

COST OF  
FREEDOM



2025



HONOR THE SACRIFICE, EMPOWER THE FUTURE

# Honor the Sacrifice



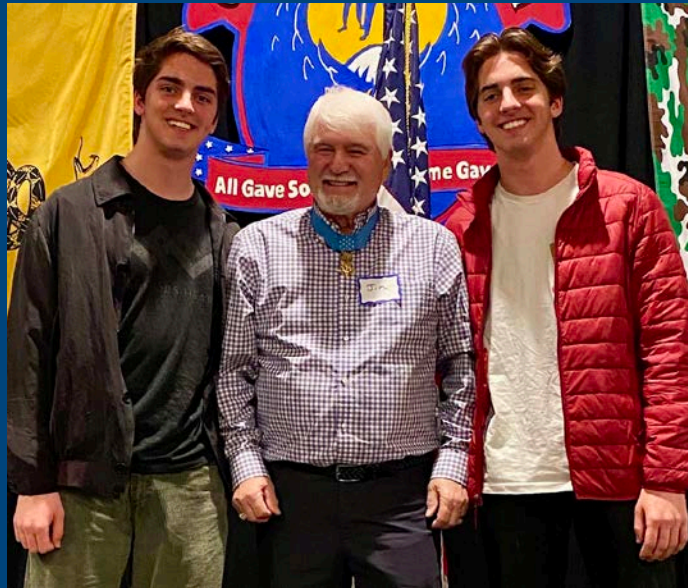
Freedom is not free. It comes with the highest cost of all:  
the lives of those who defend it.

John Basilone, Sgt USMC • Medal of Honor Recipient, WWII 10/24-25/42

# JANUARY 2025

| SUN   | MON   | TUE | WED  | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|
| <p>The ultimate test of a man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard. – Gaylord Nelson</p> |   |     | <p>New Year's Day<br/>Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation – 1863</p> <p>1</p> | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| <p>First American Presidential Election – 1789</p> <p>5</p>   | 6   | 7   | 8  | 9   | 10  | 11  |
| 12  | 13  | 14  | 15   | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| 19  | <p>Martin Luther King, Jr Day</p> <p>20</p> | 21  | 22   | 23  | 24  | 25  |
| 26  | 27  | 28  | 29   | 30  | 31  |     |

# Empower the Future



I never cared much for danger, but I never backed away from it either.

Audie Murphy, 2d Lt USA • Medal of Honor Recipient, WWII 10/25/42

# FEBRUARY 2025

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

The present is short, the future is doubtful,  
the past is certain. – Seneca

Black History Month  
National Freedom Day 1

Groundhog Day 2

Four Chaplains Day 3

USO Birthday 4

5

Ronald Reagan's  
Birthday 6

7

Abraham Lincoln's  
Birthday 8

National Salute  
to Veteran  
Patients Week 9

10

11

12

13

Valentine's Day 14

15

16

Presidents' Day 17

18

Coast Guard  
Reserve Birthday 19

20

21

George  
Washington's  
Birthday 22

23

24

25

26

27

28

# Warrior Spirit



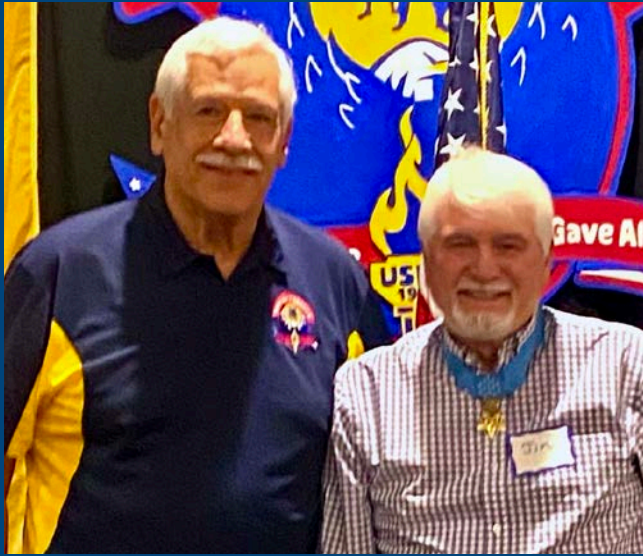
Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

