



Presidential Families of America
PFA Winter Gazette 2019



Eighteenth Annual Assembly

President General Robin R. Towns
presents

*"Fascinating Facts:
First Ladies and Presidents"*



Presidential Families of America

2016-2019 OFFICERS

President General – Robin R. Towns
1 VP General - Dianne A. Robinson
2 VP General - Michael P. Schenk
Secretary General - Camille R. Lowery
Treasurer General – Michael S. Swisher
Registrar General – David C. Smith
Chaplain General – Dr. Jack J. Early

APPOINTMENTS

Auditor: John Hallberg Jones
Historian: Carla W. Odom
Insignia: Michael P. Schenk
Parliamentarian: J. Michael Phelps
Regalia: Robin R. Towns
Webmaster: John Lauman; Barry C. Howard, advisor
Editor, *The Register*: Carla W. Odom
Editor, *PFA Gazette*: Robin R. Towns

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President General's Message

It has been my great honor to serve as President General of *Presidential Families of America*. I have very much enjoyed the support and capable assistance of the Officers, the PG's Advisory Council, and the members during our three year term together. We have strived to build upon the stunning success established by our predecessors.

I hope that you have enjoyed the *Presidential Families of America* web site, which has been graciously maintained by our Webmaster **John Lauman**. John has done a great job of building and maintaining our user-friendly website, generously donating his time and server. **Please view the web site at:**

www.presidentialfamilies.org.

Remember to click on "**Enter here**" to use site.



Camille Lowery

The society is saddened to report the loss of our Secretary General **Camille Redfern Lowery**, on December 4, 2018. Camille passed peacefully, after bravely suffering from a long illness. Her friendship, bright smile, and loyal service to PFA will be greatly missed.

Please note that our **Eighteenth Annual Assembly** will be held on **Friday morning, April 12, 2019** at *The Army & Navy Club*, on Farragut Square. See page 5.

President General Robin Towns will present a fun, interesting, and even surprising message entitled "Fascinating Facts: Our First Ladies and Presidents."

Presidential Families of America has enjoyed an efficient and hard working Board for 2016-2019. Together, we have accomplished much in three years to advance the charitable, educational, and literary purposes of our society. I want to again express my sincere appreciation for the honor of serving you, the members of Presidential Families of America.

Most sincerely,

Robin R. Towns

President General 2016-2019

Presidential Families of America

NEW MEMBERS

- 344 – L **Hicks, Deborah Whitmore**
President – Thomas Jefferson, Ancestor – Katherine Banks
- 345 – A **Stelcz, Laura Loughin**
President – Harry S. Truman, Ancestor – John Woodson
- 346 –L **Tupa, Brendan Robert**
President – Martin Van Buren, Ancestor–Teuwis Abrahams Van Deursen
- 347 – L **Hugar, Patsy Jo Erwin**
President – Richard M. Nixon, Ancestor – John Inskeep
- 348 – L **Gallagher, Patricia Ellen**
President – James A. Garfield, Ancestor – Mary Warren Bigelow
- 349 – L **Ferris, John Richard**
President– **John Adams**, Ancestor: Henry Adams
- 350 – A **Michael John Rowley**
President - U.S. Grant, Ancestor - Henry Rowley
- 351—A **Harkins, Glenda J.**
President - John Adams, Ancestor - Henry Adams
- 352—L **Beebe, Glen Edward**
President—Franklin D. Roosevelt, Ancestor: Thomas Ford
- 353—L **Carr, Shelby Nicole**
President—Warren G. Harding, Ancestor—William Almy

SUPPLEMENTALS

- 338 – A **Mercado, Christopher Aiden**
C. President—Rutherford B. Hayes, Ancestor: John Root
D. James A. Garfield, Ancestor—John Rockwood
E. President - Gerald Ford, Ancestor – Samuel Hickock
F. President - Millard Fillmore, Ancestor – John Bronson
G. President - George Walker Bush, Ancestor– Joanna Hinckman
H. President - John Quincy Adams, Ancestor—Joanna Hinckman
I. President - George H. W. Bush, Ancestor: Joanna Hinckman
- 349 - L **Ferris, John Richard**
A. President– **Calvin Coolidge**, Ancestor: Henry Adams
- 351 - A **Harkins, Glenda J.**
A. President - John Quincy Adams, Ancestor - Henry Adams

Honorary Presidents General

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| 1995-1997 | Lawrence Kent, Ph.D. | 2010-2013 | Frank Lee Perryman |
| 2004-2007 | Barry Christopher Howard | 2013-2016 | Carla Whitehurst Odom |
| 2007-2010 | J. Michael Phelps, Esq. | | |

In 2017, the President General announced the formation of the ***PFA President General's Advisory Council***, made up of our Founder & Honorary Presidents General. The shared wisdom, expertise, and experience of this body provides great benefit for the President General, and indeed, the entire society.



