



VOC Commemorates America 250



Xi Van Fleet, a survivor of China's Cultural Revolution, holds a 1717 book by John Wise at the "A New Birth of Freedom" exhibition opening.

VOC was honored to unveil our latest temporary gallery, *A New Birth of Freedom*, at the VOC Museum on March 11. Curated by the American Journey Experience, the exhibit invites visitors to learn about the principles that shape a free society, in stark contrast to the oppressive ideology of communism, while exploring America's past, present, and future. As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, VOC is helping Americans reflect on the meaning of liberty and the responsibilities required to preserve it.



VOC has hosted 25 student groups for museum tours this spring.



Glenn Beck, co-founder of the American Journey Experience, speaks at VOC for an Independence Day event.

VOC hosted a student essay contest in honor of America's 250th anniversary. Students from across the country contributed essays exploring the themes of maintaining freedom, defending liberty, and combating communism. Their submissions connected ideas from America's founding and democratic traditions to the history of resisting communist oppression, underscoring the continued relevance of these lessons today.

Maximo Alvarez Awarded Truman-Reagan Medal

On March 17, 2026, VOC presented the Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom to Maximo Alvarez at the Freedom Tower in Miami, Florida. A Pedro Pan child, Alvarez is one of more than 14,000 unaccompanied minors who escaped Castro's oppression and embraced the American dream through a program ran by the Catholic Welfare Bureau and Monsignor Bryan O. Walsh. The medal recognizes Alvarez's lifelong fight against communism in his native Cuba and his steadfast support of freedom in his adopted home of America.



Maximo Alvarez accepts VOC's Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom.

"The reason why I am a member of this great organization is not just to mourn those people who have lost their lives by the hands of communist governments, but it is to remind the entire world that we must not forget. The next generation needs to understand what they have suffered." —Maximo Alvarez



The award was presented to Alvarez by Dr. Elizabeth Edwards Spalding, VOC Chairman. Amb. Carlos Trujillo, VOC Trustee, spoke about Max's remarkable story. Remarks from Florida Senator Rick Scott and Senator Ashley Moody were read at the ceremony and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis sent his congratulations. Marcell Felipe, Trustee of Miami Dade College and Chairman of the American Museum of the Cuban Diaspora, also offered praise of Alvarez and offered insights into his pivotal role in ensuring Americans learn the truth about communism.

"Max will tell you he had no business coming to the United States. He was in Cuba with his family, and his brother was killed. It destroyed his family and his mother, and they decided to send him to this country. Against all odds, not only does he make it to the United States, but he thrives."

—Ambassador Carlos Trujillo

VOC Marks 19th Annual Roll Call of Nations



Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Victims of Communism Memorial

On April 23, representatives from 17 embassies, 3 delegations, and 44 ethnic and human rights organizations gathered together with leaders of VOC for the 19th 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.

"Today we gather as individuals and as a community united in freedom against communism." —Dr. Elizabeth Spalding



Viet American Foundation leadership with VOC's Dr. Eric Patterson and Dr. Elizabeth Spalding.

VOC was honored to be joined by Ambassador Sam Brownback, the former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, and Representative Joe Wilson (R-SC), Co-Chair of the VOC Congressional Caucus. During the 2026 Roll Call of Nations wreath-laying ceremony, VOC presented the Flame of Liberty Award to the Viet American Foundation for their decades-long commitment to preserving historical truth and advancing freedom as well as democracy in Vietnam.



Amb. Brownback explored how communist regimes seek to control by oppressing those who stand for faith.

Educating Students, Advancing Freedom



“Interning at VOC was an honor. It gave me the opportunity to contribute to an organization dedicated to not only remembering the victims of the horrific regimes but more importantly educating others on the dangers of communist ideologies and the great benefits of the free and democratic society. Being able to educate others on the values of liberty is something deeply important to me. Your generous support for VOC allowed me—and allows future interns—to continue the important work of educating the next generations of Americans.” —Owen Butler, VOC Intern

On Thursday, March 26, Diana Nausėdienė, the First Lady of Lithuania, visited the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation. Nausėdienė, her delegation, and officials from the Embassy of Lithuania toured the Victims of Communism Museum, led by VOC Trustee Amb. Aldona Woś. After the tour and a discussion with the team, the First Lady of Lithuania presented VOC with a medal of freedom symbolizing Lithuania’s struggle against communism and Soviet occupation.



First Lady of Lithuania Diana Nausėdienė at the VOC Museum.

Thank You to Our Supporters!

Our work is made possible by the generosity of our donors. We are grateful for your partnership, which makes an impact on educating the next generation.

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

Pillars of Memory

The Louis DeJoy and Aldona Z. Woś Family Foundation

Flames of Liberty

Mr. Maximo Alvarez

Mr. Paul Schultheis

Mr. Thomas Throop

Voices for Freedom

Mrs. Pattie Al-Attas Barrett and Mr. Rick Barrett

Mr. and Mrs. Bayard and Huddy Boyle

Amb. Andrew Bremberg

Gay Libertarian Fund

Ms. Edith K. Lauer

Mr. and Mrs. George and Alyssa Petrie

Drs. Matthew and Elizabeth Spalding

Amb. Carlos Trujillo

Drs. Omar and Josefina Vento

Mr. Jeff Yass

For more information about the VOC Museum Remembrance Society and to join, visit victimsofcommunism.org/remembrance-society.