

# Constitution Week Proclamation

**Where as:** The Constitution of the United States, the guardian of our liberties, is a product of reflection and choice, embodying the principles of limited government in a Republic dedicated to rule by law, not by men and

**Where as:** September 17 marks the anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitution Convention; and

**Where as:** It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this memorable anniversary, and to the patriotic exercises that will commemorate the occasion, and

**Where as:** Public Law 915, guarantees the issue of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17<sup>th</sup> through September 23<sup>rd</sup> as Constitution Week.

**NOW THEREFORE:** I, as Mayor, proclaim the week of September 17 through September 23 as

## Constitution Week

And urge all citizens to study the Constitution and to express gratitude for the privilege of American citizenship in our Republic, functioning under the superb body of laws – the Constitution of the United States of America.

Proclaimed this day

Georgia Signers of the Constitution

**Abraham Baldwin and William Few**

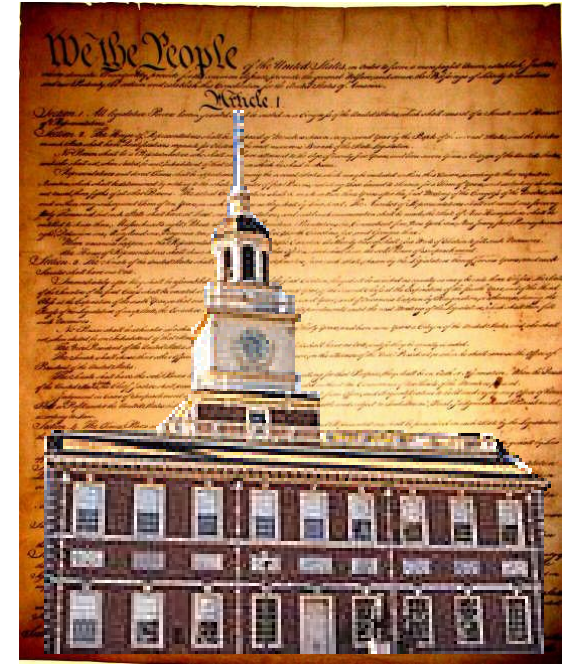


The *Sons of the American Revolution* (SAR) is dedicated to honoring and immortalizing our patriotic ancestors, educating our future leaders in their heritage, helping American veterans, and reminding every citizen and public servant that freedom was achieved and is maintained by the unselfish sacrifices of hundreds of thousands of Americans. Some of the activities supported by the SAR include:

- Participating in Revolutionary War Battle Observances
- Furnishing a Color Guard for parades and pledges to the United States Flag
- Recognizing individuals and organizations for patriotic displays of the United States Flag
- Sponsoring Essay Contests for High School students and Eagle Scouts
- Recognizing outstanding College and High School ROTC students with medals & certificates
- Recognizing outstanding public safety officials and private citizens with medals & certificates
- Identifying and documenting grave sites of Revolutionary War patriots and honoring their memory with appropriate markers and ceremony
- Sponsoring Poster Contests for Elementary School Students
- Providing educational and patriotic programs to schools
- Supporting American Veterans

# Constitution Week

September 17-23



Compliments of the

# Cherokee Chapter

**Sons of the American Revolution**

[www.CherokeeChapter.com](http://www.CherokeeChapter.com)

For Information about Activities and Membership in the

**Sons of the American Revolution**

Visit: [www.CherokeeChapter.com](http://www.CherokeeChapter.com)

or call

President: Mark Webb 404-474-4992  
Vice President: Bob Faith 770-642-1555  
Registrar: Billy Templeton 770-410-0015

