

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

AND A BRIEF
DESCRIPTION OF THE SIGNERS



READING THE CONSTITUTION
FOR UNDERSTANDING
THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY

COMPLIMENTS OF BIBLE BYTE COMMUNICATIONS

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The Constitution of the United States

We, the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article I

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such

enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies.

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of Honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

Section 4. The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.

Section 5. Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

Section 6. The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time: and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office.

Section 7. All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States; if he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall

agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by Yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

Section 8. The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; —And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Section 9. The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or Enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State.

No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another: nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear or pay Duties in another.

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of

Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

Section 10. No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Controul of the Congress.

No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.

Article II

Section 1. The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows:

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and

Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two Persons, of whom one at least shall not be an Inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the Number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse by Ballot one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on the List the said House shall in like Manner chuse the President. But in chusing the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from each State having one Vote; A quorum for this Purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice. In every Case, after the Choice of the President, the Person having the greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal Votes, the Senate shall chuse from them by Ballot the Vice President.

The Congress may determine the Time of chusing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who

shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be encreased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:—"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Section 2. The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose

Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

Section 3. He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

Section 4. The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

Article III

Section 1. The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

Section 2. The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;—to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;—to all Cases of

admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;—to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;—to Controversies between two or more States;—between a State and Citizens of another State;—between Citizens of different States;—between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

Section 3. Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

Article IV

Section 1. Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records, and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

Section 2. The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on Demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due.

Section 3. New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new States shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

Section 4. The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.

Article V

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be

proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

Article VI

All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

Article VII

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

Done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth

In witness whereof We have hereunto subscribed our Names,

George Washington—President and deputy from Virginia

New Hampshire: John Langdon, Nicholas Gilman

Massachusetts: Nathaniel Gorham, Rufus King

Connecticut: William Samuel Johnson, Roger Sherman

New York: Alexander Hamilton

New Jersey: William Livingston, David Brearly, William Paterson, Jonathan Dayton

Pennsylvania: Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Mifflin, Robert Morris, George Clymer, Thomas FitzSimons, Jared Ingersoll, James Wilson, Gouverneur Morris

Delaware: George Read, Gunning Bedford, Jr., John Dickinson, Richard Bassett, Jacob Broom

Maryland: James McHenry, Daniel of Saint Thomas Jenifer, Daniel Carroll

Virginia: John Blair, James Madison, Jr.

North Carolina: William Blount, Richard Dobbs Spaight, Hugh Williamson

South Carolina: John Rutledge, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, Charles Pinckney, Pierce Butler

Georgia: William Few, Abraham Baldwin

Amendments to the Constitution of the United States

(Amendments I to X inclusive, popularly known as the Bill of Rights, were proposed and sent to the states by the first session of the First Congress. They were ratified Dec. 15, 1791.)

Amendment I

[Freedom of religion, speech, of the press, and right of petition.]

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II

[Right of people to bear arms not to be infringed.]

A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment III

[Quartering of troops.]

No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV

[Persons and houses to be secure from unreasonable searches and seizures.]

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or

affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V

[Trials for crimes; just compensation for private property taken for public use.]

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness, against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI

[Civil rights in trials for crimes enumerated.]

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

Amendment VII

[Civil rights in civil suits.]

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII

[Excessive bail, fines, and punishments prohibited.]

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX

[Reserved rights of people.]

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X

[Powers not delegated, reserved to states and people respectively.]

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States, respectively, or to the people.

Amendment XI

(The proposed amendment was sent to the states Mar. 5, 1794, by the Third Congress. It was ratified Feb. 7, 1795.)

[Judicial power of United States not to extend to suits against a state.]

The judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by citizens of another State, or by citizens or subjects of any foreign state.

Amendment XII

(The proposed amendment was sent to the states Dec. 12, 1803, by the Eighth Congress. It was ratified July 27, 1804.)

[Present mode of electing president and vice president by electors.]

The electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for President and Vice President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate; the President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted; the person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each State having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice President shall act as President, as in the case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President. The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice President, shall be the Vice President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice President of the United States.

Amendment XIII

(The proposed amendment was sent to the states Feb. 1, 1865, by the Thirty-eighth Congress. It was ratified Dec. 6, 1865.)

Section 1

[Slavery prohibited.]

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2

[Congress given power to enforce this article.]

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XIV

(The proposed amendment was sent to the states June 16, 1866, by the Thirty-ninth Congress. It was ratified July 9, 1868.)

Section 1

[Citizenship defined; privileges of citizens.]

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Section 2

[Apportionment of Representatives.]

Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the executive and judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

Section 3

[Disqualification for office; removal of disability.]

No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State Legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may, by a vote of two thirds of each House, remove such disability.

Section 4

[Public debt not to be questioned; payment of debts and claims incurred in aid of rebellion forbidden.]

The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations, and claims shall be held illegal and void.

Section 5

[Congress given power to enforce this article.]

The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Amendment XV

(The proposed amendment was sent to the states Feb. 27, 1869, by the Fortieth Congress. It was ratified Feb. 3, 1870.)

Section 1

[Right of certain citizens to vote established.]

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Section 2

[Congress given power to enforce this article.]

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XVI

(The proposed amendment was sent to the states July 12, 1909, by the Sixty-first Congress. It was ratified Feb. 3, 1913.)

[Taxes on income; Congress given power to lay and collect.]

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

Amendment XVII

(The proposed amendment was sent to the states May 16, 1912, by the Sixty-second Congress. It was ratified April 8, 1913.)

