



EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL
ROLL CALL *of* NATIONS
WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

April 24, 2025
Victims of Communism Memorial
Washington, D.C.



Every year the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation hosts this ceremony to honor the memory of the more than 100 million victims of communism, to celebrate liberty where it has triumphed, and to further our pursuit of a world free from communism.

AGENDA

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

Roll Call of Nations Wreath Laying Ceremony

Victims of Communism Memorial

Corner of New Jersey and Massachusetts Avenues, NW

Washington, D.C.

10:00 AM

INVOCATION

Rear Admiral Margaret Grun Kibben (Ret.)

Chaplain, U.S. House of Representatives

WELCOME

Eric Patterson, Ph.D.

President and CEO, Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation

REMARKS

Chen Guangcheng

2015 Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom Awardee

Distinguished Fellow, Catholic University of America

Distinguished Senior Fellow in Human Rights, Witherspoon Institute

Senior Distinguished Advisor, Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice

KEYNOTE REMARKS

Elizabeth Edwards Spalding, Ph.D.

Chairman, Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY



Chen Guangcheng

For more than 25 years, Chen Guangcheng has exposed the reality of human rights in China, defending those who have had no voice. Born in China during the country's violent Cultural Revolution, Chen went blind before his first birthday which made him a member of one of China's most discriminated-against groups: the disabled. He taught himself law and started raising concerns and petitions about the treatment of China's disabled population. Chen's fight expanded to land rights, corruption, and China's one-child policy. Chen's activism and willingness to challenge the authorities got him arrested. He was sentenced to four years in prison in 2006. After his release in 2010, Chen was put under house arrest. In 2012, Chen made a daring escape and journey to the U.S. Embassy in Beijing where he sought asylum. The U.S. government negotiated with the Chinese Communist Party for Chen's release, and succeeded. He was deemed a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International and listed as one of Time Magazine's 100 most influential people in the world. Since beginning his advocacy work, Chen has been the recipient of numerous awards including Time Magazine 100 Most Influential List (2006), The Ramon Magsaysay Award (2007), The Lantos Human Rights Prize (2012), the UK Parliament's Westminster Award (2013), the Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy Courage Award (2014), the Truman-Reagan Freedom Medal from the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation (2015), the Leopoldo Lopez Freedom and Democracy Award from Kenyon College (2021), and the Bradley Foundation's Bradley Prize (2022). He serves as Distinguished Fellow at the Catholic University of America, Distinguished Senior Fellow in Human Rights at the Witherspoon Institute, and Senior Distinguished Advisor to the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice. Chen's memoir *The Barefoot Lawyer: A Blind Man's Fight for Justice and Freedom in China* was published in 2015.

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL ROLL CALL OF NATIONS WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria
Embassy of the Republic of Croatia
Embassy of the Czech Republic
Embassy of the Republic of Estonia
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
Embassy of Republic of Hungary
Embassy of the Republic of Korea
Embassy of the Republic of Latvia
Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania
Embassy of the Republic of Moldova
Royal Norwegian Embassy
Embassy of the Republic of Poland
Embassy of the Republic of Romania
Embassy of the Slovak Republic
Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia
Embassy of Ukraine

Delegation of the European Union to the United States

Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States
The Office of Tibet

Albanian American Council
Advocates for Faith and Justice in Vietnam
American Friends of the Czech Republic
American Hungarian Federation
Belarusian American Association
Boat People SOS
Campaign for Uyghurs

Center for a Free Cuba
ChinaAid Association
Committee for Freedom in Hong Kong Foundation
Committee for Human Rights in North Korea
Cuba Decide, Oswaldo Payá, and all Cuban Victims of Communism
Florida International University
Free Korean Association
Friends of Falun Gong
Friends of the Imperial City of Hue
Georgian Association in the USA
Greek Victims of Communism
Hungarian American Coalition
International Campaign for Tibet
Keep Taiwan Free
Khodorkovsky Foundation
Lao Coalition for Peace and Democracy
North Korea Freedom Coalition & Free North Korea Radio
One Korea Network
Sovereign Global Solutions
The Albanian Community, Catholic Diocese of Arlington, Virginia in memory of the 38
 Blessed Albanian Martyrs who died during communism because of their faith
The Belarusian-American Association and Belarusians of Washington DC
The Council of Peoples and Religions of Vietnam
The Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice
US Ukrainian Activists
United Macedonian Diaspora
Uyghur American Association
Uyghur Human Rights Project
Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation
Victims of Free Speech during Communism in Albania
Vietnam Coalition Against Torture
Vietnamese American Community of the USA
Wei Jingsheng Foundation
World Uyghur Congress

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FREEDOM

The Hon. James Burnley IV

Lili Dakoli, Elida Dakoli, Lemi Dakoli, and Jon Seib, in loving memory of Sadik Dakoli and Hysen Myshketa, our beloved grandfather and great-grandfather.