Presidential Families of America

The President General and Officers
cordially invite you to the Eighteenth Annual Assembly

Friday, April 12, 2019
Eight o'clock in the morning

John Paul Jones Room
The Army and Navy Club
on Farragut Square
901 Seventeenth Street, NW
Washington, DC

Speaker: President General Robin Towns
presenting

“Fascinating Facts: Our First Ladies and Presidents”

Rsvp Reservations accepted until April 2, 2019

Menu: Bananas Foster French Toast, Bacon & Sausage, Fresh Fruits



Presidential Families of America

Member _____

Guest _____

check for \$27.00 per person to:

Mr. Michael S. Swisher
Treasurer General, PFA
14511 Olinda Boulevard North
Stillwater, MN 55082-1147



Minutes of Seventeenth Annual Assembly

Friday, April 13, 2018 ~ Washington, DC

President General Robin R. Towns called to order the 17th Annual Assembly of Presidential Families of America at 8:15 a.m. on Friday morning, April 13, 2018, in the John Paul Jones room of the Army and Navy Club in Washington, DC. Chaplain General Dr. Jack Early gave the Invocation. Second Vice President General Michael P. Schenk led members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

President General Towns welcomed members and guests and presented the Officers and the Appointed Officers. She reminded those present of the formation of the PFA President General's Advisory Council made up of our Founder and the Honorary Presidents General. The Honorary Presidents General were named. PFA Chairmen and State Regents were recognized.

Guest speaker, author Marc Leepson was welcomed, as were the leaders of other National Societies. Members not previously recognized were asked to stand. Guests were welcomed and introduced at this time. All present stood as their names were called and were greeted by those present.

The 17th Annual Assembly was recessed for breakfast. Dr. Early gave the blessing.

The Memorial Service was scheduled to follow breakfast. Fortunately, there were no deaths during the past year.

At 9:02, the Assembly reconvened, and President Towns introduced Mr. Marc Leepson who presented a slide presentation based on his book, *Saving Monticello*. Following the program, Mr. Leepson was presented with a gift and a check. When the meeting adjourns, Mr. Leepson will be available to sign copies of the book for those who wish to purchase it.

The business of the society continued at 9:35. The 2017 minutes were distributed in the Winter 2018 issue of *The Gazette* and were approved by Carla Odom and Mike Schenk. Copies are on hand for anyone who has questions. Carla Odom and Mike Schenk were appointed to review the 2018 minutes.

President Towns report followed:

Two books were donated to the ANC Library Trust Fund – “Saving Mount Vernon” and “Dining with the Washingtons” by author Stephen A. McLeod, 2017 presenter. Louisiana State Regent William Allerton donated a book to a Louisiana library. Twelve Christmas wreaths were sponsored to be placed on the graves of veterans as part of the national project known as *Wreaths Across America*. Registered Agent Jan Downing reported that PFA's 501(c) 3 is current. PFA member John “Jack” Lauman was thanked for his work on the society's website. The PFA project continues to be an academic scholarship given to two university students. Based on the essays, the Scholarship Committee, comprised of PG Robin Towns, Melissa Fischer, Chair, Camille Lowery, and Michael Swisher, selected students as the 2018 recipients, as follows: Molly Montgomery of Grant, Alabama, attending The University of the South, Sewanee, TN; and Bahrai' Jones of Crawford, Georgia, attending Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA.

First Vice President General Dianne Robinson had no report.
Second Vice President Michael Schenk's report was filed.
Secretary General Camille Lowery was absent due to illness. Karen McLendon served as Secretary pro-tem.
Treasurer General Michael Swisher's report was distributed and filed. Treasury Reviewer John Hallberg Jones' report indicated that the finances are in good order. His report was adopted.
Registrar General David Smith's report was presented and filed.
Chaplain General Dr. Jack Early reported that no deaths had occurred since 2017 Assembly.
Historian General Carla Odom's report was filed.

Chairmen's reports –
Scholarship: Robin Towns – Two scholarships of \$7500.00 each were presented.
Insignia: Michael Schenk – Two orders were placed during the year.
Webmaster: John "Jack" Lauman performs this service with no charge to the society.

State Regents' reports –
Virginia – Virginia Rouse helped two members prove their Jefferson line. Virginia has three prospective members.

There was no unfinished business.

Under New business, John Bourne, an Ohio PFA member, offered to distribute pamphlets or tri-folds from other societies when the Mayflower Society holds its annual meeting in the spring. He will need these items by May 15th.

