

The Samuel P. Chase Freedom Award



The history of this award is an interesting one! It was originally called the *Libby Award*, and was given to recognize the party member who contributed the most in a particular year to the growth and development of the Maryland Libertarian Party. Erwin Vogel (see my note about him in the February 2008 newsletter) was the first winner (selected by a committee that included Delores Blum, Frances Eddy, and Don Monroe). He received the award at the October 31, 1987 Maryland Libertarian Convention.

The award included three one-ounce 1987 “American Eagle” silver coins purchased from the party’s presidential candidate at that time, Ron Paul (his firm), along with a proclamation that read as follows:

WHEREAS, Erwin Vogel is among the leading pioneers establishing the Maryland Libertarian Party; WHEREAS, he was the first individual in Maryland to run for elective office as a Libertarian; WHEREAS, he received 16% of the vote in that two-way race for State Delegate; WHEREAS, he volunteers to serve and has a sustained record of service at the Libertarian Party booth at the Montgomery County Fair; WHEREAS, he contributes financially to support undertakings of the Maryland LP; WHEREAS, his continuous participation in party affairs spans almost the length of the party’s history; THEREFORE, the members of the Maryland Libertarian Party recognize Erwin Vogel as the first recipient of the annual Maryland Libby award. He has our gratitude for his sustained contributions to the advancement of liberty. (Members of the Award Committee signed the proclamation on behalf of the Maryland Libertarian Party.)

Several of us wanted a more formal name for the award even if it would informally be called the *Libby Award*. I suggested calling it the *Luther Martin Award*. Luther Martin (c. 1748-July 10, 1826) was the first attorney general of Maryland. He served 30 years as such, was a member of the Continental Congress, and a member of the Federal Convention. Martin was an anti-federalist (the libertarians of his day) who opposed a strong central government, and walked out of the convention without signing the U.S. constitution. But another Marylander, Samuel P. Chase, an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, organizer of the Sons of Liberty, delegate from Maryland to the First Continental Congress, active in the American Revolutionary War, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and who joined Luther Martin in opposing the Constitution in 1788, was chosen as the name for the award. (He became a Federalist in the 1790’s for unknown reasons, which is why I preferred Luther Martin.)

I was the second winner of the *Libby Award*, but was given a plaque (brass on wood) that took the formal name and read as follows: “Samuel Chase Freedom Award, presented to Gerald Schneider by the Maryland Libertarian Party for the year 1988.” A proclamation was included presented at the October 8, 1988 Maryland Libertarian Party Convention, signed by the Award Committee (Curt Kastens, Chairman; Doris Gordon, and Bob

Jackson), that read as follows:

The Maryland Libertarian Party presents DR. SCHNEIDER with the 1988 Libby Award for his long service promoting the cause of liberty. As the only libertarian columnist in the state, DR. SCHNEIDER, writer of the Libertarian Outlook Column for the *Wheaton News*, has presented a libertarian viewpoint to thousands of Marylanders every week for at least five years. As a candidate for State Legislature in 1982, DR. SCHNEIDER was the first libertarian candidate in the nation to receive a National Rifle Association endorsement. He also received 20% of the vote in this election. As a longtime member of the Montgomery County Libertarian Party, DR. SCHNEIDER has been a key activist in organizing past tax protests and county fair booths. Perhaps DR. SCHNEIDER’s greatest contributions to liberty are the work he has done monitoring the Montgomery County government and delivering speeches at public hearings and before various local civic groups.

I find no record of and do not remember anyone getting the Samuel P. Chase award in 1989. Whether this was oversight or no one was deemed qualified enough that year I cannot say.

Imad A. Ahmad was the 1990 winner. I had the honor of selecting the award, a limited edition of a Statue of Liberty commemorative collector’s radio (cast metal statue on a plastic base that contains the radio sold through Radio Shack where a portion of the purchase price went towards the statue reconditioning project; it measures 11¾ inches high by 3½ inches wide). I also gave the presentation of the award to Dean (the name you know him better as) at the October 20, 1990 Maryland Libertarian Party Convention that went as follows:

Perhaps no one has contributed more to the growth and development of the Libertarian Party of Maryland than Imad A. Ahmad, known to his friends as Dean Ahmad, winner of the 1990 Samuel P. Chase Freedom Award of the state party. Dean has held every elected post, as well as having been newsletter editor, of both the state party and the Montgomery County Central Committee party, including hosting the November 1980 organizing meeting of the Montgomery County group. Of course, he was also elected National Committee Member At Large and Secretary of the National Libertarian Party, and has chaired and been a member of several national party committees over the years. Dean was campaign manager for Tom Mather’s special 5th Congressional District run in 1981, Gerald Schneider’s 20th State Legislative District run in 1982, and Sam Grove’s 8th Congressional District run in 1984. Dean, himself, was a write-in candidate for the U.S. Senate in 1988.

Highlighting his community activities was his appointment this year by Montgomery County elected officials to membership on the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Central Business District Association and last year became the elected president of the East Bethesda Citizens Association, a first for a state libertarian.

Even though not required to do so, Dean has voluntarily used his computer to maintain party membership, voter, and donor records, and has always been able and willing to back-up and update other persons with official

responsibilities for such record keeping. Since 1980, Dean has been a leader and/or organizer of every state and Montgomery County anti-draft and anti-tax demonstration. Dean is truly a Libertarian activist for all seasons, and worthy of the 1990 Samuel P. Chase Freedom Award.