[Election of U.S. senators; filling of vacancies; qualifications of electors.]

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, that the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointment until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.

Amendment XVIII

(The proposed amendment was sent to the states Dec. 18, 1917, by the Sixty-fifth Congress. It was ratified by three quarters of the states by Jan. 16, 1919, and became effective Jan. 16, 1920.)

[Manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors, for beverage purposes, prohibited.]

After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

Section 2

[Congress and the several states given concurrent power to pass appropriate legislation to enforce this article.]

The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Section 3

[Provisions of article to become operative, when adopted by three fourths of the states.]

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by Congress.

Amendment XIX

(The proposed amendment was sent to the states June 4, 1919, by the Sixty-sixth Congress. It was ratified Aug. 18, 1920.)

[The right of citizens to vote shall not be denied because of sex.]

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

[Congress given power to enforce this article.]

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XX

(The proposed amendment, sometimes called the “Lame Duck Amendment,” was sent to the states Mar. 3, 1932, by the Seventy-second Congress. It was ratified Jan. 23, 1933; but, in accordance with Section 5, Sections 1 and 2 did not go into effect until Oct. 15, 1933.)

Section 1

[Terms of president, vice president, senators, and representatives.]

The terms of the President and Vice President shall end at noon on the twentieth day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the third day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

Section 2

[Time of assembling Congress.]

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the third day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

Section 3

[Filling vacancy in office of president.]

If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President-elect shall have died, the Vice President-elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President-elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President-elect nor a Vice President-elect shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified.

Section 4

[Power of Congress in presidential succession.]

The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

Section 5

[Time of taking effect.]

Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article.

Section 6

[Ratification.]

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission.

Amendment XXI

(The proposed amendment was sent to the states Feb. 20, 1933, by the Seventy-second Congress. It was ratified Dec. 5, 1933.)

Section 1

[Repeal of Prohibition Amendment.]

The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

Section 2

[Transportation of intoxicating liquors.]

The transportation or importation into any State, territory, or possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

Section 3

[Ratification.]

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by convention in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission thereof to the States by the Congress.

Amendment XXII

(The proposed amendment was sent to the states Mar. 21, 1947, by the Eightieth Congress. It was ratified Feb. 27, 1951.)

Section 1

[Limit to number of terms a president may serve.]

No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of the President more than once. But this article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this article was proposed by the Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

Section 2

[Ratification.]

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

Amendment XXIII

(The proposed amendment was sent to the states June 16, 1960, by the Eighty-sixth Congress. It was ratified March 29, 1961.)

Section 1

[Electors for the District of Columbia.]

The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct: A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

Section 2

[Congress given power to enforce this article.]

The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XXIV

(The proposed amendment was sent to the states Aug. 27, 1962, by the Eighty-seventh Congress. It was ratified Jan. 23, 1964.)

Section 1

[Payment of poll tax or other taxes not to be prerequisite for voting in federal elections.]

The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reasons of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.

Section 2

[Congress given power to enforce this article.]

The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XXV

(The proposed amendment was sent to the states July 6, 1965, by the Eighty-ninth Congress. It was ratified Feb. 10, 1967.)

Section 1

[Succession of vice president to presidency.]

In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.

Section 2

[Vacancy in office of vice president.]

Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.

Section 3

[Vice president as acting president.]

Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary,

such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

Section 4

[Vice president as acting president.]

Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

Amendment XXVI

(The proposed amendment was sent to the states Mar. 23, 1971, by the Ninety-second Congress. It was ratified July 1, 1971.)

Section 1

[Voting for 18-year-olds.]

The right of citizens of the United States, who are 18 years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of age.

Section 2

[Congress given power to enforce this article.]

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XXVII

(The proposed amendment was sent to the states Sept. 25, 1789, by the First Congress. It was ratified May 7, 1992.)

[Congressional raises.]

No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.

A Brief Description of the Signers

Connecticut:

William Samuel Johnson (c. 1727-1819): He became the president of Columbia College (formerly known as King's College), and was then appointed as a United States Senator in 1789. He resigned from the Senate in 1791 to return to Columbia. He retired from education in 1800. William Samuel Johnson was a Presbyterian and an Episcopalian.

Roger Sherman (c. 1721-1793): He campaigned strongly for the ratification of the Constitution, and served as a United States Representative (1789-1791) and Senator (1791-1793) until his death in 1793 at the age of 72. Roger Sherman, and five other men signed both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, the others were, George Read, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Morris, George Clymer, and James Wilson. Roger Sherman and Robert Morris were the only two individuals who sign the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution. Roger Sherman had fifteen children, and he was a Congregationalist.

Delaware:

Richard Bassett (c. 1745-1815): He was appointed as a United States Senator from Delaware (1789-1793), and was instrumental in the organization of the Judiciary of the United States. He favored moving the nation's capital from New York City to Washington, D.C., and was opposed to Alexander Hamilton's plan of the assumption of state debts by the federal government. After his retirement from the Senate, he devoted the rest of his life to public affairs in Delaware. He was elected governor of Delaware (1799-1801). Richard Bassett was a Methodist.

Gunning Bedford, Jr. (c. 1747-1812): President Washington appointed him the first United States district judge for the state of Delaware in 1789, a position he held until his death in 1812. Gunning Bedford Jr. was a Presbyterian.

