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PRESENTS





U.S. CONSTITUTION

CELEBRATING OUR U.S. CONSTITUTION'S BIRTHDAY
SEPTEMBER 17, 1787

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776
The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

We the People



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Three Facts every American needs to realize:

- The United States of America was and IS the greatest nation on Earth.
- Today, Americans need to learn and understand our Founding Documents
- Your generation will inherit the USA- and it's important you know the Constitution, our country's road map/rule book.



America is GREAT for MANY Reasons!!!



- People want to COME to America, NOT LEAVE  
- We encourage new ideas and creativity: iPhone, Tesla, what else can you think of?
- We have the LONGEST standing Constitution of ANY country- How many years?
- Do you know the world average of how long a Constitution lasts?

America: 1 Government

*Length of the average
constitution in the world?*

17 years

America: 1 Government

*AMERICA'S
Constitution is
236 years this year!
Say what!?!?*

WHY do you think it's lasted 14 times longer than all the others?

Back-up!

Before we get this party started, let's back up a bit...



The Story...

The history that set the stage for the U.S. Constitution

So, what is this thing?
Let's start by looking a little to the beginnings of America...



click on phone to play...

Seeking Freedom & Liberty

The People who want to live free in
the New World of America



Prayer & Worship- Embarkation of the Pilgrims
by Robert Walter Weir

The Tyrant, King George of
England across the ocean



King George III in coronation robes by
Allan Ramsay

Pilgrims did NOT feel FREE

- King George made very strict rules!
- The greedy king was charging the Colonists a huge “Tea Tax” \$\$\$
- King George stopped sending food but the Colonists were already self-sufficient and could grow their own!

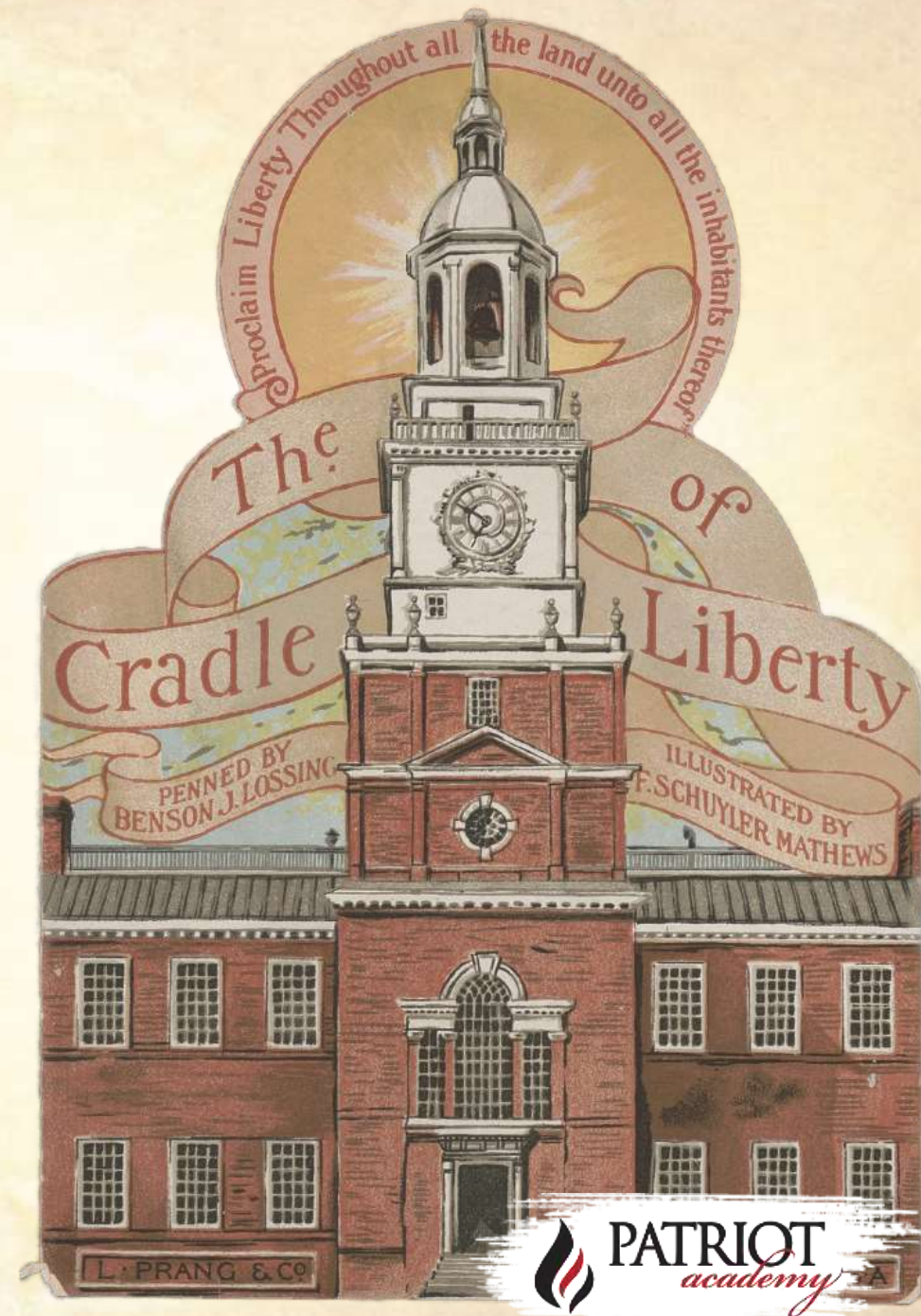
Hee-hee. How do you think old Georgie liked them apples?



Cradle of Liberty

INDEPENDENCE HALL, Philadelphia, PA

- What happened here?
(hint: something monumental)
- Founding Fathers:
leaders of courage, faith & smarts!



The Declaration Committee

Benjamin Franklin

John Adams

Roger Sherman

Robert Livingston

Thomas Jefferson

Founding Fathers

56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence
How many can you name?