James (“Jim”) Spriggs was the 1991 winner of the Award, presented to him at the October 6, 1991 Maryland Libertarian Party Convention. State party chair at the time, Dean Ahmad, presented the award to Jim. I can find no mention of the text of the presentation except a note in the November-December 1991 FREE STATE LIBERTARIAN LETTER (its title at the time when Norman Rule was the editor) saying: “Jim has been active in the State Party for many years.” There is also no record I could find of what the award was that year.

Bill Buzzell was the 1992 award winner recognized at the October 25, 1992 Maryland Libertarian Convention. I have no record of the presentation text or what the award was except this brief note in the November-December 1992 FREE STATE LIBERTARIAN LETTER: “Although Bill has never run for office, no one can deny the time and effort he has put into the Party over the years.”

Amy Rule received the award for 1993 at a presentation given at the November 13, 1993 Maryland Libertarian Party Convention. Dean Ahmad presented the award. The only record I can find of the presentation was this brief note in the November-December 1993 FREE STATE LIBERTARIAN LETTER: “The Samuel P. Chase Freedom Award was presented by former recipient, Dean Ahmad. The award is given to someone who has exhibited outstanding service and support for the cause of freedom. Amy has served as county Chair in Montgomery and Howard counties, as well as serving for three years on the Maryland LP Executive Committee.”

There is no record of a Samuel P. Chase Freedom Award being given in 1994. But outgoing State Chair, Lorenzo Gaztañaga, recognized “some of the outstanding activists of the year with the new *Defender of Liberty* awards: Dan Anderson for Grassroots Activism, Glenn Howard for Unsung Hero, Earle Pearce for Media Outreach, and Wayne Dougherty for Consistent Activism” at the October 15, 1994 Maryland Libertarian Party Convention as reported in the November-December 1994 FREE STATE LIBERTARIAN LETTER.

Jesse Markowitz won the Samuel P. Chase Freedom Award in 1995 at the October 21, 1995 Maryland Libertarian Party Convention. I can find no record of what the award was or the presentation. Jesse, himself, at the convention, presented *Defender of Liberty Awards* to Scott Becker “for grass roots organizing on ballot access,” Dan Anderson “for stepping in and tackling the tough job of Treasurer,” Chris Gardinier “for her behind the scenes work,” and Ruth Mayer “for her work with the newsletter” as reported in the November-December 1995 FREE STATE LIBERTARIAN (title then used).

I can find no record of awards given for 1996 at the October 19, 1996 Maryland Libertarian Party Convention. Newsletter reports focus on Libertarian Presidential Candidate, Harry Browne, as keynote speaker.

Lorenzo and Susan Gaztañaga were 1997 winners of the

Samuel P. Chase Freedom Award given at the October 19, 1997 Maryland Libertarian Party Convention with a presentation by Dean Ahmad. This was the first joint award of its kind. The Winter 1997-98 FREE STATE LIBERTARIAN newsletter reports it as follows:

The high point of the evening was the presentation of the Samuel P. Chase Freedom Award to Lorenzo and Susan Gaztañaga. Master of Ceremonies Dean Ahmad presented the first ever joint award to honor the Gaztañagas’ long and varied service to the LP. Over the past 5 years, both have served on the state EC. Lorenzo served 2 years as state Chair, and rejoined the EC this summer when nobody else was willing to take over the Treasurer position. Susan is currently the Baltimore County Chair. They served as editors for the *Free State Libertarian* this past year, and are always available whenever volunteers are needed to get something done. (I have no record of what the award was.)

Earle Pearce was the 1998 Samuel P. Chase Freedom Award winner with this note provided by Susan Gaztañaga in the December 1998 FREE STATE LIBERTARIAN newsletter reporting on the October 24 and 25 (two-day) 1998 Maryland Libertarian Party Convention as the only record I could find:

Earle Pearce, one Maryland Libertarian who used the media to get the message out, received the prestigious Samuel P. Chase Award – appropriately, a privately minted silver coin. In the six years this writer has known Earle, this was the first time I have seen him speechless – he was that surprised and moved.

I find no record of the Samuel P. Chase Freedom Award for 1999. The January 2000 FREE? STATE LIBERTARIAN (“?” now in title) newsletter does note, however, that at the October 16, 1999 Maryland Libertarian Party Convention, State Chair Steve Boone “presented awards to hardworking MdLP members.

1999’s *Defender of Liberty* award went jointly to Susan and Lorenzo Gaztañaga.”

I find no record of the Samuel P. Chase Freedom Award being given in the year 2000. But the January 2001 FREE? STATE LIBERTARIAN newsletter’s report on the November 11, 2000 Maryland Libertarian Party Convention notes: “After dinner, awards were given out. The *Defender of Freedom* award went to Spear Lancaster...”

I will end here as it appears Newsletter editor, Robert E. Glaser, has the information to bring the next nine years up-to-date. Those of you who received Samuel P. Chase Freedom awards in years not found by me, if any, and those with copies of presentations that went with their awards not mentioned by me, are invited to submit them to me or Robert. I think documenting party corporate history is very important!

— Gerald Schneider

Please advise of any missing recipients or years. The record is also posted on the www.MD.LP.org/history/chase.php webpage.

1987:	Erwin Vogel
1988:	Gerald Schneider
1990:	Dean Ahmad
1991:	James Spriggs
1992:	Bill Buzzell
1993:	Amy Rule
1995:	Jesse Markowitz
1997:	Lorenzo & Susan Gaztañaga
1998:	Earle Pearce
????:	Spear Lancaster
2001:	Wayne Dougherty
2003:	Tony Spezio
2004:	Doug McNeil
2009:	Robert Glaser, Ron Kean