

# CONSTITUTION DAY SHOULD BE EVERY DAY

**America--Bring It Back. Make It Free. Pass It On.**

By Fred Holden, [www.TotalPowerofOne.com](http://www.TotalPowerofOne.com) December 6, 2012

A Colorado El Paso County Commissioner set a goal to favor 10,000 Colorado high school seniors with a copy of the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution, and had so far distributed 5,500 copies. While a dozen districts accepted, two refused. For both those that accepted and those that did not:

## WRONG ANSWER!

There is no excuse whatever that Colorado students do not have at least one, if not several copies of the Declaration of Independence and U. S. Constitution with its incredibly important Bill of Rights. The right answer for each school district and for each student should be:

**"THANK YOU, BUT THERE IS NO NEED. OUR STUDENTS ALREADY HAVE SEVERAL COPIES OF THE DECLARATION AND CONSTITUTION RECEIVED OVER THEIR MANY YEARS OF TAXPAYER-PROVIDED AND -FINANCED PUBLIC EDUCATION."**

These important documents can be purchased from a variety of sources for fifty cents each or less, and the money is already there. According to the Colorado Department of Education, Colorado public schools in 2010 spent an average of \$12,943 per pupil for its 789,497 students.

Colorado law requires school districts to set aside and spend \$172 per student for "supplies, textbooks, library books and periodicals." School districts may choose to spend more. Surely every school district, recognizing its duty to the taxpayers, to a good education and to this nation that has made the public schools possible, ought to make sure that every middle school and high school student has a copy of our nation's two essential foundation documents.

Why get these two important Freedom Documents touted frequently to all students, adults, citizens? The Constitution is the "supreme Law of the Land" because it says so. The Declaration of Independence is the intent of law. Together they form The Law.

It was Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-West Virginia) who made September 17th "Constitution Day." Byrd successfully pushed a federal law requiring all federal employees, and all schools receiving federal funds, to have education and training about the Constitution every September 17.

President Bush proclaimed September 17 as Constitution Day and the start of Constitution

and Citizen Week, "I encourage Federal, State and local officials, as well as leaders of civic, social, and educational organizations, to conduct ceremonies and programs that celebrate our Constitution and reaffirm our rights and responsibilities as citizens of our great Nation."

As individual and sovereign citizens, and each one, a Power of ONE, we can do more. Honoring "Each One Teach One (or Ten)," every one of us can learn-and-share, cherish, and pass on to others, America's Freedom Documents.

Owning the documents is just the first step. Familiarity makes the Freedom Documents more vital, interesting and personal.

You can invent your own ways to teach yourself and your family or friends. For example, for many years I have issued (now) "FreedomScore2013" for individuals and families to celebrate the "twenty (score) days of Freedom," from Flag Day, June 14 to Independence Day. It encourages you to review, one-each-day, the Declaration of Independence, seven Articles of the Constitution, its first ten amendments -- the Bill of Rights, Pledge of Allegiance and a last review of the Declaration.

The movie DVD, *A More Perfect Union: America Becomes a Nation*, is a fun, easy way to learn the beauty, majesty and near miracle of the signing of the Constitution in 1787. Originally priced at \$30 by the National Center for Constitutional Studies, the DVD is now available at ten for \$25. Buy ten. Share nine.

Of central importance and right-priced at 200 for \$60, is the NCCS "George Washington" Pocket Declaration of Independence and US Constitution with its incredibly important Bill of Rights. Buy ten! Share nine! ([www.nccs.net](http://www.nccs.net), 1-800-388-4512)

To bring into context the parallels of Roman and American history, also include *Are We Going the Way of Ancient Rome?* by Dr. Lawrence Reed, another powerful and appropriate information brochure, available from the Mackinac Center for Public Policy,

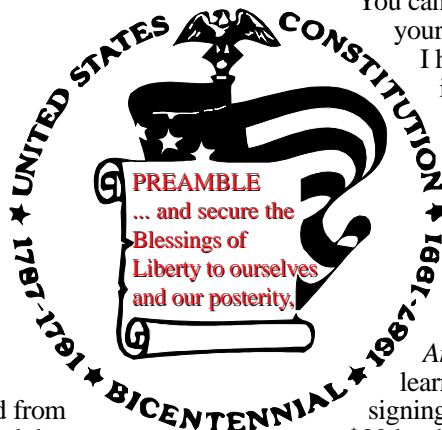
also at ten for \$10, 140 W. Main Street, POBox 568, Midland, MI 48640, 989-631-0900, [www.mackinac.org](http://www.mackinac.org).

