

**Marvell Ruppel**  
**2017 National President's Project**  
**"Lighting the Way to Freedom"**  
**Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge**



**What is Freedoms Foundation?**

Established in 1949, Freedoms Foundation is an educational non-profit with the mission to educate about American rights and responsibilities, honor acts of civic virtue, and challenge all to reject apathy and get involved. With a magnificent 72-acre campus in the heart of Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, nearly two-thirds is dedicated to the Medal of Honor Grove, honoring by state those who have received our nation's highest award for valor in combat. Freedoms Foundation works to convey our shared American values focused on citizenship and character through different educational programs for teachers and students who live on campus to learn what it means to be an American. Since 1954, AMVETS Ladies National Auxiliary has been a regular supporter of Freedoms Foundation, which is the focus of our Auxiliary Americanism program.



**Where is it located?**

Freedoms Foundation's campus is located in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, adjacent to the National Historical Park and just 25 miles west of Philadelphia.

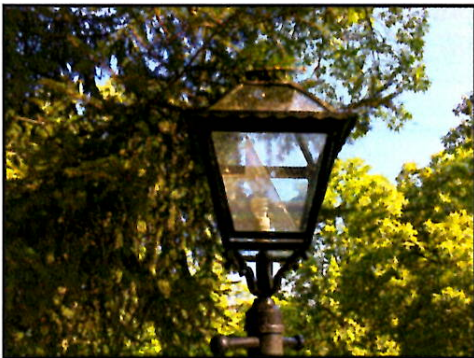
**What does Freedoms Foundation need?**

Maintaining a 72-acre campus is a challenge, and keeping it safe and secure for everyone is of the utmost importance. Replacing and expanding the outdoor lighting on the Valley Forge campus is a top priority. Presently there are 48 lampposts throughout the campus. In addition to replacing these, which were installed nearly fifty years ago, lighting will be added in locations such as the Independence Rose Garden, the entrance to the dormitories and the Medal of Honor Grove.



**Who will benefit?**

All of the people who participate in Freedoms Foundation programs throughout the year will benefit from the safety and security new lighting will provide. In the summertime, teachers live on campus for graduate professional development seminars and throughout the year students live on campus honing their leadership skills, exploring historical sites in the area, and learning how to be responsible citizens in our republic. Even local community members who attend military band concerts, educational speaker series, or outside events like the WWII reenactment and USO Canteen dance benefit from a better lit, safer campus.



**Why I support Freedoms Foundation?**

My theme for this year as National President is "Never Forget." Freedoms Foundation's educational programs ensure that young people today never forget our nation's history and how lucky we are to live in this great American democracy. They remind students and teachers that apathy is the greatest threat to our way of life and encourage all Americans to get involved – in their local