Jacob Broom (c. 1752-1810): He became the first postmaster of Delaware from 1790-1792, and was the head of the board of the Delaware Bank of Wilmington. He was involved in business ventures such as operating a cotton mill and running a machine shop, and was involved with attempts to improve the infrastructure of the state of Delaware in such areas as toll roads, canals, and bridges. He also served on the board of the College of Wilmington and showed concern for many other philanthropic activities. Jacob Broom was a Lutheran.

John Dickinson (c. 1732-1808): He lived for twenty years after the official ratification of the Constitution but held no public offices. He spent much of his time writing about politics. He died in 1808 at the age of 75. Thomas Jefferson wrote, "A more estimable man or truer patriot could not have left us ... It has been a great comfort to me to have retained his friendship to the last moment of his life." John Dickinson was a Quaker and an Episcopalian.

George Read (c. 1733-1798): He served for four years as a United States Senator (1789-1793), and became the first chief justice of Delaware in 1793. George Read is the only person who signed the Constitution twice: Read's friend and fellow delegate John Dickinson took ill and could not be present for the signing, and Read was the authorized person who signed for him. George Read was an Episcopalian.

Georgia:

Abraham Baldwin (c. 1754-1807): He served in the House of Representatives (1789-1799), and was appointed for two terms to the United States Senate (1799-1807). He died before completing his second term. Before going into politics Abraham Baldwin began his career as a minister, he was a Congregationalist, an Episcopalian, and/or a Presbyterian.

William Few (c. 1748-1828): He was appointed as a United States Senator from Georgia (1789), and was defeated for his seat in 1795. He moved to New York in 1799 and was elected to the state legislature in 1801. From

1804-1814 he was the director of the Manhattan Bank and the president of City Bank. William Few was a devout Methodist.

Maryland:

Daniel Carroll (c. 1730-1796): He served one term in the United States House of Representatives (1789-1791), and was appointed by President George Washington to oversee the construction of the federal capital on the Potomac River. Washington, D.C., is situated on one of his farms. Daniel Carroll was one of two Roman Catholics; the other was Thomas Fitzsimons from Pennsylvania.

Daniel Jenifer of St. Thomas (c. 1723-1790): He campaigned for the Constitution's ratification and afterwards retired from public life. Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer was an Episcopalian.

James McHenry (c. 1753-1816): After the Convention, McHenry went back to his home state and served in various positions of the state legislature (1789-1796) and was appointed Secretary of War by President George Washington (1796-1800). He retired from public office, and in 1812 was stricken with paralysis in both legs. He was bedridden for the remainder of his life. James McHenry was a devoted Presbyterian.

Massachusetts:

Nathaniel Gorham (c. 1738-1796): When the Constitutional Convention was finished, Gorham retired from public life. He suffered from apoplexy and died a poor man in 1796. Nathaniel Gorham was a Congregationalist.

Rufus King (c. 1755-1827): He was a member of the ratification convention in Massachusetts but moved to New York and became a United States Senator (1789-1795; 1813-1825). He failed to win the Federalist Party's nomination for president in 1816, but was appointed Minister to England in 1824. Rufus King was an Episcopalian, and according to some sources, he was a Congregationalist.

New Hampshire:

Nicholas Gilman (c. 1755-1814): He was elected to the United States House of Representatives (1789-1797), and was a United States Senator (1805-1814). Nicholas Gilman was a Congregationalist.

John Langdon (c. 1741-1819): He served as a United States Senator for twelve years (1789-1801), and served as governor of New Hampshire from 1805-1812 (with the exception of the year 1809). John Langdon was a Congregationalist.

New Jersey:

David Brearly (c. 1745-1790): He lived only three years after the end of the Constitutional Convention. He was a main supporter of the Constitution at the New Jersey ratifying convention, and President Washington rewarded him with an appointment as a federal district judge. Brearly was active in the Masonic Order in New Jersey and the Society of the Cincinnati (an organization of former Revolutionary War officers). David Brearly was a devout Episcopalian.

Jonathan Dayton (c. 1760-1824): He served in the United States House of Representatives from 1791 to 1799, and was chosen Speaker of the House for four years. He became a United States Senator (1799-1805), and was a close acquaintance of Aaron Burr. Dayton was indicted in 1807 for treason along with Burr in a plot to combine Mexico and the Western Territories of the United States. His (Dayton's) case was never brought to trial. Jonathan Dayton was a Presbyterian and an Episcopalian.

William Livingston (c. 1723-1790): He helped in the ratification fight for the Constitution and served as the governor of New Jersey until his death in 1790. William Livingston was a Presbyterian.

William Paterson (Patterson) (c. 1745-1806): He was appointed to the United States Senate (1789-1790), and was also appointed by President

George Washington as a justice of the United States Supreme Court (1793) until his death. William Paterson was a Presbyterian.

New York:

Alexander Hamilton (c. 1755-1804): He served as the first United States Secretary of the Treasury from 1789-1795. He retired to his law practice and was later appointed to the position of Major General from 1798-1800 during an impending war with France. When Hamilton helped defeat Aaron Burr's quest for the governorship of New York, Burr challenged Hamilton to a duel. He was killed by Burr on July 12, 1804. Alexander Hamilton was a Presbyterian and an Episcopalian.

North Carolina:

William Blount (c. 1749-1800): He served as state senator (1788-1790), governor of the territory south of the Ohio River (1790), president of the Tennessee constitutional convention (1796), and as a United States Senator from Tennessee (1796-1797). William Blount was a Presbyterian and an Episcopalian.

