



## VOC Hosts Operation Pedro Pan Exhibition



VOC was honored to have more than 30 “Pedro Pan children” attend the exhibition opening.

On June 25, VOC held the grand opening of a temporary gallery exhibition on Operation Pedro Pan, the U.S.’s mission to save over 14,000 children from communism between 1960 and 1962. After the delivery of opening remarks by VOC President and CEO Dr. Eric Patterson and VOC Trustee Ambassador Carlos Trujillo, Professor Carlos Erie and Victor Andres Triay discussed the historical significance of Pedro Pan. Carmen Valdivia, curator of the exhibition, outlined her experience as a Pedro Pan and explored the themes of the gallery, while Pedro Pan Maximo Alvarez, who helped make the gallery possible with his generous support, detailed the importance of the ongoing legacy of the Pedro Pan family. The exhibition will be on display through early spring 2026. This is an especially great exhibition to bring children to, as it makes real the experiences of Cuban children in the 1960s and shows their many successes in the U.S.



Senator Mel Martinez recalls his experiences as a Pedro Pan child.



A map of the U.S. shows every location where Pedro Pan children were hosted. The background of the map are the signatures of all 14,000 children who were part of the mission.



# VOC Remembers Captive Nations



VOC recognizes current and former captive nations through several signature annual events. On April 24, representatives from 16 embassies, 3 delegations, and 41 ethnic and human rights organizations gathered together with leaders of VOC for the 18th Annual Roll Call of Nations Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Victims of Communism Memorial on Capitol Hill. This ceremony honors the lives that have been lost as a result of communist regimes.

Professor Chen Guangcheng, Chinese human rights activist, lawyer, former prisoner of conscience, and 2015 Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom awardee gave

the event's highlight speech. He extensively spoke about his harrowing experiences fighting for victims and the importance of his current fight against Chinese communist repression and terror.

Congressman Chris Smith was awarded VOC's Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom for his tireless advocacy defending victims of communism. Named for Harry Truman and Ronald Reagan, two U.S. presidents whose effective strategies stopped the spread of communism in their times, the medal is awarded to those who have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to freedom and democracy and opposition to communism and all other forms of tyranny.



**“Communism has been—and continues to be—the equivalent of the bubonic plague of innocent men, women and children... We must never quit nor grow weary in the defense of human rights. Injustice need not be forever. Many are depending on us.”**

**—Congressman Chris Smith**

On July 14, VOC was honored to host our annual Captive Nations Summit to stand with the nations still subjugated by communism. The event opened with a fireside chat between Ambassador Paula J. Dobriansky, Ph.D., VOC Trustee, and Dr. Eric Patterson, VOC President and CEO. The discussion, which was broadcasted by C-SPAN, was followed by a panel of dissident speakers from all five remaining captive nations: China, Cuba, Laos, North Korea, and Vietnam. At the event, VOC announced that Rosa María Payá will serve as Senior Fellow for Latin America Studies at VOC.



Event co-sponsors included Cuba Decide, Defense Forum North Korea Freedom Coalition, Uyghur American Association, Union for Lao Nation/CERLA, and the Viet American Foundation.



# VOC Educates All Generations



On June 3, Hungarian State Secretary for Bilateral Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ms. Boglárka Illés and Hungarian Ambassador Szabolcs Takács visited VOC to discuss Hungary's historical and current fight against communist autocracy.



On May 2, VOC held a conversation with VOC Trustee Amb. Paula Dobriansky about her work editing *Unyielding Resolve: Captive Nations and the Path to Freedom*, documenting the history of the Captive Nations movement, which was led by her father and VOC co-founder, Lev Dobriansky.



Students from the Yuma Center take notes as VOC Chairman Dr. Elizabeth Spalding gives them a tour of the Victims of Communism Museum in July. VOC continues to host student groups from around the country.



On June 4, VOC hosted the annual Tiananmen Square Massacre Candlelight Vigil at the Victims of Communism Memorial to commemorate a tragedy that is still hidden by the CCP.



On June 20, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed into law a bipartisan initiative that requires its students to learn about the dangers of communism. Texas Rep. Tom Oliverson and VOC Advisory Council member Dr. Elida Dakoli (photo from 2021) have been staunch advocates for VOC education in Texas.



On July 30, VOC was honored to host the U.S. Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, and the White House Fellows at the Victims of Communism Museum.

# In Memoriam: Dr. Ed Feulner

VOC mourns the passing of its Chairman Emeritus, Dr. Edwin J. Feulner, on July 18, 2025. A long-time Trustee and former Chairman, Dr. Feulner was instrumental in the founding and growth of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation and was recognized with its highest award, the Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom, in 2006.

VOC published a previously unreleased interview of Dr. Edwin J. Feulner in which he explains, in his own words, why he picked up the mantle of anticommunism, and why we must continue to “fight the battle every day.”



Watch the full video online at this link: <https://shorturl.at/Ltp5C>

## Thank You to Our Supporters!

Our work is made possible by the generosity of our donors who value our mission. We are grateful for your support, which enables us to educate the next generation about the detriments of communism.

*We especially recognize the following members of our Victims of Communism Museum Remembrance Society who have given a leadership gift in the past quarter.*

### **Pillars of Memory**

Mr. Maximo Alvarez

Amb. Aldona Z. Woś & Mr. Louis DeJoy

### **Flames of Liberty**

Ms. Catherine Windels

### **Voices for Freedom**

Amb. & Mrs. Andrew & Maria Bremberg

Mr. & Mrs. Gary & Nancy Chartrand

Gay Libertarian Fund

Ms. Edith K. Lauer

Mr. & Mrs. Libor & Paulina Michalek

Mr. & Mrs. George & Alyssa Petrie

Mr. Ted Ross

*For more information about the VOC Museum Remembrance Society and to join, visit [victimsofcommunism.org/remembrance-society](https://victimsofcommunism.org/remembrance-society).*