Announcements

Officers should assemble for photos immediately following adjournment.
The 18th National Assembly is scheduled for Friday, April 12, 2019, at the Army and Navy Club.

Dr. Early brought the benediction, and the 17th Annual Assembly of the Presidential Families of America was adjourned at 9:51 a.m.



Karen E. McClendon
Secretary General pro tem



**Report of the Nominating Committee:
Slate of Officers for 2019 - 2022**



PRESIDENT GENERAL Dianne Alley Robinson

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT GENERAL Michael Perry Schenk

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT GENERAL Douglas Mather Mabee

SECRETARY GENERAL Laura Kearney Schenk, Ph.D.

TREASURER GENERAL Michael Scott Swisher

REGISTRAR GENERAL David Carline Smith

CHAPLAIN GENERAL Dr. Jack Jones Early

Appreciation is expressed for the work of the Nominating Committee:

Carla Odom, Chair; Patricia Gallagher, & Tim Mabee

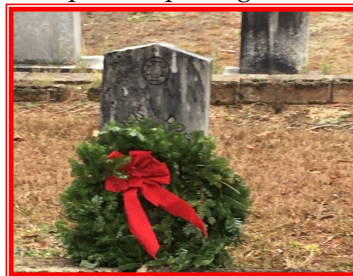


WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Presidential Families of America again in 2018, participated in honoring our Veterans through the *Oconee & Clarke Counties Cemetery Project*, part of the nationwide project known as "*Wreaths Across America*." The project covers seven cemeteries in Oconee & Clarke Counties, Georgia, where wreaths were placed on graves of Veterans, strongly supporting the nationwide mission. The goal of "*Wreaths Across America*" is to have a wreath placed on the grave of every Veteran in America, one grave at the time.

Saturday, December 15, 2018 was the nationwide day for the wreath ceremony. A dedication was held, and a moment of silence observed at exactly 12:00 noon EST across the nation. Following the ceremony, volunteers dispersed, placing a wreath on each Veteran's grave, reverently stating the Veteran's name aloud, as an annual remembrance to that person and his or her service to the nation.

Many thanks to *Presidential Families of America* for the sponsorship of ten wreaths, supporting this deserving project to educate the public concerning our Veterans part in our American history, and to honor the Veterans of our great nation.





Presidential Families of America
Official Insignia Order Form

Member's name: _____ Telephone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Payment type: Check _____ Visa or MC # _____

(Check payable to CityPride, Ltd.) Credit Card Expiration _____

Credit card billing address (if different) _____

Quantity	Item no.	Description	Price	Total
_____	PF1	Insignia, Full-size, Gold-filled	\$185.00	_____
_____	PF2	Insignia, Full-size, 10K	Call for pricing	_____
_____	PF3	Insignia, Full-size, 14K	Call for pricing	_____
_____	PF4	Insignia, Miniature, Gold-filled	\$75.00	_____
_____	PF5	Insignia, Miniature, 10K	Call for pricing	_____
_____	PF6	Insignia, Miniature, 14K	Call for pricing	_____
_____	PF7	Neck Ribbon, Hook & Eye Closure	\$25.00	_____

Engraving for back (if desired): *Please print clearly* \$.35 per letter _____

SHIPPING — UPS Ground \$ 8.50

TOTAL \$ _____

All Insignia are mounted on ribbon, packaged in protective case.

Authorization No: _____ Authorization Signature: _____

First VPG, Insignia Chair

Please Mail your order and payment to: **CityPride, Ltd.**
411 Cottman Street
Jenkintown, PA 19046
Phone: 888.679.8888



Presidential Families of America

PRESIDENT GENERAL ATTENDS PRESIDENTIAL RALLY



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Robin Towns had the honor of attending a Presidential Rally in Macon, Georgia, on November 4, 2018. President Donald Trump traveled to Georgia to hold a campaign rally for my friend, Brian Kemp, for Governor of Georgia.



VIP seating provided a great view of the action, as President Trump electrified the crowd of thousands gathered for the event. Friends from across the nation watching the Rally on television, spotted me, and posted photos of their screens on social media.

Attending the Trump Rally was an exciting day shared with great Americans celebrating our Constitutional Republic.

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RECAP: PFA Scholarships Awarded for 2018-19

The Presidential Families of America Scholarship Program was established by the membership at the 2017 Annual Meeting to further the educational purposes of PFA. A Scholarship Committee was appointed by the President General: Chairman, Melissa Fischer; members: Dianne Robinson, Camille Lowery, and ex-officio, Michael Swisher, Treasurer.