Michael P. Murphy, Lt USN • Medal of Honor Recipient, War on Terror 6/28/05

# MARCH 2025

| SUN  | MON                     | TUE  | WED                               | THU                | FRI                      | SAT                                  |
|--|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <p><b>You must do the things you think you cannot do.</b><br/>                     – Eleanor Roosevelt</p> |                         |  |                                   |                    |                          | <p>Women's History Month 1</p>       |
| 2  | Navy Reserve Birthday 3 | Hug a GI Day 4   | Ash Wednesday Seabee Birthday 5   | 6                  | 7                        | 8                                    |
| 9  | 10                      | 11   | 12                                | K9 Veterans Day 13 | 14                       | American Legion Birthday 15          |
| 16   | St. Patrick's Day 17    | 18   | Op Iraqi Freedom begins - 2003 19 | 20                 | Rosie the Riveter Day 21 | 22                                   |
| 23   | 24                      | Medal of Honor Day 25  | 26                                | 27                 | 28                       | National Vietnam War Veterans Day 29 |
| 30   | 31                      | <p><b>No matter how difficult it seems at the time, it's easier to do the right thing than spend a lifetime regretting that you didn't.</b><br/>                     – Robert O'Malley, USMC • Medal of Honor Recipient, Vietnam war</p> |                                   |                    |                          |                                      |

# Proud to be an American



“I’m honored to be able to tell my story and represent the Army.  
I’m a proud American, proud to serve, proud of my family.

Leroy Petry, Sgt 1st Class USA • Medal of Honor Recipient, War on Terror 5/26/08



# APRIL 2025

| SUN                            | MON                           | TUE                           | WED                               | THU  | FRI            | SAT                    |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|----------------|------------------------|
|                                |                               | Month of the Military Child 1 | 2                                 | 3  | 4              | Gold Star Spouse Day 5 |
| 6                              | 7                             | 8                             | National Former POW Recognition 9 | 10   | 11             | Passover begins 12     |
| Thomas Jefferson's Birthday 13 | Air Force Reserve Birthday 14 | Purple Up! Day 15             | 16                                | 17   | Good Friday 18 | 19                     |
| Easter 20                      | 21                            | Earth Day 22                  | Army Reserve Birthday 23          | 24   | 25             | 26                     |
| 27                             | 28                            | End of Vietnam War - 1975 29  | National Military Brats Day 30    | I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free. And I won't forget the men who died that gave that right to me. – Lee Greenwood |                |                        |

# All Gave Some, Some Gave All



The medal is not about me. It's about them.  
It's about remembering those who served with me.  
Gary Beikirch, Sgt USA • Medal of Honor Recipient, Vietnam War 4/1/70

# MAY 2025

| SUN  | MON                      | TUE                                    | WED | THU  | FRI  | SAT  |
|--|--------------------------|--|-----|--|--|--|
| <p>Our freedom, envied the world over, was attained at great personal sacrifice – we cannot allow it to wither away through apathy.<br/>                     – Einer H. Ingman, USN • Medal of Honor Recipient, Korean war</p> |                          |  |     | <p>Month of the Military Caregiver<br/>                     National Military Appreciation Month<br/>                     Silver Star Service Banner Day<br/>                     National Day of Prayer</p> |  | <p>Cost of Freedom incorporated – 2011</p> |
| 4  | 5                        | 6                                      | 7   | 8  | <p>V-E Day<br/>                     Military Spouse Appreciation Day</p> | 9  |
| <p>Mother's Day</p>  | <p>Armed Forces Week</p> | <p>Children of Fallen Patriots Day</p> |     |  |  | <p>Armed Forces Day</p>                    |
| 11   | 12                       | 13                                     | 14  | 15   | 16   | 17   |
| 18   | 19                       | 20                                     | 21  | 22   | 23   | 24   |
| 25   | <p>Memorial Day</p>      | 26                                     | 27  | 28   | 29   | <p>Veterans Golden Age Games</p>           |
|  |                          |  |     |  | 30   | 31   |

# Patriotism and Citizenship



Heroes don't go out looking to be heroes.  
They step up because it's the right thing to do.  
Dakota Meyer, Cpl USMC • Medal of Honor Recipient, War on Terror 9/8/09

# JUNE 2025

| SUN                    | MON                               | TUE  | WED | THU                   | FRI                       | SAT  |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| PTSD Awareness Month 1 | 2                                 | 3  | 4   | 5                     | "D-Day" Normandy – 1944 6 | Class of 1972 graduate from US Naval Academy 7 |
| National Flag Week 8   | 9                                 | 10   | 11  | Women Veterans Day 12 | 13                        | Flag Day US Army Birthday – 1776 14            |
| Father's Day 15        | 16                                | 17   | 18  | Juneteenth 19         | 20                        | 21   |
| 22                     | Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday 23 | 24   | 25  | 26                    | PTSD Awareness Day 27     | 28   |
| 29                     | 30                                | <p>To be an American comes with many rights, privileges, and responsibilities. It is our duty to honor, defend and preserve them for future generations.</p> <p>– Richard A. Pittman, USMC • Medal of Honor Recipient, Vietnam war</p> |     |                       |                           |  |