They Put Their Lives On the Line

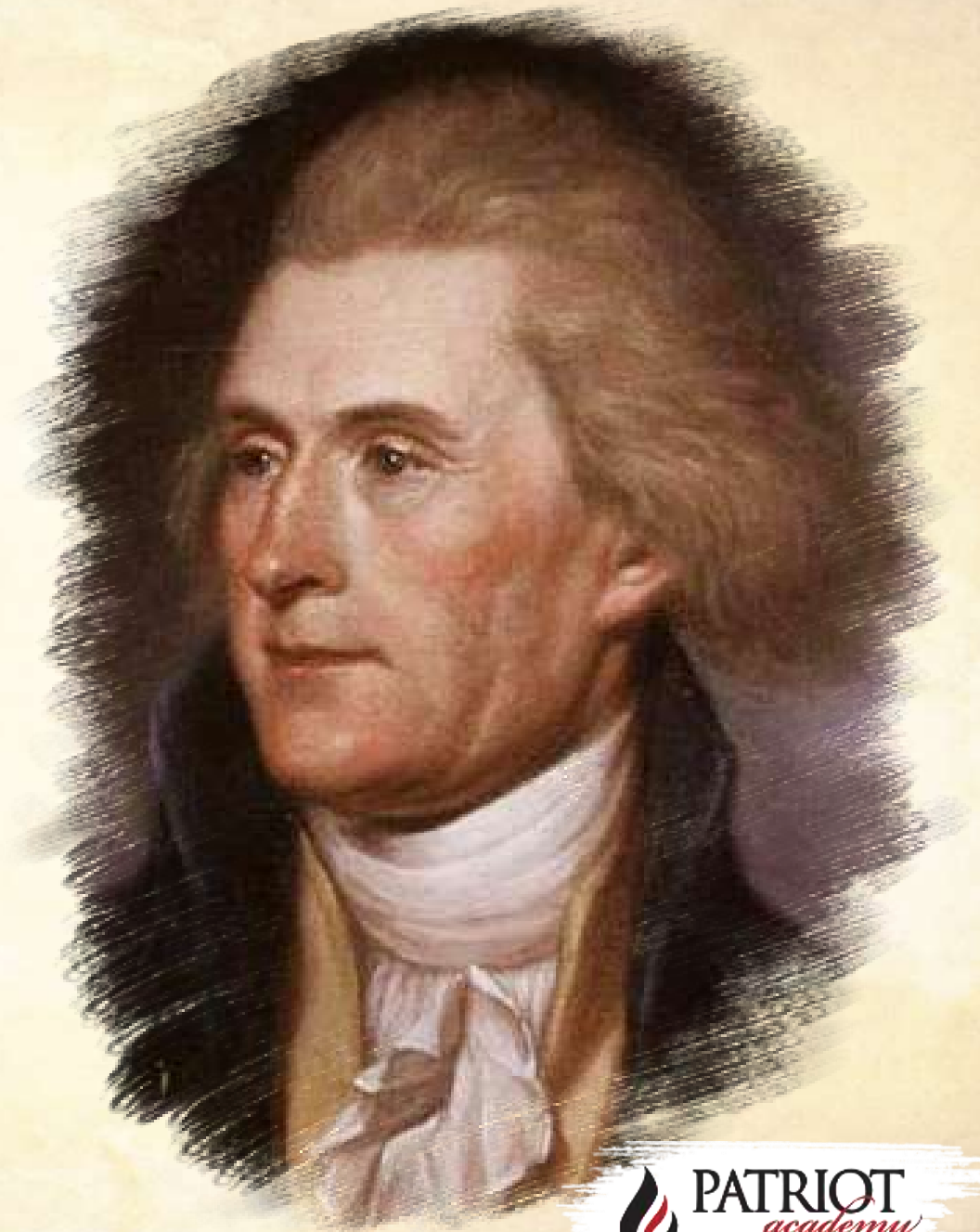
***ALL 56 SIGNERS
PLEDGED THEIR:***

- ***Lives,***
- ***Fortunes,***
- ***Sacred Honor***



Thomas Jefferson

- Author of Declaration of Independence
- 3rd President of the United States
- Fought for freedom of slaves
- Did you know? Jefferson was not involved in writing the Constitution?



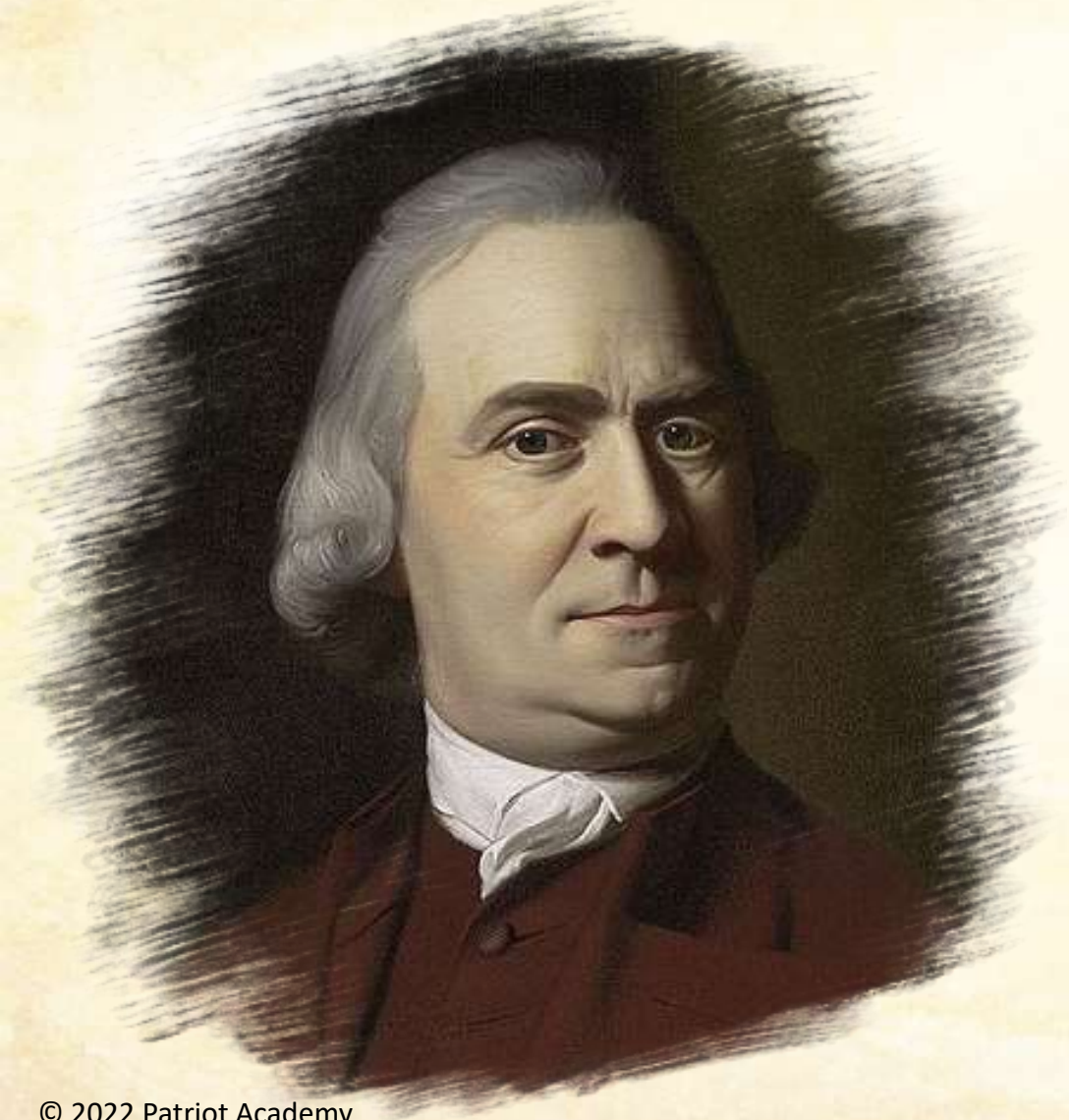
Founding Fathers

- All rich? Best schools? Elite/privileged? Hmm...

Did you know?

- 50% (Only half) had a college degree
- 25% Homeschooled
- 25% Orphaned or from single parent homes
- Farmers, merchants, businessmen, doctors, a land surveyor (guess who?), a scientist (guess who?)

