**Freedoms Gateway – Podcast**

**Episode 001 – Introduction**

**Hello and Welcome.**

**My name is Bob Farley**

**and I will be your host for next 136 episodes**

**of this,**

**the Freedom’s Gateway Podcast.**

**This podcast hopes to tell a fascinating and important story.**

**First, a story of the American Revolution,**

**with an emphasis of the military and political events**

**that occurred in and around New York State.**

**And second, the story of freedom.**

**The freedom that not only drove**

**the idea and events of the Revolution,**

**but the very concept of freedom**

**that has become the most important philosophical principle**

**in all our lives as Americans.**

**We, the people of the United States,**

**have an intrinsic bond**

**with the idea and concept of freedom.**

**It has become the guiding principle of all our lives,**

**and it has elevated all of us**

**to have the opportunity to achieve**

**all the greatness that our humanity affords.**

**So this podcast seeks to be both aspirational and based in fact.**

**It will seek to inspire as well as educate.**

**It has grand goals, and great horizons.**

**We certainly hope it will live up to its intentions.**

**But before we begin our journey together,**

**let me tell you a little about myself,**

**your host, for the coming episodes.**

**As I mentioned before,**

**my name is Robert Thomas Farley**

**I am a person who shares the values of this podcast.**

**I love history and learning,**

**and I am inspired by people**

**who have done great things,**

**and who have shown all of us,**

**that any person**

**can truly shine**

**if they seek accomplishment**

**and never, ever give up.**

**I like to think of myself**

**as such a person,**

**but in the days and weeks ahead,**

**I will let you be the judge of that.**

**My professional background**

**and education**

**have been extensive and diverse.**

**I am a graduate**

**of the State University of New York at Albany,**

**Magna Cum Laude,**

**in 1984, with a BA in History and Geography.**

**I earned a Juris Doctorate Degree**

**from Hofstra University School of Law,**

**in 1987,**

**where I served as Associate Editor**

**of their Labor Law Journal.**

**In 2010, I earned a post doctorate,**

**Master of Law and Letters Degree,**

**from Albany Law School,**

**Summa Cum Laude,**

**where I graduated first in my class.**

**I began my professional career as a trial lawyer, in 1987,**

**with the Albany Law Firm,**

**of McNamee, Lochner, Titus and Williams.**

**In 1991, I transitioned into government,**

**when I was appointed as Associate Counsel**

**to the Minority Leader**

**of the New York State Assembly,**

**Clarence Rappleaya.**

**Four years later, in 1995,**

**I was appointed to serve**

**as Deputy Attorney General of the State of New York,**

**being one of the youngest persons in State History,**

**ever to hold that office.**

**A year before that, in 1993,**

**I was elected to the public office**

**of Schenectady County Legislator,**

**and went on to serve**

**as both Chairman and Minority Leader of that body,**

**until my retirement in 2011,**

**when I voluntarily**

**chose not to seek re-election.**

**In 1996, I was appointed as a Chief Counsel**

**to the New York State Senate Standing Committee**

**on Housing, Construction and Community Development.**

**I would later serve as Chief Counsel to the Standing Committees on**

* **Civil Service and Pensions;**
* **Corporations; and**
* **Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs.**

**In 2011, I was appointed to the position**

**of Senior Counsel to the Senate Majority Conference,**

**a position I held for 8 years,**

**when in 2018, I was asked to serve as Senior Counsel**

**to the Senate Minority Conference,**

**a position I held until my retirement**

**in 2021.**

**Beginning in 2007,**

**I was appointed as an adjunct professor of law,**

**at the State University of New York at Albany,**

**where I have taught**

**ever since**

**both undergraduate and graduate students,**

**in classes of well over 200 aspiring scholars.**

**In addition to UAlbany,**

**I have also taught**

**at Albany Law School and Syracuse College of Law,**

**and at several professional and continuing education programs.**

**My teaching portfolio has included:**

* **the law of property;**
* **the law of business organizations;**
* **the law of contracts;**
* **the law of administrative agencies;**
* **the law of cyber security;**
* **the law of homeland security;**
* **the law of artificial intelligence;**
* **the law of state and local governments;**
* **constitutional law;**
* **legal foundations of New York State; and**
* **the law of campaigns and elections.**

**Perhaps most importantly, however,**

**is my personal life.**

**I am the father of two wonderful daughters,**

**Kathryn Sarah, a lawyer practicing in New York City,**

**and Elizabeth Laura, a lawyer practicing in Maryland.**

**My father, Hugh T. Farley,**

**was also a distinguished, published, law professor,**

**and at the time of his retirement in 2016,**

**he was the second longest serving State Senator**

**in the history of New York State,**

**with an unblemished career**

**in elected public service**

**that spanned over 50 years.**

**My mother Sharon Rose, of Syracuse,**

**earned her BS Degree from the College of St. Rose,**

**and her Masters Degree in Education from UAlbany,**

**and enriched the lives of countless children,**

**including her son,**

**as a music and elementary school teacher.**

**I have two wonderful sisters, Susan and Peggy,**

**one a distinguished intellectual property attorney,**

**and the other a reading specialist teacher,**

**who are both the most magnificent mothers**

**any child could ask for.**

**I learned my devotion and love of history**

**from my Dad**

**and his brother John W. Farley,**

**both remarkable, kind, enormously educated,**

**and curious men**

**who each lived lives of admiration.**

**Both taught me the value**

**that all people**

**can make in the world,**

**and that lessons from the past**

**can serve as both inspirations and warnings**

**for our future.**

**I enter this podcast as a mission of love.**

**Love of history**

**and the lessons it can teach us,**

**and love of people**

**and what their tireless efforts can achieve.**

**This is a podcast**

**that seeks to educate and inspire.**

**I will use my experience as a teacher,**

**a lawyer,**

**an amateur historian,**

**and a proud American,**

**to try to deliver for you,**

**the very best product possible.**

**The 136 episodes, and 85 biographical sketches,**

**it will offer**

**will span a significant distance of time,**

**and topics.**

**But we will do our very best,**

**to bring these events and characters to life.**

**In the days and weeks ahead,**

**as we travel our adventure together,**

**I welcome your comments,**

**suggestions and ideas.**

**I can always be reached by email,**

**and my email address**

**is simply my name twice**

**bobfarley@bobfarley.us**

**We hope you enjoy our time together**

**as we explore the value of freedom**

**and the gift it has given the world.**

**I’m excited.**

**And I hope you are as well.**

**So lets get started.**