Proud to be an American



Leave No Man Behind



Fields of Valor



Be an Impact Player... Make a Difference



We Must Never Forget



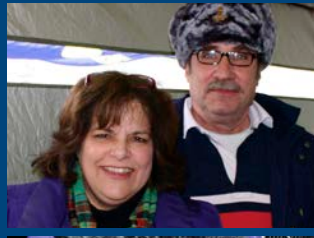
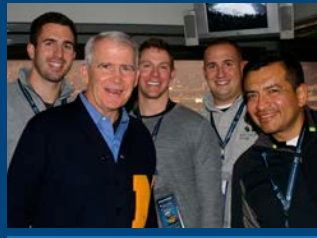
Freedom is Not Free



Expect to Win



Kindred Spirit



Indomitable Spirit



Semper Fidelis Always Faithful





Sacrifice and  
Courage:  
Pillars of  
Liberty



*Eti*am In Pugna  
Still in  
the Fight



Freedom  
Matters



A Legacy  
of Honor



Warrior  
Spirit



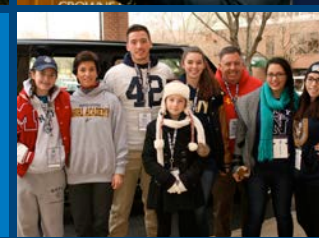
A Higher  
Calling



Leading from  
the Front



Rope Team  
Matters



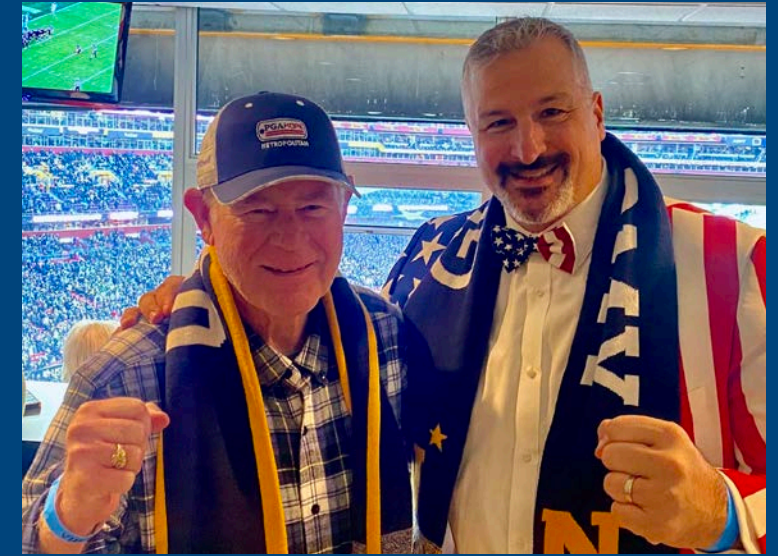
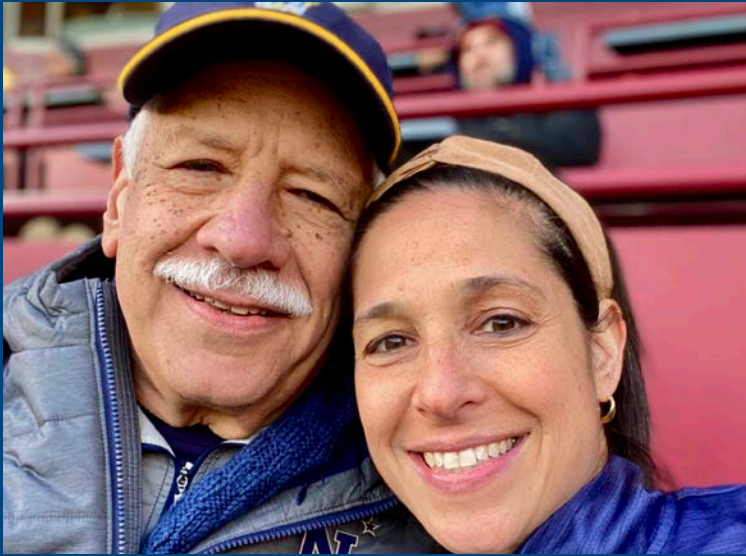
Autograph  
a Heart



Honor the  
Sacrifice;  
Empower the  
Future



# Choosing Courage



While others are taking life,  
I will be saving it.