The PFA Scholarship Committee established Scholarship Guidelines for awarding the scholarships. Two PFA Scholarships of **\$750** each shall be awarded in the middle year of each three year term. High School Seniors and current college students exhibiting qualities of excellent character and citizenship, and who have financial need, may be nominated by a PFA member. To qualify, the student must write a brief essay on the topic designated by the Scholarship Committee. PFA's purpose in requiring an essay is to enlighten the candidate about the US Presidency and related topics. The President General judges the entries and determines winners for the scholarship. The topic for 2017 was "The Significance of the Electoral College in the US Presidential election."

In 2017, PFA Scholarships were awarded to two deserving High School Seniors, **Bahria Jones** of Georgia (on left), and **Molly Montgomery** of Alabama (on right).



These accomplished young people have received valuable benefits for their higher education from the PFA Scholarship.

Presidential Families of America continues the tradition of fulfilling our educational mission in creative ways.

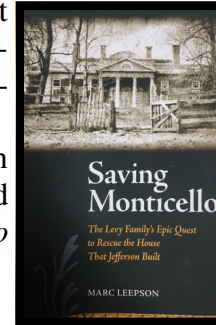
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The Seventeenth National Assembly was held at The Army and Navy Club in Washington, DC on Friday, April 13, 2018. The Annual Breakfast was a productive meeting and an enjoyable time of fellowship with PFA members from around the nation.

Author and lecturer Marc Leepson presented an outstanding program on his book entitled “*Saving Monticello - The Levy Family’s Epic Quest to Rescue the House that Jefferson Built.*”



MEMBERSHIP is always an important topic. We have enjoyed healthy growth this year with **ten (10) new members!** In a society like *Presidential Families of America*, with a very specialized niche, as in any hereditary society, MEMBERSHIP is the key to our success! Every PFA member is an important part of the Membership Committee, and needs to identify at least one friend who is eligible and invite them to join our society! Please make an effort to invite a friend to join.

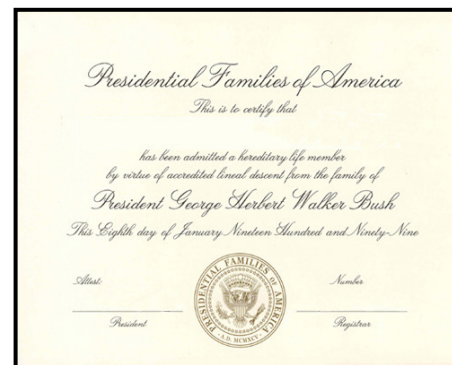
Please take a look at our excellent, user-friendly **website** for the list of eligible ancestors whose lines are already established.

www.presidentialfamilies.org/ancestors.htm

The equally *easy-to-use application* is available to be *Emailed* to you. To receive the application via *Email*, please contact Registrar General David C. Smith at dcsmith42@earthlink.net. Applicants may submit approved applications of other recognized hereditary societies to prove their line to their common ancestor with the President, eliminating the need for endless recopying of proof. This really streamlines the membership process!



Every new member receives a beautiful, personalized *Presidential Families of America* MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE.

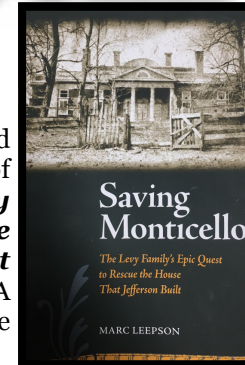




The Army and Navy Club Library

The Army and Navy Club, Washington, DC

Presidential Families of America is again honored and proud to have the donation accepted for a wonderful book of Presidential interest by the **Army and Navy Club Library Trust Fund**. The publication, ***“Saving Monticello: The Levy Family’s Epic Quest to Rescue the House that Jefferson Built,”*** authored by Marc Leepson, PFA Seventeenth Annual Assembly presenter, was gifted to the Library in August 2018.



Aleksandra M. Zajackowski, Club Librarian, accepts PFA gift for *Library Trust Fund* from PG Towns

Our gift to the *Library Trust Fund* indeed supports PFA’s charitable, educational, and literary purposes. The members of our society are most fortunate to enjoy the opportunity to meet in a most venerable place. While visiting *the Army and Navy Club*, be sure to stop by the Library. (located on the 3rd Floor).

The magnificent Army & Navy Club Library



The Army and Navy Club functions as much more than a venue for dining and accommodations. The Library Trust Fund, an *IRS 501(c)3* entity, was created to fulfill the original intent of club founders, that club operations would include the preservation of its book, furniture, and art collections for esthetic and intellectual benefit of future generations.

Library collections are available to students, scholarly and academic researchers, and historians. The Library Trust Committee’s project, to digitize and catalogue the historic collection of military art and artifacts, will make the collection available *online* to a worldwide audience.