May their legacy continue to inspire generations to cherish, protect, and uphold the values of freedom.

HERO

Amb. & Dr. Ken & Carol Adelman

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Brent H. Baker

Hungarian American Coalition

Drs. Matthew & Elizabeth Spalding

Catherine Windels

DISSIDENT

American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family, and Property

Friends of Falun Gong

Katalin Kadar Lynn

Drs. Omar & Josefina Vento, in honor of Oswaldo Payá

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Ciping Huang, in honor of the Wei Jingsheng Foundation

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Dominique Lazanski, in honor of Ukraine and freedom fighters all over the world

Dong Li

Michael Maibach

Merita McCormack, honoring and remembering Albanian Victims of Communism

Cezar Ndreu

O'Connor Family

David Pinell

Polish American Congress Washington Metropolitan Division

MaryLynn Qurnell

Edward A. Stewart

Alexandra Wankowicz



ABOUT

The Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation (VOC) is an educational, research, and human rights nonprofit organization devoted to commemorating the more than 100 million people killed by communism around the world and to pursuing the freedom of those still living under totalitarian regimes. The Foundation was authorized in 1993 by a unanimous Act of Congress signed as Public Law 103-199 by President William J. Clinton on December 17, 1993. On June 12, 2007, President George W. Bush dedicated the Victims of Communism Memorial statue in Washington, D.C.

VISION

A world free from the
false hope of communism.

MISSION

To educate all generations
about the ideology, history,
and legacy of communism.

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WHAT WE DO

EDUCATION

VOC is online, in the classroom, and in communities, educating about the perils of communism through lectures and events, teacher trainings and seminars, our award-winning mini documentary series, *Witness Project*, and curricular materials that a growing number of states are adopting as part of their civics education.

RESEARCH

VOC scholars produce leading research on the atrocities of communism, past and present. Reaching hundreds of millions of citizens worldwide in dozens of languages, our China, Latin America, and Polish Studies programs expose the truth about the brutality of communism.

OUTREACH

VOC supports the bipartisan Victims of Communism Congressional Caucus and Victims of Communism Memorial Day (November 7), provides human rights education and a platform for dissidents to teach and testify, fosters ongoing dialogue through the annual Captive Nations Summit, and advocates for all in their struggle for freedom against totalitarianism.

REMEMBRANCE

VOC maintains the Victims of Communism Memorial near the U.S. Capitol, operates the Victims of Communism Museum located two blocks from the White House, and brings art displays and public exhibitions to schools and communities around the country.

TRUMAN-REAGAN MEDAL OF FREEDOM LAUREATES

The Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom is awarded to those who have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to freedom and democracy and opposition to communism and all other forms of tyranny.

