

Happy Birthday Bill of Rights!

Our Constitution was signed by the Founders on September 17, 1787 and its 231st birthday was celebrated on that date three months ago with national "Constitution Day".

Our Bill of Rights (first 10 Amendments to the Constitution) was ratified by the states effective December 15, 1791 and its 227th birthday is recognized on that date this month with national "Bill of Rights Day". Unfortunately, its observance and significance passes with minimum media mention.

The Bill of Rights added to our Constitution guarantees of individual liberties, limitations on state and federal government power in judicial and other proceedings, and reservation to the states of powers not provided the federal government.

These historic constitutional liberties are -

1st - right to freedom from religion, freedom of any or no religion, and freedom of speech, press, peaceable assembly and grievance petition.

2nd - right to keep and bear arms.

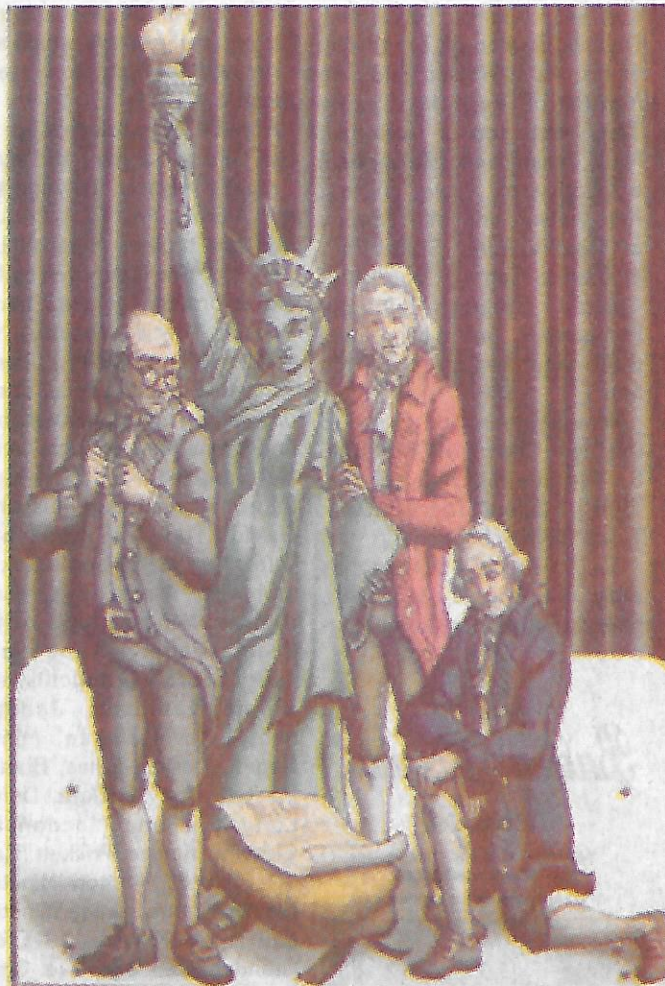
3rd - right to freedom from forced housing of soldiers without consent or law.

4th - right to freedom from search and seizure without probable cause and sworn warrant.

5th - right of accused in criminal cases to grand jury determination, no double jeopardy, no self-incrimination, and no private property seizure without just compensation.

6th - right of criminal accused to fair and speedy trial by impartial jury, witness confrontation and compulsory process, and defense counsel.

7th - right of civil litigants to jury trial, and fact determination



by jury protected.

8th - right to freedom from excessive bail, fine and punishment.

9th - rights provided may not deny the rights of others.

10th - powers not provided federal government reserved to states or people.

We became the first nation in history to constitutionally provide individual freedom of belief in addition to other personal liberties. Our American Bill of Rights was a genesis for the historic Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1948 declaring "...everyone shall have the right to freedom

of thought, conscience and religion" and other individual liberties.

We can truly celebrate with patriotic pride our Bill of Rights in the United States Constitution.

"A Bill of Rights is what the people are entitled to against every government, and what no just government should refuse..." - THOMAS JEFFERSON (3rd President & a Founder)

"The Universal Declaration of Human Rights...stands as a landmark achievement in the history of human liberty." - GEORGE W. BUSH (43rd President & a Republican)

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