Sam Adams



- Poorest
- Borrowed horse
- Neighbors took collection to buy suit of clothes
- Leader of 'Sons of Liberty' distributing sermons of the past as a reminder



Charles Carroll of Carrollton

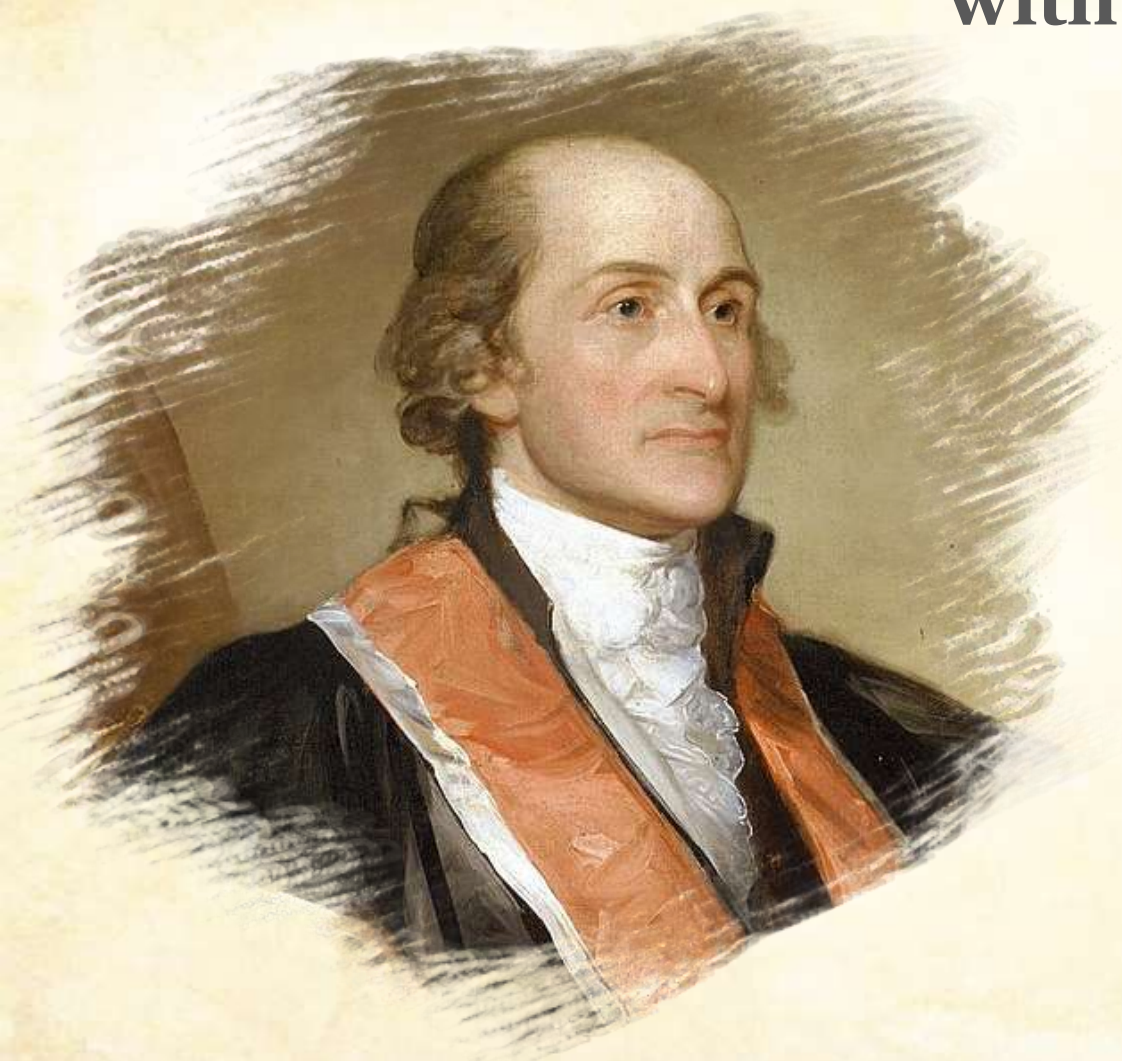


- Richest Founder
- Lived the longest
- Last surviving Founder
- Even outlived his 7 children



John Jay

This Founding Father gave us our marching orders (**DUTY**) as citizens with 7 verbs (actions):



“Every member of the state (every citizen) ought diligently to read and study the Constitution and teach the rising generation to be free, by knowing their rights, they’ll sooner perceive when they are violated and be the better prepared to defend and assert them.”

