



"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

President Ronald Reagan



On July 4, 1776, our forefathers founded a new nation, conceived in liberty. Armed with the Bill of Rights and the Constitution, the dreams, and aspirations of many bore fruit as our nation grew.

In his State of the Union Address given on January 6, 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt spoke to Congress on why Americans should be concerned with the global conflicts. Noting the democratic way of life was under attack in every part of the world, he spoke of his desire to build a world

founded on four essential human freedoms:

1. Freedom of speech and expression
2. Freedom of every person to worship God in his own way
3. Freedom from want
4. Freed from fear

These freedoms went beyond the rights guaranteed in the Constitution, as FDR claimed the additions were rooted in our American values. Artist Norman Rockwell captured President Franklin's Four Freedoms in a series of 1943 Saturday Evening Post covers. These Four Freedoms rallied our nation in the turbulent times of war, and they continue to inspire citizens today.

As we celebrate the 244th anniversary of the founding of our country, let us take time to reflect on the vision of our founders. Their dream lives on through every citizen and soldier whose courage and fortitude sought to ensure these freedoms.

The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial will represent not only the efforts of those who came before us but will serve as an inspiration to those who believe these freedoms are integral to the health and well-being of mankind.

We hope you will join us on this mission.



Watch President Roosevelt's Four Freedoms Speech

Visit our website to learn more or to volunteer

Meet Our New Board Member



J. Michael Mastantuono is the Director of Finance at Bluewater Equity Partners and the Victor Family Office. A Michigan State University and Walsh College graduate, Mike is passionate about history and World War II in particular, owning a large collection of books and memorabilia from the era. He recently visited Omaha Beach. His father served in the US Army from 1956-58, his paternal grandfather served in the Italian Army during World War I, and last but not least his son currently serves in the US Army as a sergeant at Ft. Bragg, NC. He believes that educating the current generation about the sacrifices of the Greatest Generation is of paramount importance. In addition to his board seat, Mike chairs the Finance Committee.

Learn more about our Board of Directors

Introducing our New Book of the Month Club



During WWII, the membership department of Columbia Records had a Book of the Month Club (BOMC). This picture shows the fulfillment department of the BOMC in 1942.

People continued to read voraciously during the war and, as a part of our Education Coalition, we want to encourage reading and learning about WWII history.

Each month we will post a new WWII book recommendation for you to add to your book list.

We are starting this month with a Michigan based story: **Michigan POW Camps in World War II** by Gregory Sumner. This book tells the fascinating stories of the POW camps that were built in our state, and the

families that befriended the prisoners. With each story told, you will find yourself saying “who knew?” Greg has a great way of drawing you in and telling stories that most of us are unfamiliar with.

We hope you enjoy this book and look forward to next month's recommendation!

