

223 years ago, 39 brave men signed the United States Constitution in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 2007, September 17th was set aside by the US Congress as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day to "commemorate the formation and signing on September 17, 1787, of the Constitution and recognize all who, by coming of age or by naturalization, have become citizens."

It is a wonderful time to remember the rule of law that protects our liberties, and along with the Bill of Rights, describes the purposes, responsibilities and limits of the federal government's power.

Our founders wisely set up a system based on the principles of federalism, where the great and unifying tasks of government - from defending the borders to coining money - were assigned to the national government. Yet all powers not specifically assigned to the national government were to be reserved for the state governments and for the people. The founders knew that they hadn't thought of everything and so set up a way for the Constitution to be modified - but the amendment process was not easy. Above all, they wanted to ensure that a powerful majority would not be able to infringe on the essential liberties of the minority.

The United States Constitution is the oldest and shortest written Constitution in the world. Because of the liberties it protected, citizenship in the United States is the most desired in the world.

That is worth celebrating!

In a time when the Constitution is too often ignored, Constitution Day provides a special annual opportunity to read our Constitution and commemorate the exceptional vision of our nation's founders. Yet, Congress should not merely passively commemorate the Constitution, we should actively honor it in the laws we pass and the decisions we make.

[Read the Constitution!](#)