– John Jay

Preserve the Constitution

7 Verbs we need to DO to save the Constitution

- 1) Read
- 2) Study



- 3) Teach
- 4) Know (Your Rights)
- 5) Perceive (notice)
when they are violated



- 6) Defend
- 7) Assert

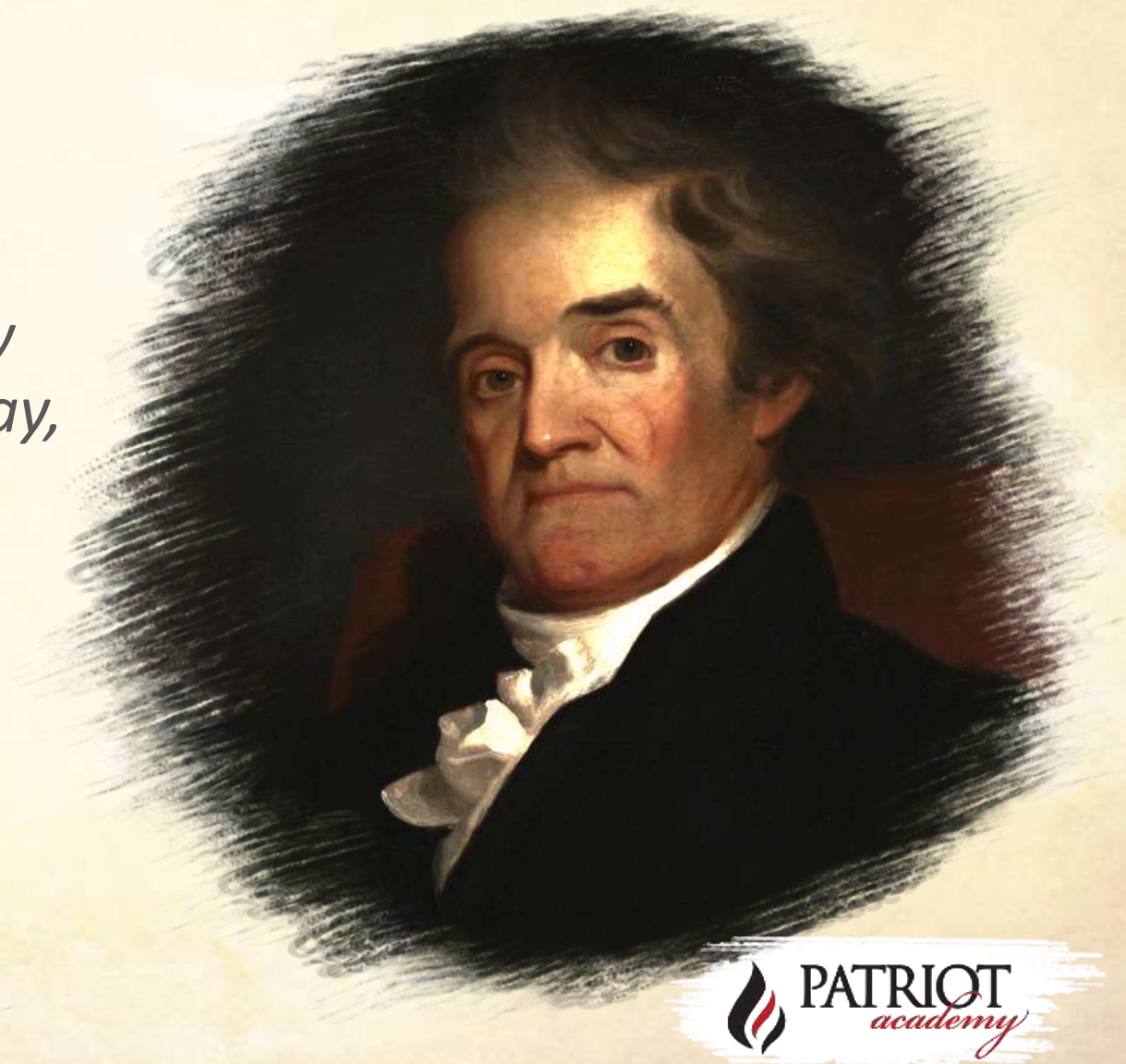


Noah Webster, Schoolmaster to America

DUTY! 1828 Webster's Dictionary
definition DUTY, noun

1. That which a person is bound, by any natural, moral or legal obligation, to pay, do or perform.

- Wrote American textbooks
- Gave America our own distinctive spelling Favour-Favor, labour– labor, etc.



George Mason, Father of the Bill of Rights



Ahead of his time-
even with the hairstyle!

*“No free government or the
blessings of liberty can be
preserved to any people but by a
frequent recurrence* to
fundamental principles.”
(*review often)*

– George Mason

Psst...
Sunshine is known
to help pale skin



Spring Training...

THE FUNDAMENTALS

BACK TO THE BASICS



Picture the United States as a Huge Birthday Cake

We are going to bake a huge birthday cake for the USA!! (Our nation's birthday is July 4, 1776- the day our Declaration of Independence was signed).

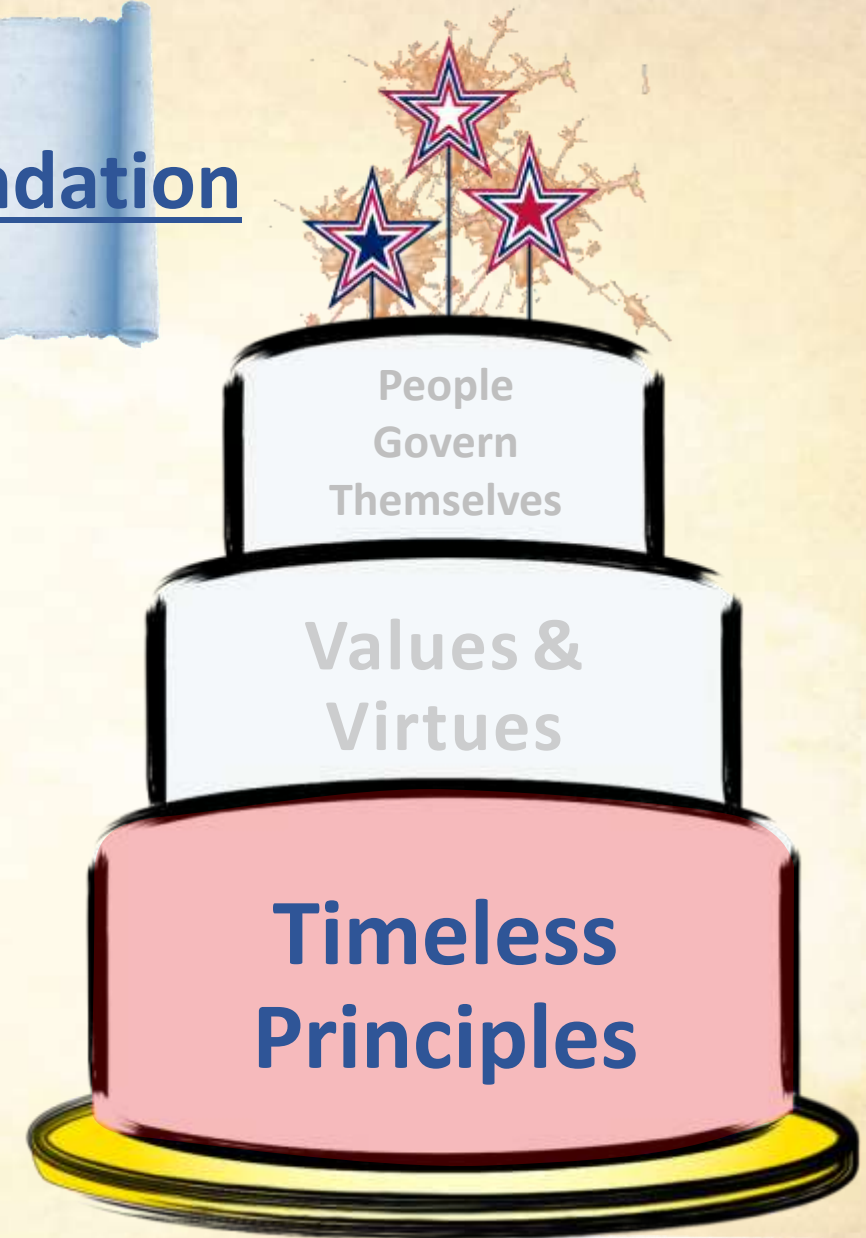
Each layer of our cake will represent the building blocks of our country that make us who we are today.



Timeless Principles in the Declaration of Independence are the Foundation of our Constitution

Our Founding Fathers relied on Timeless Principles as the essential basis of our Founding Documents. These include:

- We get our rights and freedoms from the Creator, not from government or our neighbors.
- There is a moral right and wrong the Founders called "self-evident truths."
- Good morality & knowledge are necessary for good government and happiness of mankind.



