

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**FIGHTING  
*the*  
GOOD FIGHT**

**ON MEMORIAL DAY,  
we honor those who  
fought to keep American  
freedom alive.**

**1.1 Million  
AMERICANS LOST  
THEIR LIVES IN ALL  
U.S. WARS TOTAL**



*"I have no illusions about what little I can add now to the silent testimony of those who gave their lives willingly for their country... Yet, we must try to honor them—not for their sakes alone, but for our own. And if words cannot repay the debt we owe these men, surely with our actions we must strive to keep faith with them and with the vision that led them to battle and to final sacrifice."*

**- Ronald Reagan**  
Memorial Day 1982



**FROM THE DESK OF JESSICA DEAN**

**Dear Friends,**

As you may know, I was diagnosed with cancer in February. This kind of diagnosis is life-changing in so many ways. You learn very quickly what matters. For me, faith and family became my priorities. What I did not expect was a newfound appreciation for being American. As I move through treatment, I find myself pausing often to be thankful that I am in the greatest country in the history of the world. It may seem odd to factor that into my cancer journey, so allow me to explain.

I joined a Facebook support group of about 2,600 patients worldwide. One thing that immediately struck me was the difference between Americans receiving treatment and everyone else. Americans spoke about talking to many doctors and getting many treatment options. We have the freedom to see who we think is best. Not so with others; in fact, I am shocked by some of their stories. One woman commented, "In Poland we can only dream of access to the care you can get so quickly, choosing the doctors. Lucky you."

That really hit me. We are lucky. Even though our system isn't perfect, it sure is better than the single-payer cartels others deal with. People in other countries with this disease have, quite literally, a death sentence because their government oversees their medical decisions.

I am blessed. I am receiving the very best care in the world. At work during my treatment, I have renewed vigor because I was reminded why we fight: for freedom. Americans have battled for freedom since the inception of our country. We think of men and women who sacrificed their lives as the ones who fought, but there are other, more subdued skirmishes that conservatives fight daily, from obstructing the Left's pursuit of socialism, to entitlement reform that will free our fellow Americans from the "soft tyranny of low expectations."

This Memorial Day, while remembering those who fought on battlefields, I'll also think of those who keep up the good fight for liberty as best they can.

I wish you and your family health and time to reflect on our blessings this Memorial Day weekend.

Sincerely,



**Jessica F. Dean**  
President  
The Bradley Impact Fund



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Bradley Cornerstone Events

#### *Save the Dates:*

**September 20-21, 2018**

8th Annual Bradley Impact Conference  
Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

### Other Gathering Opportunities

**June 5, 2018**

Bradley Impact Fund Event and Cubs Game  
Wrigley Field, Chicago, Illinois

**Summer 2018**

Bradley Impact Fund Luncheon  
Denver, Colorado

**Fall 2018**

Bradley Impact Fund Luncheon  
Raleigh, North Carolina

Please contact Terri Famer at [tfamer@bradleyfdn.org](mailto:tfamer@bradleyfdn.org)  
for event details.

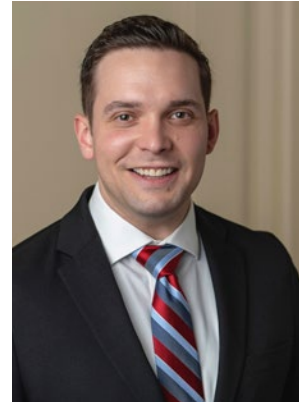


# Welcome

*New Director of Philanthropy*

**GABE CONGER**

Gabe Conger spent the past 10 years working with conservative philanthropists to restore and protect the principles of American exceptionalism. Most recently he served as Advisor to the President for Donor Relations at The Heritage Foundation. Previously, Gabe worked as director of on-site operations at a real estate



investment management company in Wisconsin. A native of Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, Gabe earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History at Creighton University.

“ I could not be more excited to move back to America’s heartland and work with the Bradley Impact Fund’s community of conservatives dedicated to saving the country for future generations. My infant daughter Reagan and countless other Americans will be the beneficiaries of their philanthropy. ”

**Gabe Conger**

Director of Philanthropy, *Bradley Impact Fund*

## WHY THE BRADLEY PRIZES?



On May 15th in Washington, D.C., Bradley Impact Fund members, Bradley Foundation leaders, and many other friends joined to recognize the 2018 recipients of the Bradley Prizes, Allen C. Guelzo, Charles R. Kesler and Jason L. Riley.

Established in 2004, the Bradley Prizes honor scholars and practitioners

whose accomplishments reflect The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation’s mission to restore, strengthen, and protect the principles and institutions of American exceptionalism. Since 2005, prizes of \$250,000 each have been awarded annually to distinguished individuals for their integrity, scholarship, and leadership in the battle to preserve freedom.

# KEEPING AMERICA'S FIRST PRINCIPLES ALIVE

Our guest contributor for this Impact Brief, Dr. Allen C. Guelzo, is a Civil War-era historian, author of several books on American intellectual history, and a 2018 Bradley Prize recipient. His Prize acceptance remarks, excerpted here, remind us that our nation's history and collective memory have a powerful role in our fight to keep American liberty alive.