Desmond Doss, Pfc USA • Medal of Honor Recipient, WWII 5/21/45



# JULY 2025

| SUN  | MON | TUE                                      | WED | THU | FRI                            | SAT |
|--|-----|--|-----|-----|--------------------------------|-----|
| In combat, acts of valor come from aiding and defending comrades. – William R Charette, USN Medal of Honor Recipient, Korean war |     | 1  | 2   | 3   | Independence Day 4             | 5   |
| 6  | 7   | 8  | 9   | 10  | 11                             | 12  |
| 13   | 14  | 15                                       | 16  | 17  | Warrior Games begin 18         | 19  |
| 20   | 21  | 22                                       | 23  | 24  | National Hire a Veteran Day 25 | 26  |
| National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day 27  | 28  | Army Chaplain Corps 250th Anniversary 29 | 30  | 31  |                                |     |

# Character Matters



Be kind. Do good. The world needs you. It always has.

William Kyle Carpenter, Lnc Cpl USMC • Medal of Honor Recipient, War on Terror 10/21/10

# AUGUST 2025

| SUN                                  | MON  | TUE | WED | THU                        | FRI                              | SAT                      |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----|-----|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                      |  |     |     |                            | Antiterrorism Awareness Month 1  | 2                        |
| 3                                    | US Coast Guard Birthday – 1790 4   | 5   | 6   | Purple Heart Day 7         | 8                                | 9                        |
| US Department of Defense Birthday 10 | Cost of Freedom granted tax-exempt status – 2011 11  | 12  | 13  | Navajo Code Talkers Day 14 | 15                               | National Airborne Day 16 |
| 17                                   | 18   | 19  | 20  | 21                         | 22                               | 23                       |
| 24                                   | 25   | 26  | 27  | 28                         | Marine Corps Reserve Birthday 29 | 30                       |
| 31                                   | <p>Your faith in God and your commitment to friends and loved ones will always guide you to take the right action. – Alejandro R. Ruiz, USA • Medal of Honor Recipient, World War II</p> |     |     |                            |                                  |                          |

# If Not Me, Then Who?



The thing that made me feel good was that I kept thinking of how many men I was saving by taking them out of action

Alvin C. York, Sgt USA • Medal of Honor Recipient, WWI 10/8/18

# SEPTEMBER 2025

| SUN                          | MON  | TUE       | WED  | THU              | FRI   | SAT |
|------------------------------|--|-----------|--|------------------|---|-----|
|                              | National Suicide Prevention Month<br>Labor Day 1 | V-J Day 2 | 3  | 4                | 5   | 6   |
| 7                            | 8  | 9         | 10   | Patriot Day 11   | 12  | 13  |
| 14                           | 15   | 16        | Citizenship Day<br>Constitution Day<br>Constitution Week 17  | Air Force Day 18 | POW/MIA Recognition Day<br>US Air Force Birthday – 1947<br>Air National Guard Birthday 19 | 20  |
| 21                           | 22   | 23        | 24   | 25               | 26  | 27  |
| Gold Star<br>Mother's Day 28 | 29   | 30        | <p>One must have good character, solid principles, and high ethical standards to inspire others to follow. – Wesley L. Fox, USMC • Medal of Honor Recipient, Vietnam war</p> |                  |   |     |

# Bravery, Self-Sacrifice, and Action



You learn to cherish what you have and life itself. We who survived Cole understand that in our own ways, we appreciate the time God has given us to remain on this earth, and continue to live for ourselves and our families, and for our faith.

James Parlier, Command Master Chief USN (Ret)

*The USS Cole bombing was a suicide attack by al-Qaeda against USS Cole (DDG 67) a guided-missile destroyer of the United States Navy, on October 12, 2000 while she was being refueled in Yemen's Aden harbor. Seventeen sailors were killed and 37 injured in the attack.*

# OCTOBER 2025

| SUN  | MON   | TUE  | WED   | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|--|---|-----|-----|-----|
| <p>Millions have served in the military and made sacrifices, and most have gone unrecognized.</p> <p>– George E Wallen, USN • Medal of Honor Recipient, World War II</p> |   |  | <p>Breast Cancer Awareness Month</p> <p>1</p> | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| 5  | <p>Operation Enduring Freedom begins – 2001</p> <p>6</p>                                    | 7  | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  |
| <p>25th Anniversary of Attack on USS Cole</p> <p>12</p>  | <p>Columbus Day</p> <p>Indigenous Peoples' Day</p> <p>US Navy Birthday – 1775</p> <p>13</p> | 14   | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| 19   | 20  | 21   | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  |
| <p>Day of the Deployed</p> <p>26</p>   | <p>Navy Day</p> <p>27</p>   | <p>National Veterans Small Business Week</p> <p>28</p> | 29  | 30  | 31  |     |

