

PROCLAMATIONS OF THE GOVERNORS RELATIVE TO "CONSTITUTION DAY" AND "CONSTITUTION WEEK".

(A few extracts from the many excellent proclamations issued by the forty-eight Governors of the states and those of the Territories in recent days)

"Whereas, the Constitution of the United States was adopted by the Constitutional Convention one hundred and (now, seventy) years ago, September 17, 1787, and thus became the fundamental law of the land,

Whereas, Through all the changing years since that momentous action, alike in times of peace and of war, the Constitution has endured as the charter and protection of our political and religious liberties, and

Whereas, It is fitting and proper that the birthdate of this cherished document be observed by every American citizen,

Now, Therefore, Etc.

"The Constitution of the United States was adopted by the Constitutional Convention on September 17, 1787. That date marked the beginning of our present system of government, a system which has weathered many trying periods of history and proved its strength, as well as its flexibility to the will of the people.

"In this era of attacks upon free institutions, the profound meaning of the Constitution becomes more pronounced than ever before. Today our country, strong and prosperous under this great document, stands as the bulwark of freedom and the source of hope to the oppressed in less fortunate lands.

"It is fitting, therefore, that we in....where our patriots contributed so much to the form and content of the Constitution, join in the national observance of "Constitution Day" on September 17 and resolve to do all in our power to preserve and safeguard this vital repository of our liberties".

"On September 17, 1787, the Constitution of the United States was adopted by the Constitutional Convention, later, on ratification by the several states to become the fundamental law of our great democracy.

"For one hundred and (now, seventy) years this greatest governmental charter of human freedom ever devised by man, unchanged except for amendments made necessary by national development and growth, has continued to guarantee our rightful liberties, to preserve justice, safeguard domestic tranquility and promote the general welfare.

"Today, when the principles underlying this basic document are threatened on every hand by groups and individuals who would discard and destroy the liberties they have preserved, it is more than ever fitting that, on the anniversary of its adoption, we pay tribute to the Constitution and rededicate ourselves to the ideal upon which our nation rests.

"Therefore, etc."

"I am glad to join with the Governors of our sister states in calling to the attention of my fellow citizens the observance on September 17, of Constitution Day.

"One hundred and (now, seventy) years ago the great statesmen who had deliberated all summer at Philadelphia set their signatures to the document which was not only to form the foundation for our own nation but which was to provide the pattern for many other nations seeking government under law. Into this great document our founding fathers, who were statesmen of the first order, poured their vast resources of idealism and their immense practical experience.

"The framers of our Constitution, foreseeing the vast future growth of their country, wisely provided for amendments to the document which they had drawn up. But so profound was their understanding of genuine liberty and so well did they provide for its preservation, that the Constitution has retained its fundamentals from that day to this, guaranteeing our rightful liberties, preserving justice, and promoting the general welfare of a vast and mighty nation.

"The observance of Constitution Day affords us a renewed opportunity to consider the blessings of liberty which we enjoy under the basic law of our land. On this day let us reaffirm our faith in the tenets of our National Constitution and renew our determination as a people to live up to its high principles."

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CONSTITUTION WEEK PROCLAMATION

By unanimous action the Congress, under a joint resolution approved August 2, 1956 requested the President to set aside the week beginning September 17 of each year as Constitution Week. The President, in accordance therewith, issued the following proclamation and Governors of states all over the Union emphasized the importance of this observance by similar proclamations. We have just received word from the White House Secretary that the President will issue a similar proclamation again this year.

THE WHITE HOUSE

CONSTITUTION WEEK, 1956

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS on September 17, 1787, after four months of debate, highlighted by sharp differences of view and by wise compromises, the outstanding leaders of our Republic, who were meeting in convention at Philadelphia, signed the Constitution of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS the story of the framing, signing, and adoption of that epochal document constitutes one of the most significant chapters in the history of our country; and

WHEREAS it is fitting that every American should reflect upon the vision and fortitude of our forebears in creating a charter designed "to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty" for themselves and for the fortunate millions who were to follow them as citizens of this Nation; and

WHEREAS the Congress, by a joint resolution approved August 2, 1956, has requested the President to set aside the week beginning September 17 of each year as Constitution Week, a time for the contemplation and commemoration of the historic acts which resulted in the formation of our Constitution:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the period beginning September 17 and ending September 23, 1956, as Constitution Week; and I urge the people of the United States to observe that week with appropriate ceremonies and activities in their schools and churches, and in other suitable places. I also urge them at that time to give solemn and grateful thought to that eventful week in September 1787 when our Constitution was signed, delivered to the Continental Congress, and made known to the people of the country, thus laying the foundation for the birth of a new Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this twenty-ninth day of August in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and fifty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and eighty-first.

(SEAL)

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

By the President:

JOHN FOSTER DULLES

Secretary of State