Government, said Dr. [Samuel] Johnson, is “perpetually degenerating towards corruption” and “must be rescued at certain periods by the resuscitation of its first principles, and the re-establishment of its original constitution.”

To neglect our history is carelessness toward those first principles; worse, the destruction of our history is the first strategy of tyrants. After all, “A people which no longer remembers has lost its history and its soul,” warned Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn many years ago. “To fight for our memory, for our memory of what things were like—that is the task of the artist.” It was no accident that it was a historical undertaking—Solzhenitsyn's publication of *The Gulag Archipelago*—which moved the earth from under the feet of European intellectuals in the 1970s. “All Solzhenitsyn had to do was speak,” wrote Bernard Henri-Levy, “and we awoke from a dogmatic sleep.”

How much more vital is the linkage between a free society and its history? For without that history, every weapon which might arm us against the newest versions of despotism falls from our hands.

But to whom does our history belong? Lincoln said in 1858 that “perhaps half our people...are men who have come from Europe—German, Irish, French and Scandinavian men....” They had no living memory of the Revolution; they had no family connection to the Revolutionaries themselves; yet “when

The Bradley Prizes and Symposium represent a vital element in Bradley's balanced strategy to combat the progressivism which restricts the free speech, religious freedom, and other basic liberties our nation's founders fought for and died to protect. Scholarship provides the intellectual underpinnings for public policy

definition, debate and advocacy so critical in advancing conservative practices and a constitutional nation. The extraordinary talent and dedication of those honored, including this year's winners, are integral to keeping liberty alive.

they look through that old Declaration of Independence they find that those old men say that We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, and then they feel...as though they were blood of the blood, and flesh of the flesh of the men who wrote that Declaration, and so they are. That is the electric cord...that will link those patriotic hearts as long as the love of freedom exists in the minds of men throughout the world.”

Like Lincoln's examples, my literal ancestors were Swedes and Germans, an Irish railroad worker and a Jewish tailor. But in truth, I know as a historian of the American experiment that my real forebears are Lincoln, Madison and Washington, Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, Sergeant William Carney and Sergeant Alvin York, Ma Ingalls and Ida Straus, Josiah Royce and John Philip Sousa. And my task as a historian is, in the times of the Republic's troubles, to recall them to our minds, so that they may return us to our first principles. And it is in the spirit of the Bradley Prize that I call on you to join me in understanding that who we are today as Americans can never be dis severed from what they did, and said, and suffered.

## Dr. Allen C. Guelzo



*Dr. Guelzo is Director of the Civil War Era Studies and Henry R. Luce Professor of the Civil War Era Studies at Gettysburg College.*



# EVENT SPOTLIGHT

## 2018 Bradley Luncheon

Earlier this month, conservative leaders and Bradley friends gathered in Washington, D.C. to honor leading conservative scholars and their work in defending American freedoms. Through its events, including those outlined below, Bradley engages a wide audience, including our donor community, in the preservation of American exceptionalism.

## 2018 Bradley Prizes



More than 380 conservative leaders, influencers, and Bradley friends and family attended the Bradley Prizes evening ceremony and gala at the National Building

Museum to recognize intellectual achievement that advances conservative values. Allen C. Guelzo, Charles R. Kesler, and Jason L. Riley were named the 2018 Bradley Prize recipients.

## 2018 Bradley Symposium

Prominent intellectuals, policy professionals, commentators, activists, and philanthropists in an audience of nearly 200 attended the annual Symposium, which furthers informed public debate. Hosted at The Heritage Foundation, six notable panelists shared their views on the current state of the Constitution and the direction conservatives must take to restore a Constitutional republic of limited government that provides freedom, liberty, and opportunity to all citizens.



### Panelists:

- Christian Adams**, Public Interest Legal Foundation
- Robert Alt**, The Buckeye Institute
- Christopher DeMuth**, Hudson Institute
- Victor Davis Hanson**, Hoover Institution
- Charles R. Kesler**, Claremont McKenna College
- Andrew C. McCarthy**, National Review Institute
- Hans von Spakovsky**, The Heritage Foundation, moderator

The Bradley Impact Fund hosted an intimate luncheon for members of our donor community, board members, policy leaders, and Bradley Prize winners, past and present, at The Heritage Foundation.



The group's lively and meaningful conversation on protecting American freedoms was led by 2009 Bradley Prize winner Leonard Leo, Executive Vice President of The Federalist Society.

## Bradley Impact Fund Board of Directors and Officers

- Michael W. Grebe**, Chairman of the Board
- George Mosher**, Director and Treasurer
- Curt S. Culver**, Director
- Stephen Einhorn**, Director
- Diane Hendricks**, Director
- Michael L. Keiser**, Director
- Sylvie Légère Ricketts**, Director
- James Arthur Pope**, Director
- Jessica Dean**, President
- Richard W. Graber**, Vice President
- Jason Kohout**, Secretary

