

# A CELEBRATION OF CITIZENSHIP

The Bicentennial Commemoration of the United States Constitution

Please take a few minutes to read this summarized version of the Constitution. Take pride in your country, your flag, and your Constitution...which insures freedom & opportunity for all.

## The 'Miracle' at Philadelphia:

When representatives of 12 states met in Philadelphia in May 1787, their stated objective was not to write a new Constitution. That they did led George Washington to call it the "miracle at Philadelphia."

After independence, the American States acted as 13 different nations. They

printed their own currencies, erected barriers to interstate commerce, occasionally fought pitched battles with each another, and refused to aid the weak national legislature. Foreign nations expected the new country to collapse.

It wasn't until 1786, at an emergency trade meeting in Annapolis, that a national conference was proposed. Under pressure, the Congress of the Confederation formally called for a convention in Philadelphia, for the sole purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation. The Philadelphia Convention.

The Philadelphia Convention was scheduled to start May 14. But, transportation being slow and distances being great, it wasn't until May 25, when the South Carolina delegation and two New Jersey representatives arrived at the State House, that a quorum was achieved.

Only seven of the 13 states were present at the start, and not until the end of July were 12 states represented. Rhode Island alone refused to participate.

The Convention was held in complete secrecy. Windows were boarded shut, and delegates were

required to maintain a public silence on their daily actions. The rule was significant, for within days of the start of the Convention a complete overhaul of the Articles was proposed.

The Virginia Plan called for a new federal government with three branches: a national legislature with two chambers, an executive with a single leader, and a national judiciary with one supreme court.

The Great Compromise.

A great debate arose around the proposed legislature. Large states wanted representation by population in each cham-

ber. Small states, led by New Jersey, sought equal representation in a single house. In July, the delegates adopted Roger Sherman's Connecticut Compromise, giving the House proportional representation and the Senate equal representation.

The Convention continued through the sweltering summer months. Delegates fiercely debated critical issues, such as slavery, taxation and terms of office. Some Convention members returned home, frustrated, while others remained, compromising their positions. The Preamble was

drafted in early August and initially read, "We the People of the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, . . ." and so on, through all 13 states. Governor Morris rewrote it to read: "We, the People of the United States . . ." Forty two of the 55 framers remained at the State House on September 17, the final day of the convention. Thirty nine of these men signed the Constitution. Thus, after four months of debate and compromise, the delegates created a form of government and a set of guiding principles which remain the basis of the United States two centuries later.



### A summary of 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 LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 1: Description. The legislative branch of government, or Congress, makes all the laws. It has two parts, or houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Section 2: House of Representatives. Members of the House of Representatives serve a 2-year term. They are elected by the people. Representatives must be at least 25 years old, citizens of the United States for at least 7 years, and citizens of the state they represent.

The number of representatives from each state depends on that state's population. In order to decide on the number of representatives from each state, the government must count the people every 10 years. This is called a census.

Section 3: The Senate. The Senate is made up of two senators from each state. Senators have a 6-year term. Senators must be at least 30 years old, citizens of the United States for at least 9 years, and citizens of the state they represent.

The Vice President of the United States is in charge of the Senate, but may only vote in case of a tie.

Section 4: Rules. Instructions on how to operate both the House and the Senate are covered. Behavior of members, record keeping, pay, and how a bill becomes a law are covered.

Section 5: Duties. The exact jobs of Congress and how Congress makes all money and trade laws. Congress decides how people can become citizens of the United States and can declare war if necessary. Powers Congress and the states do not have are also listed.

#### Article II EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 1: Description. The executive branch is made up of the President of the United States and those who help carry out laws passed by Congress. The President manages the government. A President and Vice President are elected to a 4-year term. A President must have been born in the United States, must be at least 35 years old, and must have lived in the United States for at least 14 years.

Section 2: Powers. The President is elected by the people. The President has the power to sign laws, to pardon those who have broken the law, to appoint and remove judges, to appoint and remove officers in the military, and to appoint and remove officers in the executive branch.

Section 3: Duties. The President is the commander in chief of the armed forces. The President has the power to declare war, to make treaties, and to appoint and remove officers in the executive branch.

Section 4: Powers. The President is the commander in chief of the armed forces. The President has the power to declare war, to make treaties, and to appoint and remove officers in the executive branch.

Section 5: Powers. The President is the commander in chief of the armed forces. The President has the power to declare war, to make treaties, and to appoint and remove officers in the executive branch.

Section 6: Powers. The President is the commander in chief of the armed forces. The President has the power to declare war, to make treaties, and to appoint and remove officers in the executive branch.

Section 7: Powers. The President is the commander in chief of the armed forces. The President has the power to declare war, to make treaties, and to appoint and remove officers in the executive branch.

Section 8: Powers. The President is the commander in chief of the armed forces. The President has the power to declare war, to make treaties, and to appoint and remove officers in the executive branch.