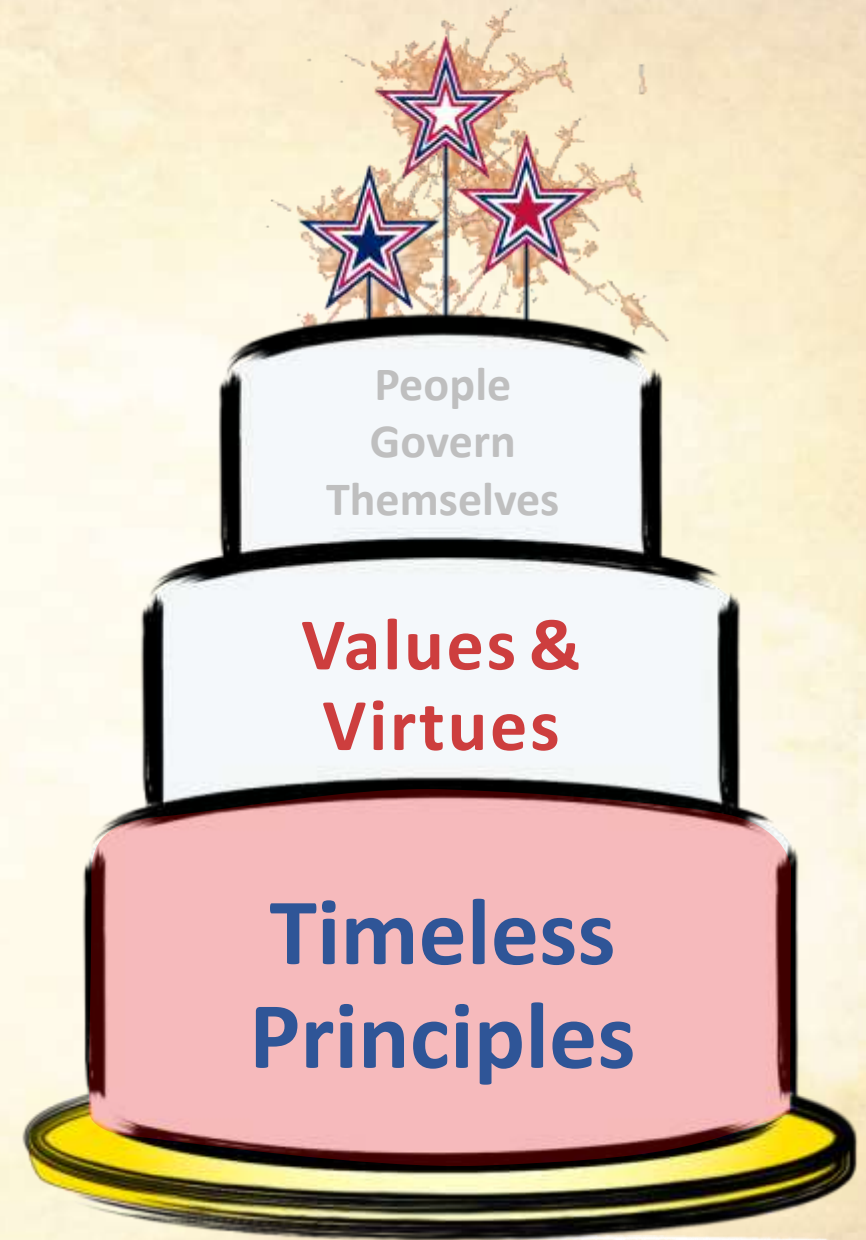
Timeless Principles Lead to Values & Virtues

A moral people who know right from wrong, will maintain Values & Virtues that help run and maintain a safe, stable country.

These Values & Virtues are:

- Be Responsible
- Be a Hard Worker
- Be Generous
- Be Honest

Americans are ***People with strong values*** that work at becoming the very best they can be! ***They strive for Excellence!***

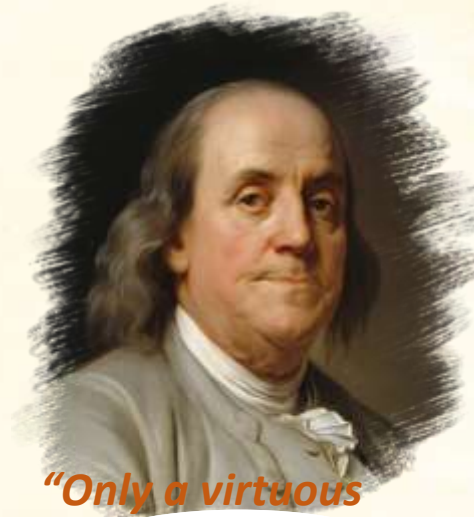


Americans with Values & Virtues Can Govern Themselves

People with positive Values & Virtues are able to make wise, safe choices which allows them to have freedom. (If they did NOT have Values & Virtues, government would closely regulate & control them.)

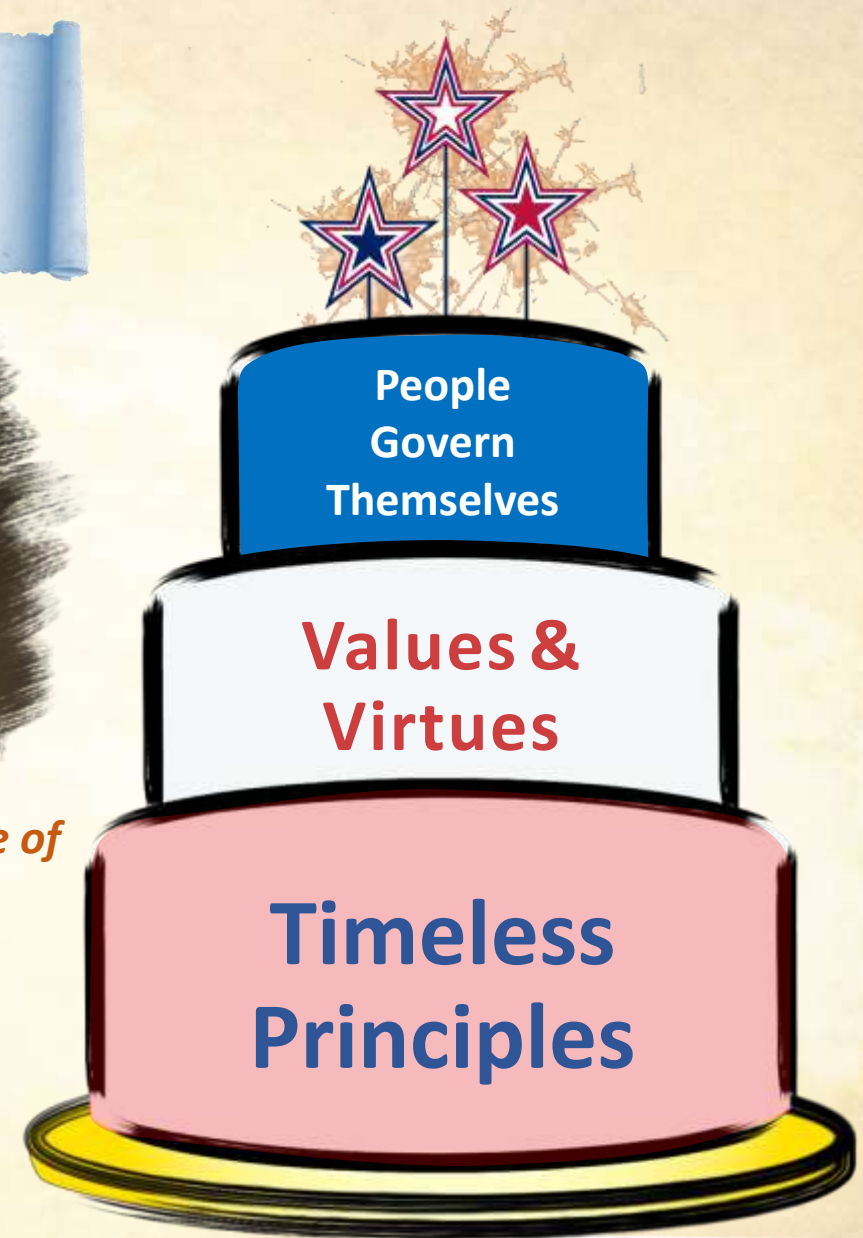
These people do not depend on others to do everything for them because they can take care of themselves!

Doors of opportunities come knocking because they know how to work smart, can be trusted, and are responsible.



"Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom."

