

Dodona Dispatch



Official Newsletter of



THE GEORGE C. MARSHALL
INTERNATIONAL CENTER
Inspiring Leadership

Building the Marshall Center Community



The 2023 Volunteer Team of Dodona Manor: Docents, Gardeners and Groundskeepers

In April, the Marshall Center Board of Directors presented the second annual **Marshall Award in Ethical Leadership** to Dr. Robert Gates, the 22nd U.S. Secretary of Defense and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

In his acceptance speech, which is available on the Marshall Center's YouTube channel, Dr. Gates made a powerful case for the importance of ethical leadership at all levels of society: "Standing still cannot be an option. If our nation is to tackle the challenges of this century, from national security to the economy to the changing climate, ethical leadership, energy and good old-fashioned grit are indispensable keys to a better tomorrow."

Dr. Gates' call to action invokes the spirit of General Marshall, whose selfless service knew no bounds. Even when he was ready to retire to his garden at Dodona, Marshall answered the call time and again, and so must we. To build on the tremendous progress of recent years, Dr. Gates' words serve as an inspiring call to action.

Our work does not only depend on a small group of people giving a lot; it depends on a growing community of people stepping up to do what they can.

Some join as members. Some donate time and talent. And some step up to sponsor programs or events.

Even simple tasks like subscribing to our newsletter, following our social media channels and sharing our posts with your network build our community and extend our reach. For those who want to become directly involved in our work, please check out the volunteer opportunities on our website. There are many ways to contribute.

The future of the George C. Marshall International Center is exceptionally bright, and our work is making a clear difference in the lives of young people. We are also rock solid in our enduring commitment to share the Marshall story with the many visitors who tour Dodona Manor. We invite you to explore and find your own way to ensure the work continues.★



THE GEORGE C. MARSHALL
INTERNATIONAL CENTER
Inspiring Leadership

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MAKING A FEDERAL CASE (to Give)



Dear Friends and Supporters,

I hope this message finds you well. As a proud member of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Development Committee for the Marshall Center, I want to share a meaningful opportunity to support our cause.

As we look forward to the rest of 2023 and prepare for 2024, we're excited to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), an annual fundraising drive for federal employees and retirees. This program provides an excellent platform to support charities

that are making a difference locally, nationally and globally.

To participate in the 2023 CFC, visit cfcgiving.opm.gov and select the George C. Marshall International Center as your charity of choice.

For those among our supporters who are federal employees or retirees, the CFC offers a unique opportunity to extend your support to the Marshall Center. The campaign allows for convenient payroll deductions, enabling you to contribute a small amount each pay period, which adds up to a significant contribution over the year.

To our current supporters, we encourage you to spread the word by using our CFC participation as an opportunity to inform your colleagues about our mission and the lasting impact of General Marshall's leadership. Encourage them to join our cause by directing their CFC donations to the Marshall Center, providing essential support to continue the great work.

We're grateful for your ongoing commitment to uphold General Marshall's legacy. Together, through the CFC and your generous donations, we can continue to inspire the leaders of today and tomorrow with Marshall's visionary approach.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Paul Michaels

Paul Michaels

Board Director & Chair, Development Committee



Visit cfcgiving.opm.gov and select the George C. Marshall International Center as your charity of choice.

Approved Charity #51415

LEESBURG NOMINATED

for World War II Heritage City Designation

In recognition of Leesburg's contributions to the World War II effort, including its historic ties to General George C. Marshall, Leesburg Mayor Kelly Burk has presented to the National Park Service (NPS) a proposal to designate the Town of Leesburg as an American World War II Heritage City. The NPS program, which was established in 2019, empowers the Secretary of Interior to honor only one city or region from each state for its contributions to the World War II effort and its continuing work to preserve its military history.

In her letter to NPS Director Charles F. Sams III, Mayor Burk wrote that "Our contribution to World War II is highlighted by our ties to General George C. Marshall who lived in historic downtown Leesburg at Dodona Manor during the War." Burk noted that Marshall inspired generations of Leesburg residents while organizing the Allied victory as Army Chief of Staff and through his historic role as architect of the European Recovery Program that changed the face of the world.

In a letter of support, U.S. Representative Jennifer Wexton (VA-10) wrote that "Dodona Manor serves as a time capsule, allowing visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in a pivotal moment in our country's history." Wexton added that the Marshall Center's ethical leadership programs help ensure that "the lessons and values of this remarkable time in history are carried on through the next generation of young leaders."