Richard Dobbs Spaight, Sr. (c. 1758-1802): He was elected to three terms as governor of North Carolina beginning in 1792, and was a major force in moving the capital from New Bern to Raleigh. He was elected a member of the United States House of Representatives (1798-1801) and was killed in a duel by his successor in Congress (John Stanly) in 1802. Richard Dobbs Spaight, Sr. was an Episcopalian.

Hugh Williamson (c. 1735-1819): He was elected to two terms in the United States House of Representatives (1789-1793), and then retired from public life. He spent many of his remaining years at the New York Hospital, dedicating much of his time to the study of medicine. One of his chief interests was writing on the climate of North America. Hugh Williamson was a Presbyterian.

Pennsylvania:

George Clymer (c. 1739-1813): He was elected to the United States House of Representatives (1789-1791) and became involved in civic and cultural activities in and around Philadelphia. He served as the president of the Bank of Philadelphia. George Clymer was a Quaker and an Episcopalian.

Thomas Fitzsimons (c. 1741-1811): He served as a member of the United States House of Representatives (1789-1795) and strongly supported the financial plan of Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton. When he left Congress, he spent the remainder of his life in private business, and served as president of the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. Fitzsimons was concerned with religious affairs, public education, and served as trustee of the University of Pennsylvania. Thomas Fitzsimons was a dedicated Roman Catholic.

Benjamin Franklin (c. 1706-1790): At the same time that Franklin was attending the Constitutional Convention, he was also the president of the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery (1787). Harvard, Yale, St. Andrews, William and Mary, and Oxford all granted him honorary degrees. He died in 1790 at the age of eighty-four. He was not a confirmed Deist as some people claim. Benjamin Franklin was raised as an Episcopalian, but as an adult, he normally preferred to contemplate on the spiritual in the privacy of his own home and in nature. He was invited to the Presbyterian Church, and attended for several Sundays in a row, he became a pew holder, a contributor, and therefore he was a practicing, supporter of the Presbyterian Church, although he did not attend on a weekly base.

Jared Ingersoll (c. 1749-1822): He served as Attorney General of Pennsylvania from 1790-1799, and as city solicitor of Philadelphia from 1789-1801. He ran as the vice presidential candidate under George Clinton in the election of 1812 against James Madison and Elbridge Gerry and lost. He then served as the presiding judge of the district court of Philadelphia from 1821-1822. Jared Ingersoll was a Presbyterian.

Thomas Mifflin (c. 1744-1800): He was elected the first governor of Pennsylvania in 1790 and held that position until 1799. He also served as a major general and commander-in-chief of the Philadelphia militia. Thomas Mifflin was a Quaker and a Lutheran.

Gouverneur Morris (c. 1752-1816): He was appointed by President George Washington as the United States Commissioner to England (1790-1791) and the United States Minister to France (1792-1794). He became a United States Senator (1800-1803), and was the chairman of the Erie Canal Commission (1810-1813). His last elected position was that of president of the New York Historical Society (1816). Gouverneur Morris was an Episcopalian.

Robert Morris (c. 1734-1806): He was chosen as the first United States Senator from Pennsylvania and served in that position from 1789-1795. President George Washington asked him to become the first Secretary of the Treasury but he declined the position and recommended Alexander Hamilton instead. After governmental service, Morris was deeply involved in land speculation in the District of Columbia and in Ohio. He was the "Richest Man in America" but met financial ruin and spent three years in debtor's prison. Morris died penniless in 1806. Robert Morris was an Episcopalian.

James Wilson (c. 1742-1798): He returned to Pennsylvania after the Constitutional Convention and played a major role in its successful ratification. He served on the United States Supreme Court (1789-1798) and as a professor of law at the University of Pennsylvania. He was deeply involved in questionable land deals and soon got himself in severe financial difficulty. While visiting a fellow Supreme Court justice, James Iredell in Edenton, North Carolina, Wilson had a nervous breakdown. He died a pauper in 1798. James Wilson was an Episcopalian, a Presbyterian, and a committed Christian.

Rhode Island:

Rhode Island did not send any delegates to the Constitutional Convention.

South Carolina:

Pierce Butler (c. 1744-1822): He was appointed one of the state's first two senators (1789) and served until he resigned in 1796. He was appointed a seat in the United States Senate in 1803 but resigned (again) before the end of his appointment in 1804. Pierce Butler was an Episcopalian.

Charles Pinckney (c. 1757-1824): He was elected governor of South Carolina (1789-1792; 1796-1798, and 1806-1808), and served as a United States Senator (1798-1801). He resigned his senate seat to become minister to Spain from 1801-1809, served in the South Carolina state legislature (1810-1814), and then became a member of the House of Representatives from 1819-1821. Charles Pinckney was an Episcopalian.

Charles Cotesworth Pinckney (c. 1746-1825): He served as the United States Minister to France during the administration of George Washington. He ran unsuccessfully for the vice presidency as the Federalist candidate along with John Adams in 1800. Pinckney also lost his bid for the presidency against Thomas Jefferson in 1804 and James Madison in 1808. Charles Cotesworth Pinckney was a devout Episcopalian.

John Rutledge (c. 1739-1800): He was appointed an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court (1789-1791). He was then appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in 1795, but was never confirmed. John Rutledge was an Episcopalian.

Virginia:

John Blair (c. 1732-1800): President George Washington with an appointment to the United States Supreme Court in 1789. He served in that position until his retirement due to ill health in 1796. John Blair was a Presbyterian and an Episcopalian.