*— Benjamin Franklin,
Signer of the
Declaration of
Independence*

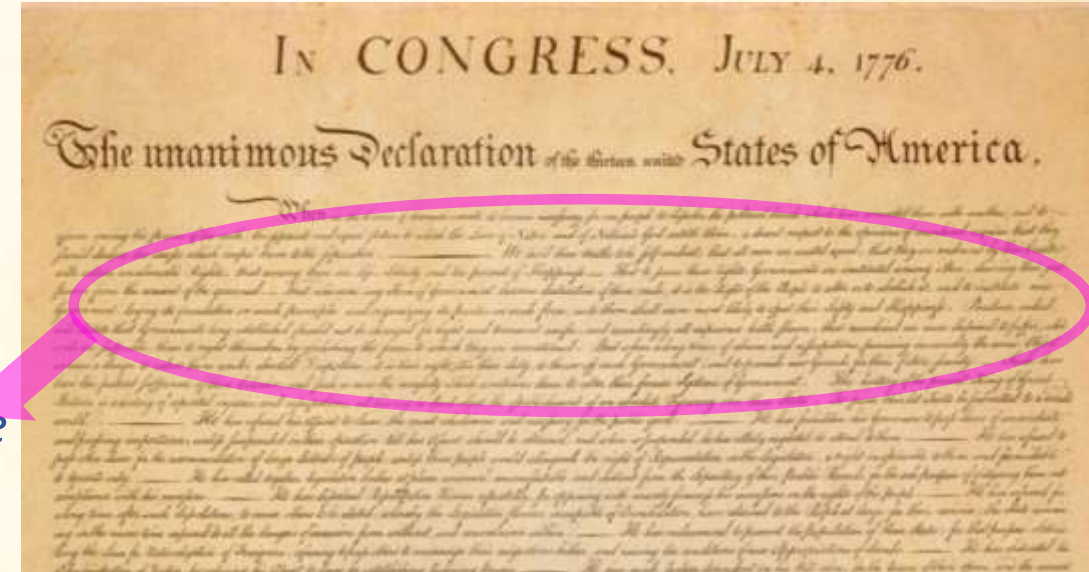


The Declaration of Independence Tells Us We the People have Unalienable Rights

Unalienable rights, means each of us were born with the right to enjoy *LIFE, LIBERTY & THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS* and no one has the power to take these rights away.

*“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.”*

— Declaration of Independence



This means the government's job is simply to **protect the people's rights they already have, and that the people must give their consent (ok) for government's use of power.**

Unalienable Rights- What are they? Can you list some?

Freedom of
RELIGION



Freedom of
SPEECH



Freedom of
PRESS



Freedom to
ASSEMBLE



Freedom to
PROTECT MYSELF



*No one can take
these away from us!!
Not even the
Government!!*

Limited Government Protects People's Rights

Government can't just do whatever it wants!!!

With virtuous leaders, the government stays in its lane.

Our Government is to follow the ORIGINAL INTENT of our Founding Fathers TO *ONLY* HELP as the Founders outlined:



PROTECT US



EDUCATE US



SETTLE DISPUTES



**MAKE NEEDED
LAWS**

The government is not supposed to be involved in every little part of your life! (Did you know that?)

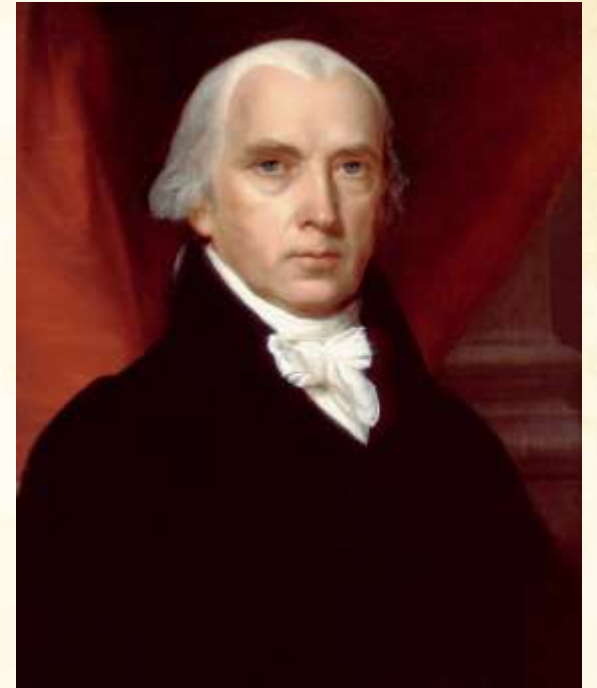
What is ORIGINAL INTENT?

Our Founding Fathers Wrote The Road Map for
How Our Country Can PROTECT Our Unalienable Rights

The Constitution



**We the People tell the Government HOW
they can best SERVE and PROTECT us!!**



James Madison

U.S. Constitution Overview



*Our Founding Fathers were **BRILLIANT!!***

*Those Geniuses planned for our nation's future and provided us a way to keep the Constitution **ALIVE!!***

We the People can add to our Constitution through Amendments!!

PREAMBLE: The Introduction to the Constitution. Lists the GOALS of this Road Map for our Nation.

ARTICLES: *Do you know how many there are?* These are the Main Body of the Constitution. Explains how each part of our Government is to operate.

AMENDMENTS: 27 added changes (so far). Stay tuned!

BILL OF RIGHTS: The first 10 Amendments; the Rights that should be guaranteed protections for all Americans.

Preamble: The Introduction to the Constitution

*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.*

A PERFECT Union?

Or...

a MORE PERFECT Union?

What's the difference?

Preamble: The Introduction to the Constitution

The use of this idea and these words was novel!

An example of the government's job and what it is intended to do.

The government is to promote, not provide, the conditions for a life of freedom.

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

The Constitution's goal is to unify the states in areas such as commerce, national security, and currency, so that the nation can prosper and be safe.

The Constitution was written to limit our government's power so that the liberties of the people will always be protected.

Gouverneur Morris, author of the Preamble



- Liked to talk! Spoke the most words at the Constitutional Convention
- Education should teach the principles of religion
- Observed French Revolution = Freedom without God which led to...
 - Chaos, Guillotine
- Put the heart at the very top (We The People, that's you & me!)