Following a three-month review period, NPS Director Sams will forward nominations and recommendations for consideration and designation by the Secretary of the Interior. ★



8th June 1943: A conference at Allied Forces headquarters in North Africa, (left to right) British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden (later Prime Minister and 1st Earl Avon), Lord Alanbrooke, Air Chief Marshal Tedder, Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham, General Alexander, General Marshall, General Dwight Eisenhower (later 34th President of the United States) and General Bernard Montgomery. In the center is British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. (Photo by Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

Ethical Leadership Conference 2024 Dates Set

The Marshall Center is hosting two sessions of its **Five-Star Character the George C. Marshall Ethical Leadership Conference** in the first half of 2024. The first two-day session will be held on February 9-10, followed by a second session on May 10-11.



Five-Star Character
THE GEORGE C. MARSHALL
ETHICAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

This free event gives high school students the opportunity to shape their approach to leadership and decision-making drawing on the life of one of the most remarkable and influential leaders in American history. Using examples from Marshall's long career of service, participants learn and apply these enduring lessons in a modern context.

We are deeply grateful for the generous support of our donors and supporters, which allows us to offer the conference to leaders of the future free of charge every time.

Learn more and register for an upcoming session at georgemarshall.org/elc. ★

Come Together: Marshall Center Event Series

One of the defining characteristics of General George C. Marshall's service to the nation was his commitment to learn all he could about situations he faced as a leader in order to make the most-informed decisions possible. This disciplined approach to problem solving was the foundation of his Visionary Leadership, and it served him and his country well.

The Marshall Center continues that legacy today by hosting a series of in-person and virtual events during the course of the year. The series consists of three programs: Off Duty speaker events hosted on the grounds of

Dodona Manor and the Zoom-enabled monthly Book Club and Foreign Policy Forum events.

While each event has its own focus, taken as a whole they reflect the curious yet focused nature of Marshall's intellect. While there is always something to learn at each event, these gatherings also create ideal spaces to meet other members of the Marshall Center community and find out what else is happening in and around Dodona Manor.

We encourage members and supporters to learn more about these events and join us in learning together. For the full list of upcoming events, visit georgemarshall.org/events. ★

Book Club & Foreign Policy Forum

In June 2017, the Marshall Center hosted a highly successful 70th anniversary symposium on the Marshall Harvard speech. Following the event, which attracted 280 attendees, members shared a desire to help host and attend regular educational events in the future.

From this experience, both the Marshall Center Book Club and Foreign Policy Forum were born. More than six years later, both series continue to deliver.

The **Foreign Policy Forum** started as an in-person, "brown bag lunch" discussion group with a special focus on the State Department, which was once led by Secretary Marshall. Over time, host Les Janka started inviting experts to offer talks on current topics. Inviting key people from the D.C. policy, think tank and academic communities had the additional benefit of promoting the Marshall Center profile across the Capital Region.

As those meetings grew, some participants suggested a **Book Club** to give members a chance to learn even more about key topics and come together to discuss them. These too started as lunch events. While the COVID-19 pandemic halted the in-person meetings, attendance numbers have grown on Zoom and offered the benefit of extending the events' reach across the country and beyond.

Building on his National Security Council and Pentagon experience, Les Janka led both groups at the outset. But a move to beautiful Hilton Head prompted him to invite Steve Eisenbraun to help out. As a previous, well-received speaker, Steve was a great find and an exceptional replacement given his range of current contacts.

The book club has been an excellent recruiting tool for new members and generates a lot of energetic discussions on history, significant personalities and vital current foreign policy issues – with frequent direct links to the life and legacy of George C. Marshall. ★



OFF *Duty*

Thank you, Les!

The Marshall Center community would like to extend a special thanks to former board member Les Janka for creating and hosting our Foreign Policy Forum and Book Club series since 2017. We appreciate the time and effort he has dedicated to making these programs a tremendous success!



Tom Greenspon
Chairman & President Emeritus
George C. Marshall International Center

Launched in 2021 as a small, invitation-only networking event on the Stone Patio at Dodona Manor, **Off Duty** has since become a signature Marshall Center offering. The goal was and continues to be to invite the community to the impressive grounds so they can experience the gem hidden in downtown Leesburg.