James Madison, Jr. (c. 1751-1836): When the work of the Constitutional Convention was completed, Madison went on to play a major part in its ratification process by joining John Jay and Alexander Hamilton in writing the "Federalist Papers." He became a member of the House of

Representatives (1789-1797), was United States Secretary of State (1801-1809), and President of the United States (1809-1817). James Madison and George Washington were the only future Presidents who signed the Constitution. He outlived all of the other Founding Fathers. James Madison Jr. was an Episcopalian.

George Washington (c. 1732-1799): He served for eight years as the first President of the United States under the new Constitution. His first four years were dominated by domestic issues and the second four years by foreign policy issues. During the administration of President John Adams there was a threat of war with France, and again, Washington came back to serve his country in the capacity of Commander-in-Chief. With the threat of war over he went back to live his last days at his beloved Mt. Vernon. He died there on December 14, 1799. George Washington was originally raised as an Anglican (i.e., the Church of England), and during his Presidency he attended Christ Church, an Anglican/Episcopalian congregation in Philadelphia. (After the American Revolutionary War, this Church was nonaffiliated with the Church of England, and their clergy were devoted to God rather than to the British Monarch.)

Reading the Constitution for Understanding

Written by Larry M. Jaynes:

It is true that if you have never read the Constitution that an initial reading of the document may appear a little awkward at first blush and the understanding may not blossom into a plethora of practical or applicable knowledge. However, if you read it through several times you will become so amazed with all its wonderful details and nuances that it releases in your mind; it can be life-changing as equally as it is uplifting to our patriotic conscience.

At first appearance, the Constitution almost reads as if it is only a shell of a document, seeming relatively meager in any specific details. Yet it is filled with so many amazing particulars that it almost leaves one awestruck to realize of all its finer, precise points.

The more you read through it for understanding, the larger it becomes and the more important it is seen by you as a gift to you from the framers; it is very much like planting a seed and watching it grow — the more you read, the more you are watering and cultivating its growth, and the more you see of the document — the more light you are giving to it and the more bounty it begins returning back to you. The Constitution is not a seasonal plant that withers but a great, ever-growing, evergreen tree of fruitful knowledge. Every time you read the Constitution it will take on greater meaning that will inspire you in more ways than I can begin to explain.

One thing that I have noticed when reading the document is that within it there is at least two ways or sides that the Constitution provides answers on almost every concern, and in many ways, it is like my computer. As an example, I can refresh the screen by pressing the refresh tab at the top of the screen, but also by pressing the F5 key. In computers, there are usually two or more ways to do almost anything, including printing, highlighting

text or graphics, to bold, to italic, or to underline, copy, and on and on it goes.

The Constitution is very similar as it provides several sides to any argument up for debate, and answers questions from two or more different perspectives. The whole Constitution seems to reveal itself this same way, and this is just totally amazing to me.

Consider challenging yourself to read the Constitution and the first Ten Amendments every week for a while, and from time to time also read it through to include all Twenty-seven Amendments to enjoy its intrinsic blessings. I would imagine that when you look back a few months later that you will easily recognize two amazing things, well, much more than that, but two that I will bring up. First, you will notice how many people who talk as though they have an understanding of the Constitution that can be heard on the cable channels or elected officials or people you know; however, you will be able to see right through the facade if they do not really know what they are talking about regarding the Constitution. It is kind of exciting to see how much your own understanding grows in the Constitution in amazing ways and perspectives. Horace (Quintus Horatius Flaccus) wrote, "*Dimidium facti, qui coepit habet: sapere aude!*" ("He who has begun is half done: dare to know!")

Secondly, you will come to know and realize much more of the power and liberty you have been given in the Constitution. Unfortunately, you will also recognize just how much power and liberty the powers that be are trying to extract from you, but at least you will know how to think, act, and believe for the best with legal information and Constitutional parameters that you really have on your side and in your heart to stand as a beacon of its light to yourself and others.

I will not be suggesting any other books to read that may help guide you further into understanding the Constitution because it is not my place to do so; all I will do is direct you to the document. You see, by starting at the source itself and then spreading out from there is the best and the most

refreshing way to follow the flow from its fountainhead. If you start with books and study guides, you may end up entrapped in someone else's concepts bent to a certain way or political angle, but the Constitution is the best and most principled teacher of itself. Utilizing its principled boundaries, you will become inspired and equipped to follow that inspiration for what you personally would enjoy, but please begin by having a basic understanding of the Constitution "in mind" first; this will help you discern and separate truth from error.

I have found that older books from the 1800s are so precise and agenda-free in their presentation on the Constitution, especially books that were made for schools and colleges because they contain lesson plans with simplicity. You might find these books at book fairs, libraries, used book stores, and in grandma's attic!

The first time I read the Constitution was in my mid-twenties, but the first time I was taught about the Constitution was, well, never. I must have missed that day in school. They called our studies, American History, and I remember perusing all around the time of the Revolutionary War through studying all the relevant people of that era, and we studied the temperaments and concerns of the times; this and gym were my favorite subjects. However, we had no actual word by word study of the Constitution itself, unless we missed it because of an unscheduled snow-day; however, if that is true, then that must have happened every single year with perfect timing.

In the Constitution, we can read eight ways to Sunday regarding the concepts of separation between the Legislative, the Judicial, and the Executive branches.

The Constitution was a document for uniting the country, but built on the distrust of government itself, and thus it was laced with checks and balances so that the governmental machine could not overtake each other's mechanisms in the three branches or the general freedoms and liberties of

the population. Therein lies the crux and crucible of the Constitution of the United States, and its true bearers are all its citizens.

