petition belongs to all," he argued, stating that "slavery was a sin before God." He served until his death from a stroke, collapsing on the House floor.

## Celebrating Black Women



Madame C. J. Walker

**Madame C. J. Walker** - Sarah Breedlove was born on December 23, 1867 on the same Delta, Louisiana plantation where her parents had been enslaved before the end of the Civil war. This child of sharecroppers transformed herself from an uneducated farm laborer and laundress into one of the twentieth century's most successful, self-made entrepreneurs.

"I am a woman who came from the cotton fields of the South. From there I was promoted to the washtub. From there I was promoted to the cook kitchen. And from there I promoted myself into the business of manufacturing hair goods and preparations ... I have built my own factory on my own ground," she said.

Orphaned at the age of 7, she and her sister survived by working in the cotton fields in Mississippi. At 14 she married Joseph McWilliams to escape abuse from her brother-in-law. Her only daughter A'Leila was born in 1885. When her husband died two years later, she moved to St.

Louis, Missouri to join her four brothers who had established themselves as barbers. She later married Charles Joseph Walker, a newspaper advertising salesman and assumed his name for her business persona. Friendship with other black women who were members of the St. Paul A.M.E. Church and the National Association of Colored Women exposed her to a new way of viewing the world.

During the 1890s, Sarah began to suffer from a scalp ailment that caused her to lose most of her hair. She consulted her brothers and also experimented with many homemade remedies and store-bought products. As she experimented to create her own product, she ordered some items from Africa, which led to the creation of the "Walker system" of hair care. A talented entrepreneur with a knack for self promotion, Walker built a business empire, at first selling products to Black women, then employing "beauty culturalists" to hand-sell her wares. This self made millionaire used her fortune to fund scholarships for women at the Tuskegee Institute, work with the NAACP to promote anti-lynching legislation and to set standards in the African American community for corporate and community giving.

**Maggie Lena Mitchell Walker** - Born on the Van Lew estate in Richmond, VA on July 15, 1864, her mother worked for Elizabeth Van Lew, an abolitionist, Unionist and spy for the Union during the American Civil War. A series of tragedies plunged the family into poverty and her mother began a small laundry business to provide for the family. Maggie received public school education, taught for three years but had to quit when she got married.

She was active in the Independent Order of St Luke, an African American fraternal society and used her position to include a juvenile branch. Maggie believed in the importance of tying the younger generation into current events, so they would develop an interest in community service. She encouraged creating a conglomerate: bank, newspaper, and a black managed department store. In her later years, she engaged in civic issues and became an activist against discrimination and segregation.



Maggie Lena Walker

## FREEDOMS FOUNDATION BOARD - 2020

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**Fillable Form: Membership Application**

**EDUCATE  
HONOR  
CHALLENGE**

## APPLICATION FOR PENSACOLA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Effective 2020  
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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Freedom Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization and all donations are tax deductible

[www.FreedomFoundationPensacola.org](http://www.FreedomFoundationPensacola.org)

Please join today - send check to FFVF Pensacola Chapter, P. O. Box 1012 Pensacola, FL 32591