# CONSTITUTION WEEK SEPTEMBER 17-23



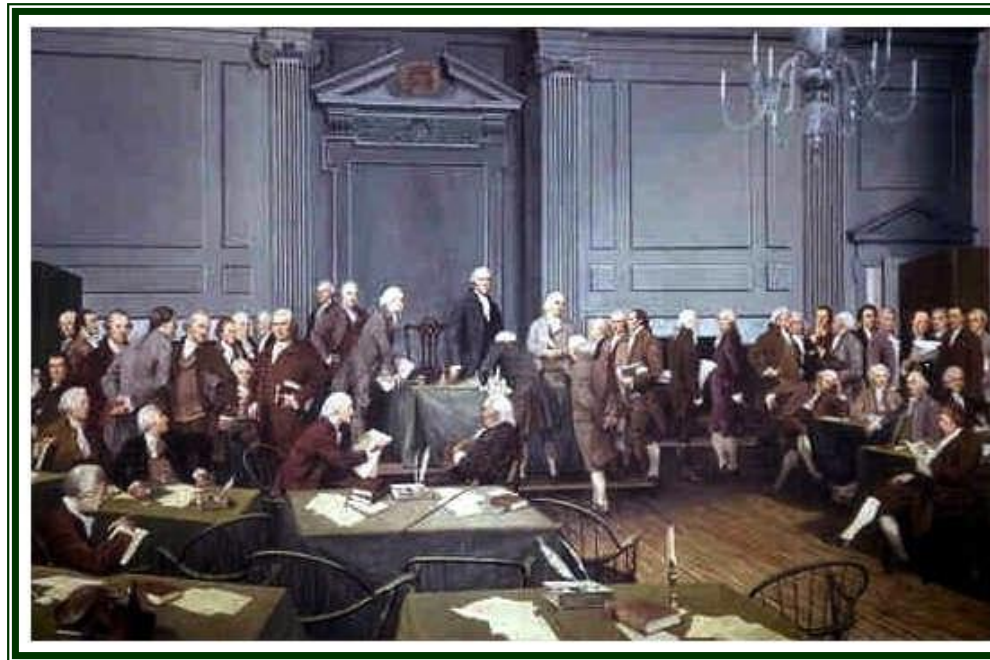
The Declaration of Independence, written by Thomas Jefferson and modified by the Continental Congress in 1776, was only the first step in a very long struggle to form a "more perfect union". It took the thirteen United States of America

five years, until 1781, to approve the Articles of Confederation and another six years, until 1787, to reveal their weakness and omissions and to abolish them.

The Articles of Confederation did not provide for an Executive branch of government to administer Congressional laws. There was no system to protect fair trade with foreign governments. There was an agreement in the articles to provide a common defense but no way to provision a common army and navy. There was no judicial branch of government to adjudicate national laws or to settle claims between states. Congressional power amounted to one-state one-vote regardless of the number of people in the state. A small state with few people had as much power and determination in national law as a large state with many people. The Articles of Confederation provided a system of government that was neither a democracy nor an affective republic, since representation was not proportional.

By 1787, James Madison, a Virginia scholar that had voraciously studied the strengths and weaknesses of various governments throughout the world, outlined a new plan of government. Edmund Randolph introduced this Virginia Plan to Congress on May 29, 1787. It provided the first proposal for three branches

of government: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. Madison wanted two legislative houses. Each state would be proportioned state elected representatives based on the number of citizens in that state. The first house would nominate and elect members to the second house. Small states, such as Connecticut, New Jersey, and Delaware were against proportional representation. Large states were in favor of a true republic.



It took three and a half months to develop a compromise that adopted what we know of today as the House of Representatives with proportioned representation and a Senate with two votes per state. At the very end of the congressional session, George Mason and Edmund Randolph from Virginia declined to sign the document because it did not contain a Declaration of Rights. However, the nine states in attendance unanimously approved of

the new Constitution and signed the document on September 17, 1787.

By spring of 1788, nine states had ratified the Constitution and our new form of government took affect. Virginia and New York ratified the document soon after and North Carolina approved of the Constitution in November of 1788. Rhode Island, the only state not to take part in the Constitutional Convention, held out until May

29, 1790, when she finally realized she would be a small foreign country surrounded by a new great nation.

The declaration of rights, known today as the Bill of Rights, promised to those states that had originally been hesitant to adopt the Constitution include the first ten Amendments ratified on December 15, 1791. Americans debate the meaning of the Constitution and its amendments every day. In over 200 years of Constitutional history, the American people have added to these amendments

only 17 times, a testament to the skill and genius of our founding fathers in securing your freedoms and liberty for all time.

*Billy J. Templeton*  
Cherokee Chapter  
Georgia Society, SAR