Section 9: Powers. The President is the commander in chief of the armed forces. The President has the power to declare war, to make treaties, and to appoint and remove officers in the executive branch.

Section 10: Powers. The President is the commander in chief of the armed forces. The President has the power to declare war, to make treaties, and to appoint and remove officers in the executive branch.

Section 11: Powers. The President is the commander in chief of the armed forces. The President has the power to declare war, to make treaties, and to appoint and remove officers in the executive branch.

Section 12: Powers. The President is the commander in chief of the armed forces. The President has the power to declare war, to make treaties, and to appoint and remove officers in the executive branch.

Section 13: Powers. The President is the commander in chief of the armed forces. The President has the power to declare war, to make treaties, and to appoint and remove officers in the executive branch.

Section 14: Powers. The President is the commander in chief of the armed forces. The President has the power to declare war, to make treaties, and to appoint and remove officers in the executive branch.

Section 15: Powers. The President is the commander in chief of the armed forces. The President has the power to declare war, to make treaties, and to appoint and remove officers in the executive branch.

#### Section 2-4: Duties. Some of the President's jobs include carrying out the laws made by Congress, responsibility for the armed forces, pardoning crimes, and reporting to Congress at least once a year on what the nation is doing. The President makes treaties and appoints government leaders. The Senate must give its approval. If the President does wrong, he may be removed from office.

#### Article III JUDICIAL BRANCH

Section 1: Description. The judicial branch of government is the federal court system. The Supreme Court is the nation's highest court. It has the final say in all matters of law. Judges are appointed, not elected to office.

Section 2: Duties. The federal courts have a say in all cases that are not entirely within a state.

Section 3: Treason. The crime of treason, trying to overthrow the government, is explained.

#### Article IV THE STATES

Section 1: Rules about the states. All states must accept laws, records, and laws of other states. A citizen of one state must be given the same rights as the citizens of another state or he may be in the government of one state may send an accused criminal from another state back to that state for trial.

New states may be added to the United States. The United States government will protect all states from enemies.

#### Article V AMENDMENTS

Making changes. The Constitution may be amended, or changed.

#### Article VI HIGHEST LAW

Above all others. The Constitution of the United States is the highest law in the land. State laws must be under this law. All national and state lawmakers and officers must support the Constitution.

#### Article VII PASSING THE CONSTITUTION

Ratification. This Constitution becomes law when 9 of the 13 states ratify it, or approve it.

#### AMENDMENTS

The first ten amendments are known as "THE BILL OF RIGHTS"

Amendment I: Congress may not make laws to change freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, or the right of people to come together in a peaceful way or to send petitions to their government.

Amendment II: The people have the right to keep and bear arms.

Amendment III: During peacetime, the government cannot make citizens put up soldiers in their homes.

Amendment IV: People or their homes may not be searched unreasonably.

Amendment V: Persons accused of serious crimes have the right to a jury trial. They may not be forced to give evidence against themselves. Their lives, freedom, and property may not be taken from them unfairly. If the government takes a person's property for public use, it must pay the owner for it.

Amendment VI: Persons accused of serious crimes have the right to a speedy and public trial. They must be told what they are accused of. They have the right to have a lawyer. They have the right to see and question those who accuse them.

Amendment VII: In most cases, there must be a right to a jury trial.

Amendment VIII: Punishment may not be cruel and unusual.

Amendments IX and X: If the Constitution does not give a certain right to the United States government, and also does not forbid a state government to have that right, then the states and the people have it.

Amendment XI: The power of the judicial branch is limited to certain kinds of cases.

Amendment XII: Electors vote for President and Vice President separately.

Amendment XIII: Slavery may not exist in the United States.

Amendment XIV: People born in the United States or naturalized here are United States citizens. They are also citizens of the state they live in.

States may not make laws that limit the rights of citizens of the United States. They may not take away a person's life or freedom of property unfairly. They must treat all people equally under the law.

Amendment XV: No citizen may be denied the right to vote because of race.

Amendment XVI: Congress is allowed to pass an income tax law.

Amendment XVII: United States senators are elected by the people.

Amendment XVIII: Liquor may no longer be manufactured or sold in the United States.

Amendment XIX: No citizen may be denied the right to vote because of sex.

Amendment XXI: Presidents start their new terms on January 20, Congress starts its new term on January 3.

Amendment XXII: The eighteenth amendment to this Constitution is repealed, or taken back.

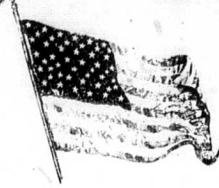
Amendment XXIII: Residents of Washington, D.C., have the right to vote for President.

Amendment XXIV: Citizens need not pay a tax in order to vote for President, senator, or member of Congress.

Amendment XXV: In case the President becomes too ill to carry on the job, the Vice President will take over as Acting President until the President is better.

Amendment XXVI: No citizen who is 18 years of age or older may be denied the right to vote because of age.