Today, we as a society have almost been completely hoodwinked into thinking that we cannot understand our Constitution and our rights, our privileges, and our responsibilities contained therein. Abraham Lincoln completely understood and comprehended the Constitution as well as the Declaration of Independence, and we can liken his education or schooling level to that of any average citizen of today. Indeed, Abraham Lincoln was a genius, but he understood the Constitution at an early age, and in truth, both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution greatly contributed to his renowned intelligence, as he once said, "I have never had a feeling politically that did not spring from the sentiments in the Declaration of Independence."

Sometimes to understand some of the conclusions that now come out of the Supreme Court's decisions and legal redirect that accompanies them from the legal experts, you just may need eight or so Constitutional dictionaries and a few law degrees just to get a diminutive indication of the gibberish they often try to elucidate through elusive concepts that transmit abstract particles of disjointed intangibles laced with impracticalities of matters over mind. What? Well, yes, that's what I'm saying, it leaves one almost dumbfounded to wade through all the mountains of wordy precedents, and what may be worse is that some people act as if they understand and also believe that all the people (to whom the Constitution was given) are just too far down to grasp its relief or benefits. This is why it is important for citizens to read and understand its inherent lessons and not allow the intellect of others to overtake and lessen the Constitution's simple principles and boundaries.

Therefore, the greatest prize to be sought and benefit to be received is to read for comprehensive understanding of America's greatest documents, especially our Constitution.

I wish you all the best in the journey ahead.

God speed,

The Blessings of Liberty

Written by Larry M. Jaynes:

“We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

This is the opening statement of the Constitution (sometimes called the Preamble), and states the reason for the Constitution’s formation and writing.

I would like to highlight and discuss the phrase *and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity*. There are people who are trying to separate God out from the Constitutional laws and Amendments of the United States, thinking that one does not fit with the other. But I ask you to logically consider the following concept with me. Who can really imagine that *Blessings of Liberty* could come from any other source than from God? Yes, basic liberties can be appreciated by having the assurance of Government and State protections; however, *Blessings of Liberty* do not come from man, or from the Devil, or from the framers of the Constitution, nor from the Government of today, nor do they appear out of thin air. Rather *Blessings of Liberty* can only come from our God, and there is no doubt that the framers of the Constitution earnestly pursued the securing of our *Blessings of Liberty* without governmental interference for generations to come.

“ . . . I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: That God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, sir, in the sacred writings, that ‘except the Lord

build the House they labor in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel. . ." Spoken by Benjamin Franklin during the Constitutional convention of 1787, as recalled and written by Jonathan Dayton, a signer of the Constitution from New Jersey who was the youngest member participating at the convention, being 27 years young.

II Corinthians 3:17:

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.

Ephesians 1:3:

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all {ALL} spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:

Blessings of Liberty are spiritual; they are gifts from our loving God, and that is the plain and simple truth! The more we recognize from where our God-given *Blessings of Liberty* emanate, the greater our spiritual union with God grows. God's spiritual endowments literally allow His blessings and love to extend out even to the non-Christian.

John 3:16, begins with these words, "For God so loved the world"; the verse does not say that God just loves the Christians, or the Jews, or any other specific group, but He loves the world. Jesus said in Luke 6:35 that God "is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil," as God's blessings, kindness, and love are extended to beyond what we so often imagine, just as the forefathers incorporated and preserved these same qualities in the Constitution for all of the citizens of America. For an example of God's kindness and blessings, we read in the Book of Genesis at the time when Joseph was in Egypt that not only did the families of Israel prosper and flourish as they arrived in their new country, but all of the Egyptians did as well (who were considered unbelievers). In fact, because of the believers living in Egypt, Egypt became the most prosperous country in the world. This is not unlike America today because God lives within the hearts of

believers, and the Father of Lights indeed blesses our country, and this is what our Constitution secures for us, for our children, and for future generations.

The *Blessings of Liberty* guaranteed and protected by the Constitution is so much more than a written blueprint for forming and maintaining a working government, it was formed in the spirit of liberty. The Constitution: “Renders therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s {the things in the political sphere that inspire and protect the *Blessings of Liberty* for *we the people*}; and unto God the things that are God’s {safeguarding the moral and spiritual rights of protection and the *Blessings of Liberty* for *we the people*}” (Matthew 22:21).

The Constitution was written to secure that *we the people* may enjoy our unalienable rights without oppression from the powers that be. The Constitution was formulated to guarantee our free rights to have God in every aspect of our lives and to walk boldly and openly without external pressures. As a result, an atheist can appreciate, or at least gaze upon, blessings of liberty that mysteriously sprout out of thin air or from the government, while a believer may experientially enjoy all the wonders of the *Blessings of Liberty* that are explicitly given from the loving hands of the blessed God and Creator of heaven and earth.

Psalms 33:12:

Blessed *is* the nation whose God *is* the LORD; *and* the people *whom* he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

Proclamations for Thanksgiving

George Washington and Abraham Lincoln

Proclamation of National Thanksgiving, City of New York, October 3, 1789

By the President of the United States of America, a Proclamation.

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor, and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me “to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.”

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be. That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks, for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation, for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his providence, which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war, for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed, for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted, **for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed** [emphasis supplied]; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful

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knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions, to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually, to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed, to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shown kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord. To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the encrease of science among them and Us, and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

Go [George]. Washington

~Abraham Lincoln, October 3, 1863 ~

“The year that is drawing toward its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God... I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. . .”