The US Constitution at a Glance: 7 ARTICLES

1. **Legislative** — represents
Congress, "We the People"

2. **Executive** — represents
Presidency

3. **Judicial** — represents
Courts

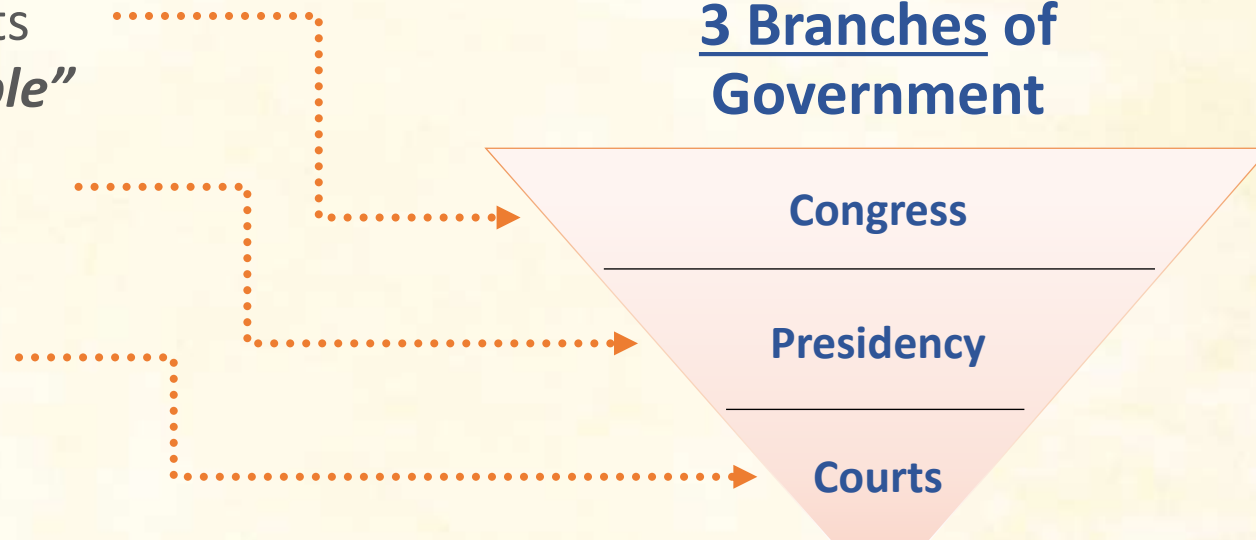
4. States; Republic

5. Amendment Process

6. Debts, Supremacy, Oath,
No Religious Test

7. Ratification & Attestation

3 Branches of Government



The 3 Branches work interchangeably with each other & have separate responsibilities. Their size and importance are to be noted by the order they are placed in the Constitution, as well as the number of words & sentences the Founding Fathers devoted to each branch within the Constitution...

3 Branches (Co-Equal=???)

Article I Legislative (*Congress*)

2,268 words, 111 lines

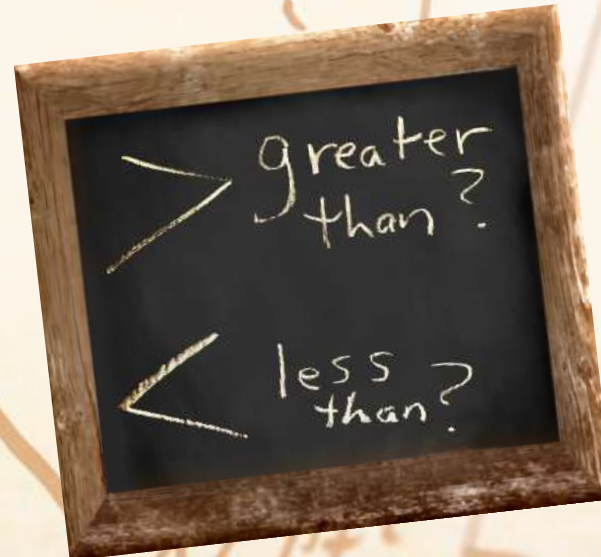
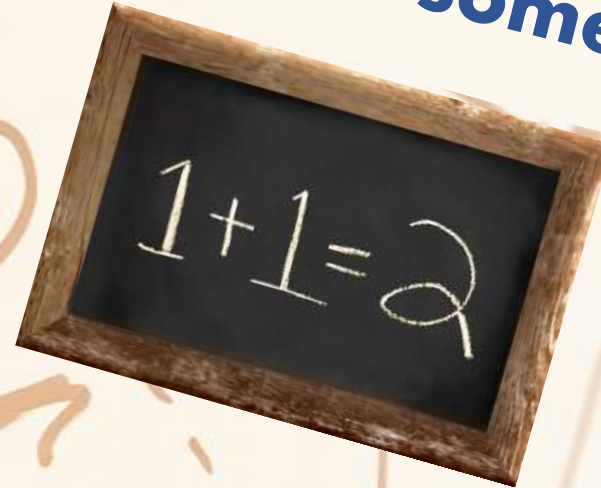
Article II Executive (*Presidency*)

1,025 words, 48 lines

Article III Judiciary (*Courts*)

377 words, 18 lines

Let's do some simple MATH...



Amendments (Article V)

Tools our Founders left us



click on phone to play...

Can you guess how many amendments have been proposed so far?

What ARE the Amendments SO FAR?

1-10: Bill of Rights (see Next Slide)

12, 20, 22, 23, 25: Presidency

11: Judiciary (suits against states)

17, 20, 27: Congress (Senate elections, terms, \$\$\$)

13, 14, 15: End Slavery & establish Civil Rights

15, 19, 24, 26: Voting Rights (race, gender, \$\$\$, age)

16: Income Tax

18 & 21: to drink or not to drink

Bill of Rights

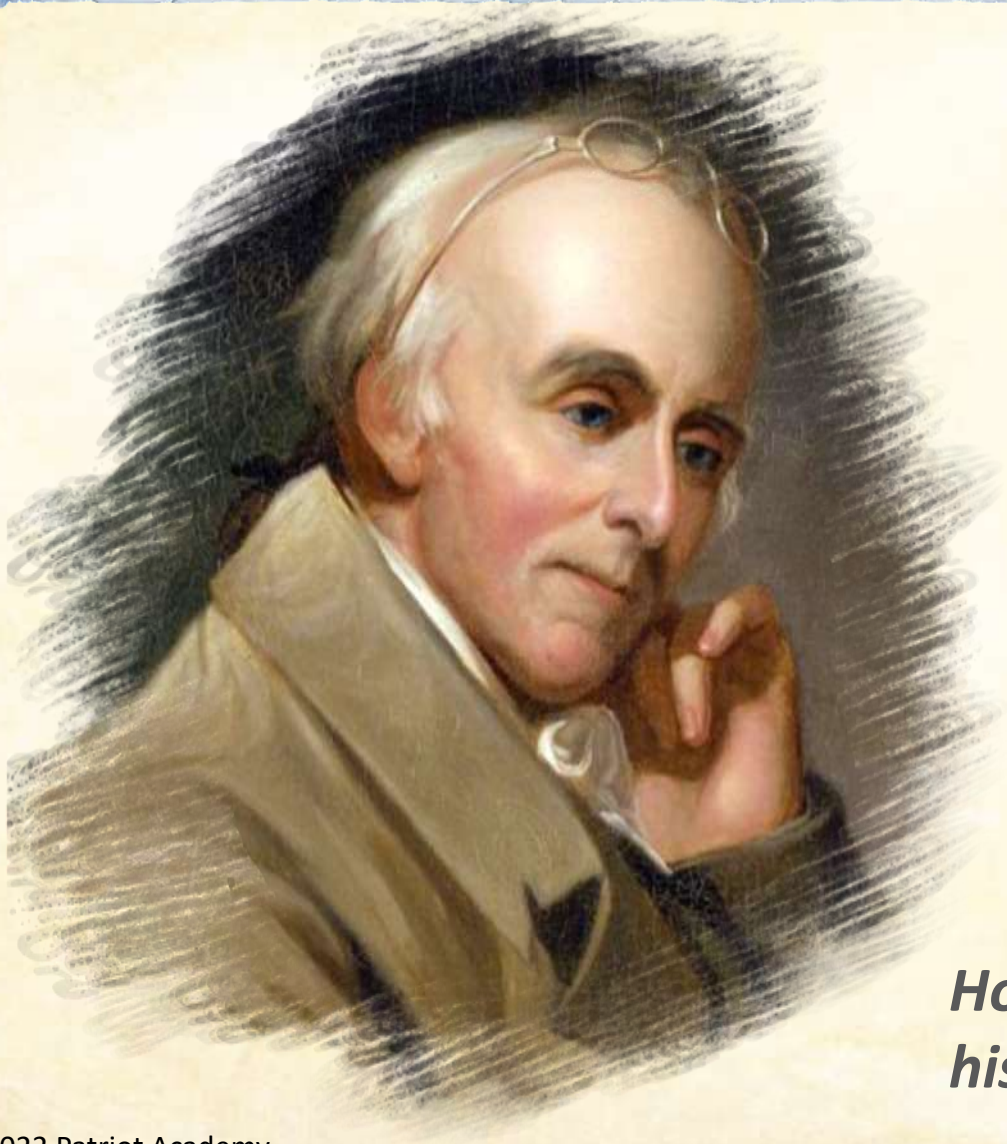
The Amendments that Protect the Rights of the Individual