# Baton

**"Baton" written and shared by Rodney Harmon, Poet Laureate**



You said "yes", when they said "no."  
They opted to stay; you opted to go.  
Though grappling with nerves, you were undeterred.  
You sacrificially and dutifully served...  
The burden you bore was unrelenting.  
Blood, sweat, tears and sleepless nights became your plight.  
Yet, you press forward and never gave up the fight.  
"Nothing and no one is bigger than the mission" you boldly declared.  
In the face of desolation and death, you bravely and brazenly stared.  
You counted the Cost of Freedom and were keenly aware –  
    it's price at times requires human life, and you were willing to pay your share...  
You vowed to "defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic."  
You are the men and women of the US military, and our nation is indebted to you.  
Many will say "thank you for your service" to express their gratitude,  
And while that's all well and good, I want to do something for, and in honor of you:  
I want to receive your baton...  
To me, military service is like a relay race, and every member runs their leg.  
Predecessors pass the baton to their successor who pledge –  
to defend democracy – a luxury afforded within the United States, –  
special thanks to the men and women of the US military who carry its weight...  
You are heroes and legends! Your testimonies are rousing!  
Your example is humbling and, in many ways, it's empowering.  
So, when you determine, it's your time to rest, reflect, and transition,  
I'll be awaiting your baton in the ready position.  
Once received, and before embarking upon my own frontier,  
I'll stand at attention, solemnly salute you, and declare: "I've got it from here. "



**We are in this together. None of us stands alone.**

**William H. Pitsenbarger, Airman 1stC USAA • Medal of Honor Recipient, Vietnam War 4/11/66**



# NOVEMBER 2025

| SUN  | MON  | TUE          | WED   | THU          | FRI | SAT  |    |    |
|--|--|--------------|---|--------------|-----|--|----|----|
| <p>One visit to a country without freedom makes one realize that freedom is a precious gift worth fighting for. – Ernest E. West, USA • Medal of Honor Recipient, Korean war</p> |  |              |   |              |     | <p>National Veterans and Military Family Month<br/>Warrior Care Month<br/>National Family Caregivers Month</p> | 1  |    |
| 2  | 3  | Election Day | 4   | 5            | 6   | 7  | 8  |    |
| 9  | Marine Corps Birthday – 1775   | 10           | Veterans' Day<br>Armistice<br>Remembrance Day | 11           | 12  | 13   | 14 | 15 |
| 16   | 17   | 18           | 19  | 20           | 21  | 22   | 22 |    |
| 23   | 24   | 25           | 26  | Thanksgiving | 27  | 28   | 29 |    |
| 30   | <p>A man's integrity is his greatest asset. Without it, he has nothing.<br/>– Luis R. Rocco, USA • Medal of Honor Recipient, Vietnam war</p> |              |   |              |     |  |    |    |

# I Won't Give Up



Believe you can and you're halfway there.

Theodore Roosevelt

# DECEMBER 2025

| SUN                            | MON  | TUE              | WED               | THU   | FRI                        | SAT  |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------|-------------------|---|----------------------------|--|
|                                | Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary Birthday) 1 | #givingtuesday 2 | 3                 | 4   | 5                          | 6  |
| Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 7 | 8  | 9                | 10                | 11  | Cost of Freedom Weekend 12 | Army-Navy Game US National Guard Birthday 13 |
| Hanukkah begins 14             | 15   | 16               | 17                | 18  | 19                         | 20   |
| 21                             | 22   | 23               | 24                | Christmas Day 25  | 26                         | 27   |
| 28                             | 29   | 30               | New Year's Eve 31 | It is our attitude at the beginning of a difficult task which, more than anything else, will affect its successful outcome. – William James |                            |  |



# Core Values of the United States Navy and Marine Corps

## Honor, Courage, Commitment

U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1972, 27th Company

The Cost of Freedom mission is to show appreciation and offer encouragement to our Servicemen and Servicewomen returning from combat. It is our goal to further share the meaning of values such as honor, courage, commitment, respect, sacrifice, and valor to the community and to generations to come so that we might never forget the sacrifices of our Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen and always be reminded that freedom is not free.

### **Cost of Freedom Board of Directors**

Bob Madden, Ron Stowell, Paul Huck, Deanna Filosa,  
Adam Kisielewski, Rob Madden, and Christa Collier

Donations should be made payable to "Cost of Freedom, Inc." and mailed to  
Cost of Freedom, Inc.  
6619 Red Hawk Ct., Maineville, OH 45039

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