# We the People of the United States



## \* A GRAND EVENT \* IN HONOR OF A A GRAND DOCUMENT

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands. One Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Carlisle Cleaners  
Jimmie Johnson, Owner  
Phone 289-5224  
Dee Jay Auto Parts  
Auto and Tractor Parts  
Echo Chainsaws  
Phone 289-2208  
Hunt's Ashland  
Carlisle Car Wash  
Clay Hunt, Owner  
Garrett's Furniture  
Serving Nicholas County and Central Kentucky since 1952  
Leet's Coin Laundry  
Leet's Beauty Salon  
Omar and Bernice Leet, Owners  
Gray's Grocery  
Billy Gray, Owner  
 Hwy. 32 - Myers Road  
KY Army National Guard  
Catch the Spirit  
Join Us Now  
Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
617 East Main Street  
Phone 289-5502  
American Legion  
117 West Main Street  
Phone 289-9121  
Carlisle Cemetery  
289-7387  
First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
Exercise your Constitutional right . . . Worship

Lerman Bros.  
Continuing to Serve Nicholas County  
Phone 289-5462  
Dr. Osias Villaflor  
138 S. Broadway  
Phone 289-2631  
Deposit Bank of Carlisle  
Established 1866  
Member F.D.I.C.  
Farm Credit Services  
Box 268, Carlisle, KY  
Phone 289-2228  
Duncan's Electric  
102 Broadway  
Phone 289-2539  
Rose Scott  
Nicholas County Clerk's Office  
Phone 289-5591

The Carlisle Mercury  
Your Hometown Newspaper  
Since 1867

Constitution Day  
SEPTEMBER 17, 1987

Constitution Day  
SEPTEMBER 17, 1987

Constitution Day  
SEPTEMBER 17, 1987

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.

Diana's Silver Sissors  
Diana Jackson  
289-5521  
H & H Welding  
& Machine Shop  
289-5965  
Carlisle Drug  
Celebrating with America  
Carlisle, KY  
West End Market  
Freda & Allen Sparks  
289-5889  
Clark's Backhoe Service  
Ronnie Clark  
289-7983  
Carlisle Manufacturing  
Bob Faul - Owner  
289-9979  
Drs. Kingsolver & Scott  
101 W. Chestnut  
Phone 289-2283  
Clark's Funeral Home  
Home of Thoughtful Service  
Moorefield, KY  
Nicholas County Library  
Read about The Constitution  
Library's 40th Birthday, Sept. 20  
Frankie's Grocery  
240 Moorefield Road  
Carlisle, KY  
Mathers-Gaunce Funeral Home  
105 Locust Street  
Carlisle, KY

Rose Brady  
Property Valuation  
Administrator  
Napa Auto Parts  
James Howard, Owner  
Phone 289-5182  
Carlisle United Methodist Church  
Come Worship with us  
103 Chestnut Street  
CBC Landscaping  
Bobby Dailey, Owner  
Phone 289-5069

Berry's Service Station  
Carlisle, KY  
Bobby Berry, Owner  
Nicholas County Circuit Court Clerk  
Sally Watkins

Woody's Auto Repair  
Mark Hughes, Owner  
Phone 289-7226  
Reid & Vice  
Full Service Hardware  
Phone 289-7175  
Clark's Food & Fun Center  
Paris Road  
Phone 289-5464  
Old Paris Road Liquor  
The Clarks  
Bill, Elsie, Bill Jr., Cathy Clark  
The Hair Hut  
Joan Morris, Owner  
Phone 289-7085  
Beatty's 76  
Joe and Carla Beatty, Owners  
Phone 289-7935  
Hardin's Bulldozing  
David Hardin II  
Phone 289-7351  
Talk of The Town  
East Main Street  
Phone 289-7508  
Southern States  
Full Service Farm Supply  
289-7166  
Carlisle Pic Pac  
Gayle Kelley, Owner  
Phone 289-2219  
Carlisle Christian Church  
242 Locust St.  
Carlisle, KY  
Reese Smoot  
Nicholas County Sheriff/Executive  
Nicholas County Judge's Dept.  
Charles Ring - Sheriff  
Chuck Smith - Deputy  
Carnico Quick Stop  
Bob Banta, Owner  
289-7193  
Drs. Riggs & Sparks  
110 Locust St.  
289-5418  
TTI Railroads  
108 Market St.  
Carlisle, KY  
First National Bank of Carlisle

JOCKEY  
INTERNATIONAL INC.  
CARLISLE DISTRICT  
Abe's BLUE LICKS  
GROCERY  
"Fine Country Hams"  
U.S. Hwy. 68, 289-2604

Constitution Day  
SEPTEMBER 17, 1987

Constitution Day  
SEPTEMBER 17, 1987

Source of Summary: © 1985 Silver, Burdett & Ginn Inc. used by permission.  
For a copy of the complete Constitution, write to the National Archives, 725 Jackson Place N.W., Washington, D.C. 20540.