When Director of Institutional Advancement Dan Beckett came on board, he reimagined it as a larger educational event, open to all and free to attend. What started out as small gatherings of 10 have grown to gatherings that regularly attract 30-40 people. As we plan the speakers and themes for 2024, we hope to grow that number with each event.

Off Duty is now an outdoor speaker series featuring a speaker discussing a topic that touches on history adjacent to George C. Marshall or examines leadership through the lens of the ethical leadership model of ***Selfless Service, Unwavering Integrity and Visionary Leadership***. The events run around 90 minutes, with light refreshments and opportunities for networking before and after the discussion.

We are sincerely grateful to every single person who has attended an event with us this year, and we hope you will spread the word and bring your friends! ★

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

October 19, 12-1 p.m. Foreign Policy Forum

U.S.- Iran Relations, Past and Present with Ambassador Victor Tomseth

November 1, 12-1 p.m. Book Club

How Civil Wars Start

November 16 12-1 p.m. Foreign Policy Forum

The State Of LGBTQI+ Rights Around The World with Jessica Stern

December 6, 12-1 p.m. Book Club

Partners in Command

December 21, 12-1 p.m. Foreign Policy Forum

Space and National Security with Mike Griffin

January 18, 12-1 p.m. Foreign Policy Forum

Leadership Lessons from Capitol Hill with Wendell Primus

RSVP for the Zoom links at georgecmarshall.org/events



LCPL
LOUDOUN COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

We are proud to partner with the Loudoun County Public Library, which makes available multiple copies of our book club selections for checkout at the Rust Library in Leesburg.

Board Member PROFILE

Robin Milton joined LMI in 2019 and has 20 years of experience in marketing, public relations and strategic communications. As the Vice President of the Strategic Marketing Communications team at LMI, she establishes organizational brand awareness and overall communications and marketing efforts through the development of strategic partnerships.

Prior to joining LMI, she spent over 15 years working in government consulting. For clients, including the U.S. Army, Army Reserve and Air Force, Robin enhanced their overall strategic marketing and communications capabilities. In addition to her defense sector experience, she has worked in a variety of communications and marketing roles at large corporations such as Booz Allen Hamilton and Hilton Worldwide.

Robin earned her bachelor's degree in journalism with a concentration in marketing and public relations from the University of Maine at Orono.



Robin Milton

Why did you choose to join the Marshall Center Board?

I wholeheartedly believe in giving back to our communities and growing the future leaders of our country. Whenever I can engage and connect with others to support their ethical leadership growth, I will always be the first to volunteer, whether it be in their personal or professional endeavors.

Being a member of this prestigious Board does just that – it affords me the opportunity to give back and share my successes (and failures) with the community. It also allows me to further instill the importance of the meaning of “unwavering integrity.” I am truly grateful and humbled to be part of such a respected Board, and I look forward to sharing George C. Marshall's vision for years to come.

How is Marshall's legacy still relevant today?

The deep-seated legacy George C. Marshall left behind is unmatched. He remained committed to his country through his selfless service and repeatedly proved himself to be an empathetic and thoughtful leader. As a leader in my organization, I have always said that I am only as strong as my team, and I strive to ensure my team is growing and feels supported as they grow throughout their careers, which is something that aligns closely with Marshall's leadership approach. Without his ethical leadership, innovative strategies and actions, we would not be where we are as a country today. ★

Volunteer PROFILE

What attracted you to becoming a volunteer at Dodona?

After I retired from the Army, I moved to Leesburg and joined VFW Post 1177 of Loudoun County. The Post was invited to support the Spring CleanUp at Dodona with the Loudoun County High School JROTC unit a few years ago. Cleaning out the garage, I was fascinated by the garden tool sharpener installed between the two large doors, and one of the volunteers told me that it was original – “had been there forever.” I suddenly realized that I was cleaning the workbench where one of the most famous military leaders in the history of our country had worked, and I was hooked.

I have a soft spot for antique cars and Jeeps as well. I've always been kind of a gearhead, and during my first military duty tour back in the 70's in San Diego, I would find and restore old British sports cars for resale. I'd find one sitting in a garage or in the corner of someone's yard, make a great deal (typically they weren't running), drag it home and start cleaning it up and making it run. Then I'd sell it, pocket the cash and go find another.

