



# Dee Baggett National President's Project 2019 - 2020

Dee Baggett's National President Project will be in support of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. The Auxiliary has supported Freedoms Foundation since 1954, including as our Americanism Project. Founded in 1949, Freedoms Foundation provides civic education for students (such as the AMVETS Spirit of America Youth Leadership Conference) and professional development for teachers in American history, character development, the Constitution, the free enterprise system. Their goal is to prepare the next generation to become engaged, patriotic, informed citizens motivated by a sense of duty and responsibility who are prepared to defend the freedoms that define our great nation.

"My goal is to add to funds raised in 2018 – 2019 and buy a generator for the MacArthur Building," said National President Dee Baggett. "By having a generator in this building, heat and electricity would allow the kitchen, dining room, a classroom, game room, lounge and some dorm rooms to remain available any time there is an emergency or power outage."

Included on their 75-acre campus in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania are an administrative building, dormitories, classrooms, dining room, chapel, and the Medal of Honor Grove, which honors the 3500+ Recipients of the MOH from the Civil War to the present. All of the facilities were built between 1963 – 1975. Freedoms Foundation has undertaken a comprehensive study and is planning a significant renovation of the campus in order to continue their mission.



Every winter at Freedoms Foundation there is at least one storm that knocks out the power. It happens at least once a summer too. Power outages quadrupled across the country between 2000 – 2014. When an ice storm hit in 2014, a group of 5th graders from California were on campus and had to be moved to a hotel, costing thousands of dollars. Nearly 1,000,000 people in southeastern Pennsylvania were without power, some for up to five days or more.



Because this is such a regular occurrence, Freedoms Foundation hopes to install three back-up generators, for the dormitories, the administrative building, and the kitchen and dining hall. This will allow for heating, lighting, and sanitation to continue uninterrupted, as well as allowing the kitchen to continue to serve meals and programs to continue. Most importantly, it will be safe to remain on campus through the power outage, and the risk of frozen pipes or other unexpected issues in the buildings.

"Knowing we always have the support of AMVETS Auxiliary means we have been able to undertake important projects across the campus every year," said Jason Raia, Executive Vice President of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. "This generator project has been on our wish list for years; now with the ongoing support of Auxiliary, we can make it a reality."