2024	Stéphane Courtois	2008	Midge Decter
2023	Father Georgi Edelstein		Amb. Paula J. Dobriansky, Ph.D.
	Bhuchung K. Tsering		The Hon. Tom Lantos
2022	Lee Edwards, Ph.D.		The Hon. Kateryna Yushchenko
2021	Jimmy Lai	2007	William F. Buckley, Jr.
2020	José Daniel Ferrer García		The Hon. János Horváth, Ph.D.
2019	H.E. Joachim Gauck		The Hon. Henry “Scoop” Jackson
	Col. Gail S. Halvorsen, U.S.A.F. (Ret.)		The Hon. Dana Rohrabacher
	Tiananmen Mothers		Trần Văn Bá
	H.E. Joseph Cardinal Zen, Ph.D.	2006	Edwin J. Feulner, Ph.D.
2018	H.E. Valdas Adamkus		The Hon. Milada Horáková
	H.E. Sandra Kalniete, MEP		H.E. Lech Wałęsa
	H.E. Tunne Kelam, MEP	2005	Pope Saint John Paul II
	Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas		The Hon. Lev E. Dobriansky
2017	H.E. Mart Laar, Ph.D.		Lt. Gen. Edward L. Rowny, U.S.A. (Ret.)
	Memorial Society		Solidarity Free Trade Union of 1980
	The Hon. Natan Sharansky		Anna Walentynowicz
2016	Paul A. Goble	2004	Lockheed Martin Corporation
2015	Chen Guangcheng		Rep. John Shimkus
	Guillermo Fariñas		Maj. Gen. John Singlaub, U.S.A. (Ret.)
	Alexander Podrabinek	2003	H.E. Václav Havel
2014	Mustafa Dzhemilev		National Endowment for Democracy
	Myroslav Marynovych		Michael Novak
2013	H.E. Václav Klaus, Ph.D.	2002	The Hon. Philip M. Crane
	Fr. Thadeus Nguyễn Văn Lý		The Hon. Hae Yung Chung
	Jianli Yang, Ph.D.		The Hon. Joseph Lieberman
2012	The Hon. Donald Rumsfeld		H.E. Viktor Orbán
	The H.E. Stanislau Shushkevich	2001	Vladimir Bukovsky
2011	The Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen		The Hon. Jesse Helms
	H.E. Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga, Ph.D.	2000	Đoàn Viết Hoạt, Ph.D.
	John C. Whitehead		Col. John McKone, U.S.A.F. (Ret.)
2010	Robert Conquest		Col. Lewis Millett, U.S.A. (Ret.)
	The Hon. Armando Valladares		The Hon. Orson Swindle
	Harry Wu		Gen. Paik Sun-yup, ROKA (Ret.)
	H.E. Emanuelis Zingeris		Wei Jingsheng
2009	The Hon. Steny Hoyer		Youk Chhang
	The Hon. Jack Kemp	1999	Elena Bonner
	The Hon. Edwin Meese III		H.E. Philip Dimitrov
	Richard Pipes, Ph.D.		Lane Kirkland
	The Hon. Bishop László Tőkés		H.E. Vytautas Landsbergis, Ph.D.

DISSIDENT HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD LAUREATES

The Dissident Human Rights Award is given to individuals who have demonstrated courageous opposition to communism and all other forms of totalitarianism.

2024	Katrina Lantos Swett, Ph.D.	2019	Chen Qiusi
2023	Vladimir Kara-Murza	2018	Mother Mushroom
2022	The People of Ukraine	2017	Fang Zheng
2021	Alexei Navalny	2016	Sirley Ávila León
	Movimiento San Isidro	2015	Dolkun Isa
2020	Ilham Tohti		

LEE EDWARDS AWARD FOR SCHOLARSHIP

The Lee Edwards Award for Scholarship is VOC's signature honor recognizing outstanding academic achievement.

2024	Paul Kengor, Ph.D.
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THE FLAME OF LIBERTY AWARD

The Flame of Liberty Award recognizes individuals and organizations that have advanced teaching truth, seeking justice, and keeping memory in honor of the millions of victims killed and the billions still suffering under communism.

2023	The Polish National Foundation
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SAVE THE DATES

JUNE 4, 2025

Tiananmen Square Massacre Candlelight Vigil

8:00PM - 9:00PM

Victims of Communism Memorial

Corner of New Jersey and Massachusetts Avenues, NW, Washington, D.C.

Every year, VOC commemorates what happened on June 4, 1989, when the Chinese Communist Party crushed a massive pro-democracy movement by sending tanks into Tiananmen Square. Beijing has since erased all mention of June 4 from its history. We still do not know the death toll.

JULY 2025 date to be announced

Captive Nations Summit

Each July, the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation leads efforts to mark National Captive Nations Week, in fulfillment of the 1959 congressional resolution adopted during the Eisenhower administration to show American solidarity with nations subjugated by communism. This year's Captive Nations Summit will bring together senior leaders, international experts, and human rights activists to discuss the deadly, and sadly, enduring legacy of communism, as well as memory politics, and the lessons learned for current and all generations of freedom fighters.

AUTUMN 2025 date to be announced

China Forum

China Forum is an annual conference in Washington, D.C. convening scholars, experts, and policymakers in the areas of trade and economics, foreign policy and security, and human rights and political development. The goal of China Forum is to help Americans understand the nature of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese Communist Party, and key issues in U.S.-China relations.

For more information and to register and/or sponsor these events, visit victimsofcommunism.org/events.

Will you join the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation in keeping the flame of liberty alive?

Contact

If you would like to learn more about how you can support VOC, please contact Ashlee Davis at:



202-629-9500



ashlee.davis@victimsofcommunism.org



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The Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation is an educational, research, and human rights nonprofit organization. All donations to VOC are tax-deductible and help make possible our work to educate about the perils of communism and honor its victims.



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