Copy and make this "Constitution Day" report a part of the handouts that form your ten giveaway "Freedom Information Packs."

The NCCS website, [www.nccs.net](http://www.nccs.net), tells how you and your group can sponsor a "Making of America," one-day community Constitution seminar that often features NCCS president Earl Taylor, Jr. as presenter. Take that up as a personal challenge.

All elected public officials must swear an oath of office to support and defend their U.S. and State Constitutions. Ask them, and candidates for public office, if they have read those documents they are sworn to uphold, and to what extent. (And, have you read them?)

Daniel Webster said, "Hold on, my friends, to the Constitution and the



## Law, and "the Supreme Law of the Land"

Law is where the government tells you, the people, what to do. The Constitution is where We the People tell the government what to do! There is nothing in the Constitution that tells people what to do, with one exception: If you win an election you are required to swear an oath, "to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States" (The President).

The Constitution is the "supreme Law of the Land" because it says so. The Declaration of Independence is the intent of law. Together -- the law, and the intent of law -- form ... **The Law.**

The other momentous part of the Constitution is its incredibly important Bill of Rights -- the first ten amendments that tell the government what it can not do to the people! The First Amendment, starting with, "Congress shall make no law ..." delineates the precious five freedoms of Religion, Speech, Press, Assembly and Petition. And oh, if only there were that one amendment that absolutely prohibited the federal government from doing anything not authorized by the Constitution. There is -- the tenth amendment: "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." Federal powers not stated are not authorized.

Together, these two make the states and their citizens sovereign -- superior to, chief or greatest, supreme in authority, rank or power over the federal government. Can the people keep it that way? Does this explain in any way why the Freedom Documents are seemingly so de-emphasized, marginalized, and just plain not taught, mentioned, celebrated, honored or otherwise revealed?

No piece of paper with writing on it protects rights or freedoms. No good idea enforces obligation. And no good intention compels responsibility. Ink on paper provides a record, and a means to communicate and preserve that record. The force behind it is the people who understand, resolve and "solemnly publish and declare" that certain things are so and will remain so. Freedoms are maintained solely by "We the People." Help our elected public servants to maintain them.

## THE

### DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Action of Second Continental Congress, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. --That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men,

deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

# "Freedom's Big Three": 1) We still have America's Freedom Documents; 2) They are very powerful documents; 3) People who know them are very powerful people.

Republic for which it stands. Miracles do not cluster, and what has happened once in 6,000 years, may not happen again. Hold on to the Constitution, for if the American Constitution should fail, there will be anarchy throughout the world."

Senator Byrd concluded a television interview, 8/2/04, with these thoughts:

"To the American people I say, awaken to what is happening. It is the duty of each citizen to be vigilant, to protect liberty, to speak out, left and right, and disagree, lest we be trampled underfoot by misguided zealotry and extreme partisanship.

"So, at a time when dissent is dismissed as being unpatriotic, when one's beliefs are subject to ridicule or investigation, the strength of the individual is all the more important. If the individual's voice is drowned out, if the spirit is extinguished and the fire of freedom dies, then who -- who -- tell me, who -- shall be left to carry on the legacy of this Republic? We can turn the tide. You and I, and others like us, can turn the tide. We can turn the tide, for the individual mind remains an unassailable force.

"The individual voice can inspire others to act. A single act of bravery can lead an army against great odds. The strength of a single individual can give hope to the hopeless, voice to the voiceless, power to the powerless, and the precious light of liberty will once again burn brightly."

Finally, remember that very important part of the Preamble of the Constitution, "... and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, ..." that means to keep the "sacred fires of Liberty" alive for our children, grandchildren and unborn, unrepresented generations to come. It all boils down to this:

**America: Bring It Back. Make It Free. Pass It On.**

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## What is the Relationship Between the Declaration and the Constitution?

(from "The Christian Founding Of America" by James K. Fitzpatrick, *The Wanderer*, March, 2008)

"The Founding Fathers stated specifically that the Constitution must be interpreted in conjunction with the Declaration of Independence and its specific references to the 'Creator' and 'unalienable rights.' ... John Quincy Adams held that the Constitution was 'the complement to the Declaration of Independence, founded upon the same principles, carrying them out into practical execution, and forming with it, one entire system of government.' John Adams wrote that the 'Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.'