An Episode in America's Freedom

Written by Larry M. Jaynes:

(The following is a bonus excerpt from a former study that was titled "**Episodes in America's Freedom, Part One: Reflections in Common Sense, Logic, and Reason.** . . .)

" . . . We highlight and bear witness to one of the most astounding epics in America's history that displays the single greatest event of all time about one of the most peaceable transformations of power and government that has ever transpired in a society since man was expelled from Paradise. The United States exchanged its form of government from one form of laws, principles, rules, and constitution (The Articles of Confederation) to a completely different form of government, effortlessly (The Constitution of the United States).

This episode in America's history all came forward without any armies forming, without a signal cannon being lit, without a musket being fired, without a sword being drawn, without a single leader being forcibly replaced, imprisoned, or hung on the gallows, without the formation of any firing squads, without a drop of blood being spilt, and no one had to go into exile. The only activity was unnoticeably held behind closed doors as a series of vigorous debates over words, principles, and semantics while a more perfect union was being formed from principled reason into notes and then painstakingly constructed onto a sheet of parchment and collectively signed by its participants.

The weapons that were used to make this metamorphosis possible were the iron pen and ink, simply by connecting the right words together detailing the way to a more perfect union of and for man and country that would stand the test of time. The battlefield in this amazing epic was first, the

human mind; then, the very land they represented and stood upon, and the victory won was awarded to all of the people in America. Yet this incredible drama has slipped through history almost unknown and unappreciated by many people of the contemporary generation because these are not generally school or public square or water cooler subjects any longer.

So astounding was the event, so impossible was the result that it shook the halls in legal chambers around the world and left them in speechless awe so that the event could only be categorized as a miracle, and miracles cannot happen without the phenomenal Providence of the Supreme Being's intervention. This intervention we may examine in the actual words, this miracle we may comprehend, and the outcome and prize offered and received we may evaluate and enjoy through understanding its parts that form the whole vision of liberty offered and received. The forming of a new government and adding its Bill of Rights in December, 1791 to the one page document only took only twenty-three minutes to read aloud.

The event happened in an age when all the stars lined up and shined down upon a small group of men for a very brief moment in history, between Friday, May 25, 1787, and Monday, September 17, 1787, whereon they signed the new document. This inspiring light showed the way for a unique group of men gathered in the State House in Philadelphia where inspiration and sound thinking stimulated the human heart to reach for and grasp, as a collective body, the foundations of excellence, a more perfect union.

Upon this foundation, they formed and built, word by word and line by line, understandable reason that composed a new formula for government, unequaled in the world, before or since. Dare anyone say that they brought political science to its zenith? Yes, I dare to say so because it is true, and it has remained settled science since its inception! So true that they put the formulas down on paper in easy to read prose, phrases, and articles that worked every time from then to the present, no matter who performs the

experiments (i.e., the American experiment applied by the “individual or the collective citizen equally”). Nothing this grand was so realized aforetime, nothing so marvelous was previously given to govern in the affairs of man, and nothing so splendid will ever come this way again. . .

The principles and protocols in their schematics were applicable for a strong government and equally pliable for a vibrant, exceptional, and hopeful people. Their labors produced momentous mechanisms of governing-liberty for the group and for the individual, for the rich and for the poor, for the young and for the old, for the educated and for the uneducated, and these instruments of laws and rights distributed powers more fairly and equally to all in every geographical location within its borders, whether secular or religious — all were awarded freedom’s joys and blessings of liberty.

Out of chaos, the newly designed principles brought forth freedom, peace, and order amidst the dire-straits of a broken, powerless system. Out of foreign and domestic threats, and financial destruction, the freshly drawn up schematics distributed trust, confidence, prosperity, and safety to its populace. Out of insecurity and obscurity, the iron pen crafted and etched out filigrees of palatable liberty, clarity of justice, light amid an encroaching darkness while all the while personal rights sprouted in the hearts of the hopeful recipients.

Out of confusion, the proof of their protocols delivered order, sanity, and a viable guide to govern nation and self with unequaled tranquility. These new treaties lead man’s inner aspirations out to the light of creativity as a free-spirited procession of discovery of human potential began emerging under the security of free-willed liberty to rise and amend depleted hopes back into renewed, obtainable reality. This started a revival that to this day still inspires the world at large.

What was this formula that the world had never seen or experienced before, that worked so amazingly, and that brought the nation out of darkness? It was the Constitution of the United States — this was man’s

Miracle received; the hope of the whole world was realized in one, threepart document for We the People.

Perhaps the greatest feat of all time in American history was the process that lead us to the result that the founders' labor produced; specifically, a governing document that shaped a more perfect union. This unified government blossomed purely from the purposeful methods born out of the founders' eagerness to work together as they collectively with one mind and heart revolved purely around uncontaminated reason to obtain our more perfect union.

Monumental was the task before them (monumental is the task still before us to sustain Mother Liberty); you see, it is nearly impossible to get five equally reasonable men to agree on any one subject, yet they, as a collective group did, and they did so for over one-hundred days. Greater than fifty men commenced and entered into the fair-minded challenge for America's future at a time when they were the world's laughing stock because although they won the war of independence they were losing the peace as factions within America were dividing the country into parts and pieces and powers from without were trying to stake claim to them as well. The framers were the last hope of millions (and hundreds of millions to come), and they succeeded more so than they realized upon the day of signing the Constitution over to the Continental Congress, the States, and the people for judgment and ratification.