- 1st** Freedom of Religion, Freedom of Speech, Freedom of the Press, and the Right to Assemble and Petition the Government
- 2nd** Our Right to Protect Ourselves and Bear Arms
- 3rd** Quartering of Soldiers
- 4th** Searches and Seizures
- 5th** Grand Jury; Double Jeopardy; Self-Incrimination; Due Process; Private Property Takings Clause
- 6th** Speedy Public Trial Jury; Witnesses; Attorney
- 7th** Civil Jury Trial
- 8th** Excessive Fines and Bail; Cruel and Unusual
- 9th** Individual Rights Not Enumerated or Limited
- 10th** Federal Rights limited/enumerated; rest left to states/people

***Look!! It's our
unalienable
rights!!***



Dr. Benjamin Rush, Father of Public Schools



- Father of Public Schools under the Constitution
- Considered one of the top 3 Founding Fathers by Founder John Adams!
- Most famous Doctor in America
- Founded 1st Anti-Slavery Society
- Big supporter of Female Education
- Schools should teach Religion, Morality & Knowledge

How do you think are we doing by his standards?

Did you know?...

Schools now use technology and create
e-learning environments



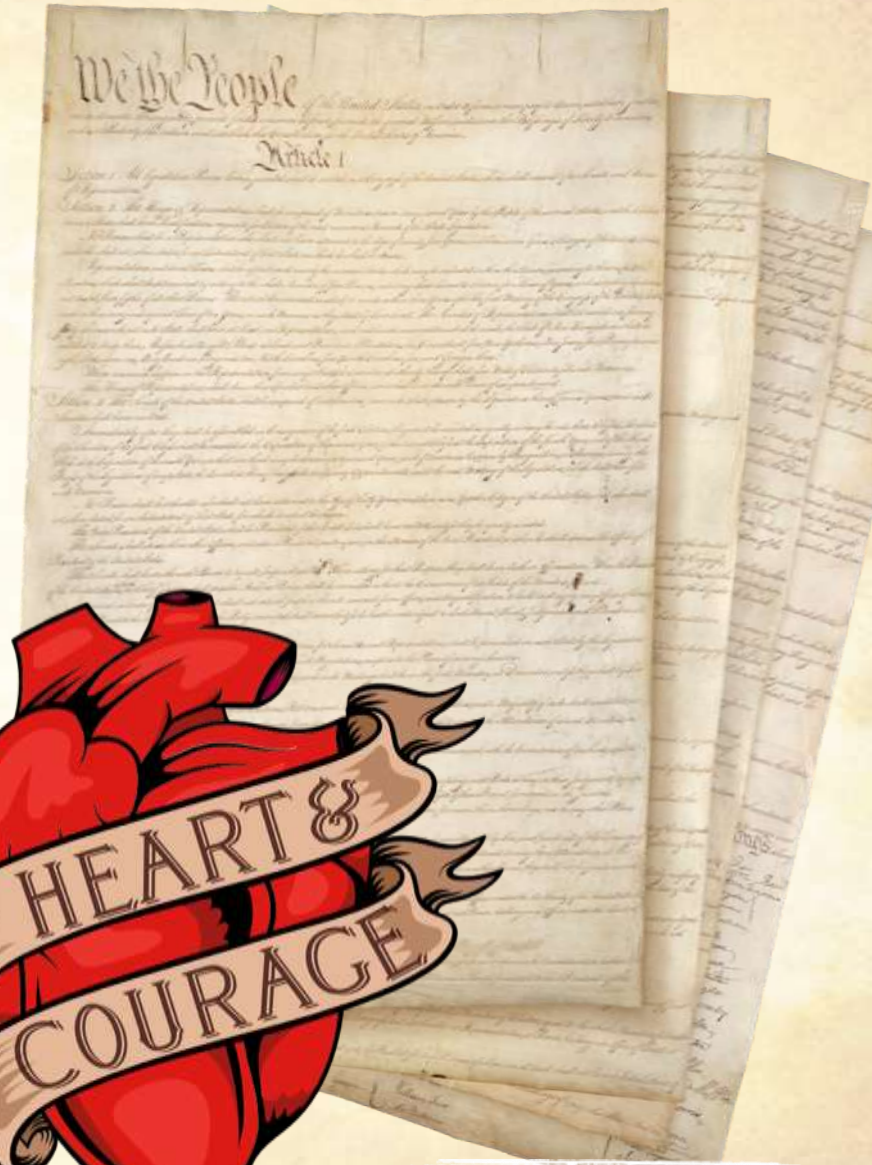
Back Then



Today

It's Only a Piece of Paper

We the People are the



How do *We the People* Live out our Duty as American Citizens?



SHOW YOUR SPIRIT!

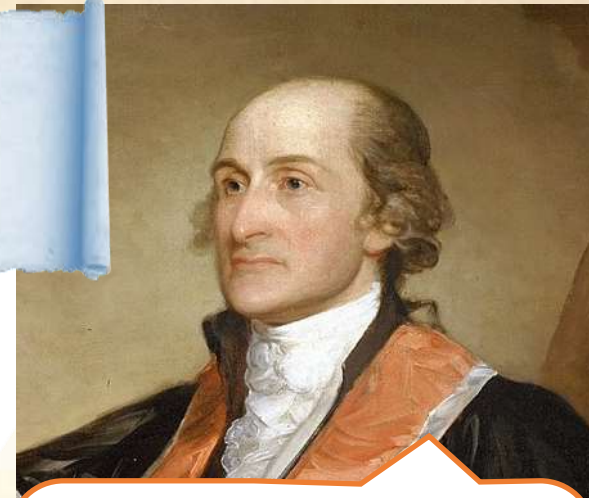


KNOCK ON DOORS:
Tell others about our
Constitution and about
Constitutional Candidates during
Elections

USE YOUR RIGHTS!
Free Speech, Freedom of Religion,
Be the Press, Assemble Together to
Petition with support or complaints!



What more
can you
think of?



**Read, Study, Teach,
Know, Perceive,
Defend & Assert**
- John Jay





AMERICA



LAND OF THE FREE
HOME OF THE BRAVE