James Madison warned, 'we have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.'

"It is (writer, James K.) Weber's view that we must see the Declaration of Independence as the 'statement of basic American principles of God-given rights' and the Constitution as 'the method by which these rights are secured. The Declaration is the foundation, the Constitution is the legal structure built on this foundation. The Declaration is the spirit of the law, the Constitution is the letter of the law. The Declaration is the soul, the Constitution is the body. The Declaration and the Constitution must be understood as one to be fully and correctly understood'"

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## The Constitution Protects Us from Them

by Jacob G. Hornberger, Friday, May 9, 2008

The Framers understood the most important point about the nature of government: It constitutes the biggest threat to the freedom and well-being of the citizenry. Unfortunately, it is a point that has been lost among many modern-day Americans, who have come to view government as their friend, protector, provider, and savior.

If the Framers had viewed government the way that many modern-day Americans do, why would it have been necessary to limit the powers of the president, the Congress, and the judiciary to those specifically enumerated in the Constitution? After all, the Framers could have used the Constitution to simply call the federal government into existence and then written, "The government shall have omnipotent power to do whatever U.S. officials deem is in the best interest of the nation and to take care of the citizenry." Instead, they effectively wrote, "Here are the few powers the government shall be permitted to exercise; if a power is not enumerated, it cannot be exercised."

Even the enumerated-powers concept, however, did not satisfy our American ancestors. Convinced that federal officials would not remain constrained by the Constitution's enumeration of powers, they demanded that amendments be enacted that expressly prohibited U.S. officials from infringing on the people's fundamental and inherent rights, such as freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, peaceful assembly, and gun ownership.

Why did they want such express prohibitions on infringing people's rights? Because they knew that the federal government would inevitably attract totalitarian-minded people who would do whatever they could to suppress such rights.

Our ancestors also demanded amendments that expressly guaranteed the exercise of such vitally important procedural rights as due process of law, trial by jury, right to counsel, right to confront witnesses, the right to a speedy trial, and protection against cruel and unusual punishments. They were convinced that in the absence of such express guarantees, U.S. officials would arbitrarily arrest, torture, indefinitely incarcerate, and otherwise punish innocent people, especially those who criticized government wrongdoing.

In other words, the reason that our American ancestors feared the federal government is that they knew that in the absence of constitutional limitations on federal power, U.S. officials would do to Americans precisely what they are doing in Guantanamo Bay, Iraq, and other places around the world where federal officials operate free of the constraints of the Constitution. That's why our ancestors came up with limited, enumerated powers in the Constitution and express guarantees of fundamental rights in the Bill of Rights.

*Mr. Hornberger is founder and president of The Future of Freedom Foundation. More information, go to [www.fff.org](http://www.fff.org).*

Fred Holden is a public policy specialist, speaker and author of the citizen power manual, *TOTAL Power of ONE in America: Discover What You Need to Know, Why and How to be a More Powerful Person and Citizen*. Its Chapter 17, "Discovering America's Freedom Documents" reveals the profound importance of America's Declaration of Independence, U. S. Constitution and its incredibly important Bill of Rights. Own your own copy: Send \$25 check or money order, to TOTAL Power, Box 1900, Arvada, CO 80001, 303-421-7619. Holden likes to quote Thomas Huxley: "The great end of life is not knowledge but ACTION." But it takes both -- Knowledge (Education), and ACTION. It's as simple as 1-2-3: 1. Knowledge -- Get it. Diligently, relentlessly, you, get America's Freedom Documents to the American people, through the American people, going under the radar of modern education. 2. Action -- Take it. Include getting Congress spending, taxing and debt under control. 3. Personal Power -- Develop and use yours.

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## Oath of Office

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God."

(Similar oaths by members of Congress, the military, state and local elected representatives, and federal, state and local civil servants.)

## The American Creed

I am an American. I support the principles of America's Founders, with a steadfast devotion to limited government, lower taxes, individual freedom and personal responsibility. I cherish our Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that are among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." I support self-governing people, free enterprise, free markets, a strong national defense, private property, rule of law and secure borders. I know, love and defend the United States Constitution and its incredibly important Bill of Rights. I pledge to do all within my considerable personal power to protect this land that I love, and its people. I declare a "firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence," and in support of this Creed: "We mutually pledge to each other, our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor."

## PREAMBLE

**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.