And an amazing thing happened; they the people gave we the people the same gem they formulated and the whole populous were and still are drawn along into a perfect confluence of their reason. Thankfully these men debated over the document's details rather than talking themselves out of the document and we to this very day became the living links back to the convention that originally assembled in the city of love, and its outcomes still live to caress us in our own personal abodes. On that blissful day of ratification on June 21, 1788, they cloned that time for us to experience because we still live in the same, most excellent experiment of the ages.

The framers possessed an amazing capacity to overcome political differences and personal indifferences while they formed-out well balanced principles and far-reaching conciliations about man's basic fears of government and their equal need for a strong central government, and for its power given by the collective local governments chosen OF THE PEOPLE to serve — We the People.

These men oftentimes could disagree over the implications in specific provisions within the document's construction, but they were restrained by personal, disciplined outlines and self-imposed boundaries that gave them entry to an apparatus for compromise which lead to the prize of receiving the greatest liberty ever collected and given for its citizenry to pursue.

Their energetic spirit was a spirit of equality and gave way to very clear methods and practices that could reconcile most all of their personal disagreements as they set and established a new central STANDARD for the ages.

Our founding fathers went way outside of their commission for even assembling in Philadelphia, as their mandate was to find possible ways of bolstering up the Articles of Confederation for its continued success. The conduct of the assembly could have been considered an act of treason against the Articles of Confederation, mutiny against the Congress of the Confederation, and insults against their own countrymen who had sacrificed so much in the last war to win their independence! The framers actually invoked another act founded in the Declaration of Independence by putting off an unworkable, unprofitable, unfixable Constitution, and an inapt government, and started over from scratch — again.

What they actually did may have ignited another rebellion from within its borders that could have set in motion a worse fate than their present situation presented. Still the new Constitution became the law of the land, a collective conscience that established principles unto itself and unto its united people. The almost supernatural Constitution began setting

boundaries for discussion, gave parameters for equality, gave guidelines for refined debates, and ultimately became a remedy for comforting so much worry and fear – imaginary and real – present and future.

Declarations and Constitutions have come and gone through time. In fact, the American Constitution is continuously the longest lasting Constitution in the entire world today; it has endured twice as long as any other current Constitution.

Once a book dealer went into a book collector's shop and asked if they carried any copies of the French Constitution, and the desk clerk replied, "Sorry, we do not deal in periodical literature." This could be said for most of the Constitutions written from all around the world that have come and fell by the wayside, only to be replaced by ever newer versions, some lasting only hours, days, weeks, months, or a few years.

Yes, many countries have remained the same country for much longer than the United States, but our Constitution has stood through the storms of time and has outlasted all the others.

The document they formed with its Bill of Rights showcased not only the concerns of an age now bygone, it still reveals the personification in the character and wisdom of modern man to govern himself with a secure standard, and reaches forward with security, hope, and direction for America's continued future.

I liken the Constitution to Lady Liberty. Adorn and protect her like she was your mother, her arms are held out to you and yours, as well as to me and mine, but do we now recoil from her embrace? The question is, can we hold her and protect her as she has done for us or are the lecturing attitudes of all too many elites correct that she is going, going, and soon to be gone to the ages superimposed and laid to rest in the ruins of societies' past Constitutions, to be placed upon script-heaps of funeral pyres? She is the last hope of this world; she is what protects us from the peripheries of hopelessness as no one and no government or peoples in this world are

able to save us, nor are they willing to accept us as we are, stewards and light-bearers of liberty united under our Constitution that was labored and delivered and born for the birth of freedom, endowing us with unalienable rights that favor the pursuit of our own secured happiness.

Even with all of our individual goals, hopes, and dreams, and vastly different lifestyles, we all can have a common objective and standard rooted firmly in the Constitution to protect each other's personal rights. This was the intent of the founding fathers because each side (religious and nonreligious) counterbalances the other which makes for somewhat of an "I've got your back and you've got mine" concept. I can freely study and live with biblical principles without fear of my government storming into my house with gag orders or an arrest warrant, and you can do and be whatever you desire without any such pressures. How amazingly wonderful this is for us — We the People!

The Constitution protects the believers in sundry religions throughout this country. The religious can enjoy their individual relationship with God without external pressures from the government, and if this is not living in the sweet spot of life, well then there never was one.

The Constitution protects the secularist in sundry activity throughout this country. The secular can take pleasure from their individual associations without external pressures from the government, and if this is not living in the sweet spot of life, well then there never was one.

Until Christ returns, we believers are in a relatively safe place, better than any time in the history of the world since Paradise; and until Christ returns the unbeliever is in a relatively safe place, better than any time in the history of the world since man's fall from grace, thanks to our Constitution!

Together we are sharing this land and OUR jointly owned Constitution, we have our hope and they theirs, but together we enjoy the greatest country on the face of the whole earth. Both have vested interest in protecting each other's rights. If we chip away at an opposing side to lessen their stance on

the Constitution, we actually destroy something equally as great on our side in other opposite ways. This is the structured perfection and flawless balance within the document itself; this is our every reason to uphold it all as incomparable. The Constitution is our legally signed contract that the founders gave to us not only to enjoy but to protect with all reverence. . .”

The Constitution

“The Constitution of the United States is like the mechanism behind a grand timepiece, setting all the constellations in place, empowering them on their separate courses, and helps set the science of governmental order that generates the country’s smooth order of progress. Next to the Scriptures, the Constitution is the greatest document ever written, and for those who do not believe in the Scriptures, they are still left with the Constitution, the greatest document ever written.” ~LMJ~