Fast forward 50 years, and I currently maintain the '53 Willys Army Jeep owned by the local VFW Post and have a '92 Jeep Wrangler that I use during the summer. So, when [Executive Director Valérie Beaudoin] said she needed help with General Marshall's Wagon, it seemed only logical to help out with a 3rd Willys vehicle. ★



**Major Dennis Boykin
(U.S. Army, Ret.)**

Major Dennis Boykin (U.S. Army, Ret.) is the Managing Principal of DB4 Consulting, LLC. He serves the Loudoun County District Court Veterans Docket as the Mentor Coordinator, supports Veterans Airlift Command with flights for Wounded Warriors and supports Special Olympics of Virginia as the General Aviation Coordinator for the Annual Dulles Day Plane Pull. Dennis served his country in both enlisted

and commissioned status. In his “spare” time he is the Motor Officer & Judge Advocate for VFW Post 1177 of Loudoun County.

“Two Gifts”

The Story of Marshall’s Willys Wagon



The replica green Willys Jeep Station Wagon outside Dodona Manor. Photo taken by David Galen

A unique gem preserved as a living reminder of General Marshall’s inspiring legacy, Dodona Manor provides visitors an opportunity to revisit a moment in time when American leadership saved democracy and preserved peace during troubled times.

One of the most iconic treasures of General Marshall’s life and time at Dodona is our faithful replica of his green Willys Jeep Station Wagon. The wagon is a special part of Marshall history, as it speaks to both his professional legacy and modest personality. Marshall, who was instrumental in greenlighting the production of the jeep for military use in World War II, called the jeep “America’s greatest contribution to modern warfare.”

The backstory of this artifact is a heartening tale of two gifts, starting with the original Jeep, which Marshall – ever averse to fanfare – accepted reluctantly in 1948 from

the Willys Overland Co. Our historically accurate replica was itself a gift, this time from Jaap de Groot, a Dutch Marshall admirer and leading collector of WWII military vehicles. In 2005, De Groot enlisted the assistance of his Wisconsinite son-in-law and fellow

collector Kevin Kronlund, who helped identify the correct make and model. An impressive trans-Atlantic family affair!

Channeling General Marshall’s spirit of selfless service, supporters and donors continue to step up to the challenging task of restoring and maintaining this unique piece of American history for current and future generations. We are particularly grateful to 24-year military veteran and Bronze Star recipient Dennis Boykin, [profiled on PAGE 6] who has generously donated his extraordinary expertise, time and resources to this effort.



Dennis Boykin

We are grateful for these “two gifts” and for the continued generosity of those who make it possible for us to share Marshall’s Willys Wagon – and his extraordinary legacy – with our community and visitors from around the world. ★

Join us! Marshall Plan Tree Walk

Don’t miss our signature holiday event on Saturday, December 2! The event combines the magic of the holidays with recognition of the Marshall Plan countries. Seventeen trees, one for each participating country, will be decorated along the brick walk by the house for all to enjoy until the end of the year.

This year we are celebrating the 70th anniversary of Secretary Marshall’s acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize in December 1953. Please join us to mark this historic moment.

We are also adding a special element to our festivities, with a handbell performance of holiday favorites by Music to Free. Music to Free is a non-profit handbell performance group that teaches the art of playing handbells in low/fixed-income senior living centers, veteran rehabilitation programs and addiction treatment programs in northern Virginia.

Join us on December 2 at 4:30 PM for a smores picnic provided by Purely Picnics, the handbell performance, and the tree lighting ceremony to start the holiday season. The event is free, open to the public and perfect for kids and families. ★





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INTERNATIONAL CENTER
Inspiring Leadership

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georgecmarshall.org

Visit Us

Interior, Docent-Led House Tours

FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY
Visit our website for hours

Tours begin every half-hour

For group and weekday private
tours, contact us:
703-777-1301
tours@georgecmarshall.org

Membership

NEW BENEFIT

All membership levels at the \$250 level and above now come with a complimentary gift membership.

This can be gifted to anyone in your life who wants to become part of the George C. Marshall International Center community.

Visit georgecmarshall.org/membership for more details



19th Annual VETERANS DAY COMMEMORATION

November 11, 2023 • 10:30 A.M.
Dodona Manor • Leesburg, V.A.

Cohosted by the Town of Leesburg, Loudoun County and the Marshall Center



MUSEUM PROJECT UPDATES

georgecmarshall.org/museum