



## LET FREEDOM RING & DARE TO DECLARE FUNDING REQUEST

### AMERICA250 GRANT APPLICATION FORM (AS OF 4/9/26-FINAL FUNDING REQUESTS) CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

An electronic version of this application is available at <https://cccf250.org/planning/>

#### Contact Information

Contact Person Name: Julian McCracken (Treasurer, Member-Board of Directors)

Organization Name: Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove

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Year Incorporated: 2011

FEIN #: 45-2637603

*Note: Please attach a copy of your 501c3 letter with this request. Per IRS regulations, grants can be awarded to nonprofit charities and municipalities, but NOT individuals nor businesses.*

#### Organization Field of Interest

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Arts, Culture, Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment, Animals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education, Library
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health & Human Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Justice, Civil Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Municipality/Governmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If other, please describe: Patriotic-as we celebrate MOH recipients		

A lot	Some	A little	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This inspires & engages a <b>wide array of people</b> in commemoration of America's founding with <b>our Revolutionary Declaration of Independence.</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This <b>connects Chester County's stories</b> to the nation's past, present & future.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This commemoration is <b>truly by the people, for all people.</b> We invite wide input & welcome all to actively participate.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This examines & fosters <b>fundamental rights of Life, Liberty &amp; the Pursuit of Happiness for All.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We zoom in to <b>CCCF250</b> planning meetings to share information & ideas.
<b>Date: Sept 11th</b>			We plan to include a Dare to Declare reading of the Declaration of Independence.

#### Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,250	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$2,250	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$5,250
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Please **BRIEFLY** describe how this funding will help your programs, services, activities and/or events to celebrate and commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our nation's Declaration of Independence, and our continuing journey toward liberty and justice for all. Include any details about Dare to Declare readings of the Declaration of Independence – especially date/time/place.

What are you doing? When? Who will it impact? What difference do you aim to make?

What will it cost overall? Who are you partnering & coordinating with?

Please e-mail this grant request with your 501c3 letter to [grants@chescof.org](mailto:grants@chescof.org)

Let Freedom Ring & Dare to Declare grant decisions are made weekly.

Questions? Contact Grants Officer Paige Mardsen (610) 696-8211 [grants@chescof.org](mailto:grants@chescof.org)

**For Good. For All. Forever.**



## Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove

### About Us

The Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove are dedicated to honoring sacrifice, preserving history, and fostering civic education.

Located on the campus of Founding Forward in Chester County, Valley Forge, we proudly serve as stewards of a 42-acre living memorial that honors the courage and selflessness of more than 3,500 recipients of our nation's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor.

In partnership with Founding Forward, we work to amplify our shared mission and broaden our impact. Founding Forward's commitment to immersive civic education perfectly complements our dedication to honoring America's heroes, inspiring future generations, and preserving this sacred ground for all who visit.

### Our Mission

Our mission is to ensure that the Medal of Honor Grove remains a place of honor, remembrance, and inspiration. By preserving its natural beauty and enhancing its memorial spaces, we create an enduring tribute to Medal of Honor recipients and educate visitors about their courage and commitment to freedom. Together with Founding Forward, we honor the past, inspire the present, and shape the future for generations to come.

### Our History

The Medal of Honor Grove was established in 1964 on the campus of Founding Forward (formerly the Freedoms Foundation) at Valley Forge. In June 2011, the Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove proudly assumed responsibility for maintaining and preserving this beautiful memorial park. Since then, our dedicated efforts have included paving new roads, mowing, removing hazardous trees, organizing community cleanups, and installing plaques honoring new recipients each year.

In April 2017, Founding Forward entered into a conservation easement agreement with Schuylkill Township, Chester County, and the Natural Lands Trust. This agreement ensures that the Medal of Honor Grove will be protected in perpetuity, safeguarding it for future generations.



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*Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit tax-exempt organization. Your donation is tax-deductible. No goods or services were provided for this contribution.*

EIN: 45-2637603



## Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove

### What We Do

At the Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove, we support ongoing projects to:

- Restore and maintain each state's memorial area, ensuring that it honors the heroes it represents.
- Host educational and community events that inspire visitors and build awareness of the sacrifices made by Medal of Honor recipients.
- Protect the natural environment of the Grove, providing a serene and respectful setting for reflection.
- Make visitors aware of what our organization considers America's "best kept patriotic secret."

### Let Freedom Ring & Dare to Declare Funding Request

Our request for \$2,250 will assist us in the purchase of 100 flagpole sets as part of the "Flags for Heroes" initiative. These sets will be distributed throughout the northern Chester County area to promote America's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and to elevate the level of patriotism in the citizens and groups who visit the Medal of Honor Grove and the Founding Forward campus. Additionally, we are looking into the possibility of relocating the Battle of the Bulge statue currently located on the Valley Forge Military Academy campus to the Medal of Honor Grove. The funds we are requesting would assist us with the cost of moving the statue.

### It is our intent to commemorate two events of historical significance on the dates of September 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>:

- On Friday, September 11th, to remember those who lost their lives on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that horrific day with a **Dare to Declare reading of the Declaration of Independence**.
- On Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate the signing of the U.S. Constitution that took place on that day in 1787 with a special ceremony where we **Let Freedom Ring**.

On behalf of the Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove, I am thankful for your careful consideration of this request.

With Appreciation and Gratitude,

*Julian McCracken*

Treasurer

Member, Board of Directors

Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove

Cell: 610-724-2675