

1986

How SAR's Can Celebrate the Constitution Bicentennial

NSSAR U.S. Constitution Bicentennial Committee

HOW SARs CAN CELEBRATE THE CONSTITUTION BICENTENNIAL

A Continuing Source of Information and Guidance Offered by the NSSAR U.S. Constitution Bicentennial Committee. Prepared by the Chairman, Col. Stewart B. McCarty.



"Signing of the Constitution" as painted by T. P. Rossitor. (Courtesy Independence National Historical Park Collection.)

As the Declaration of Independence was the vision of what could be, the Constitution was the beginning of the realization — and for almost 200 years we have been breathing life into that reality. We now continue to "Celebrate Your Heritage".

This is the third article in a series on "How SARs Can Celebrate the Constitution Bicentennial". There is now a ground-swell of activity taking place throughout the country. Commissions are being formed at the state and local levels, and citizens of all ages and from all parts of the country, including those overseas, are getting involved in vari-

ous programs and events focused on commemorating the Bicentennial of our Constitution. Now is the time to contact and encourage your state and local governments to form commissions, if they have not already done so, and offer to serve on these commissions when and as formed. The individual can make a significant impact here.

At our 96th Annual Congress in Tampa this past June, the banquet speaker was Dr. Mark W. Cannon, Staff Director of the Commission on the Bicentennial of the Constitution. Dr. Cannon provided us with a status report on celebration activities

throughout the country. His talk has been abstracted in another article in this issue of the magazine.

Ideas and Activities Being Reported

- Compatriot John DuBois, Assemblyman of District No. 2, Clark County, Nevada asked for a copy of our model resolution on August 17, 1987 as Constitution Day. He intends to submit such a resolution before the 1987 session of the Nevada Legislature. *Thank you for your interest, Compatriot DuBois. We wish we had someone like you in every State Legislature!*

- Compatriot G. William Glidden from the Yankee Doodle Chapter of the Empire State Society also asked for a copy of our model resolution to use. He has contacts within the New York Legislature, and has just reported that on June 16th a bill to establish a Bicentennial Commission passed both the Senate and the Assembly and was on the way to be signed by the Governor. *Good job on keeping in touch, Bill!*

- Compatriot Warren M. Nixon of the Iowa Society is working in conjunction with DAR Regent Mrs. Eva Bedford to present a copy of the model resolution to the Governor of Iowa and the Des Moines City Council. *Great work and good luck in your efforts Regent Bedford and Compatriot Nixon!*

- Compatriots Gilbert Keyes of Plymouth, WI, Laurence F. Bate, Sr. of Irving, TX and Wilmer M. Peters of Norfolk, VA all asked for a copy of the model resolution to present to their Mayors. *Fine work Compatriots, and send us a copy of the proclamations when issued!*

- The DC Society had as their speaker on May 23rd, Career Minister John L. Hedges of the U.S. Information Agency, who is the International Coordinator for the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. Mr. Hedges gave a most informative talk on what persons overseas are doing for the celebration. Overseas SARs may want to contact Mr. Hedges, whose address is listed under Federal Government contacts below.

- The Falls Church Chapter (VA) DAR recently had as their guest speaker Ralph S. Pollack, Chairman of the National Archives Constitution Study Group, speaking on "Preparing for the Bicentennial of the Constitution of the United States of America".

ADDITIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO HELP IN PLANNING

Within the Federal Government

International Coordinator for the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution
U.S. Information Agency
Washington, DC 20547

Contact: John L. Hedges, Minister of the United States of America; (202) 485-6797

Within State and Local Governments

Alaska Bicentennial Commission
Governor's Office
State Capitol
P. O. Box A
Juneau, AK 99811

California Bicentennial Commission of the U.S. Constitution
1455 Crenshaw Blvd., Suite 200
Torrance, CA 90501

Contact: Jeffrey Allen, Executive Director; (213) 328-1787

The Colorado Commission on the Bicentennial of the Constitution
7951 East Maplewood Avenue, Suite 327
Englewood, CO 80111

Contact: Esther Marie Capps, Program Coordinator; (303) 694-2377

Georgia Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution
528 State Judicial Building
Atlanta, GA 30034

Contact: Chief Justice Thomas O. Marshall, Chairman; (404) 656-3476

Indiana Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution
206 State House
Indianapolis, IN 46204

State Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution

c/o Iowa State Historical Department
East 12th & Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Louisiana Bicentennial Commission
P. O. Box 94361
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Contact: Mrs. Noele LeBlanc; (504) 925-3800

Bicentennial of the Constitution Commission (Minnesota)

Continuing Education for State Court Personnel
State Court Administration
40 North Milton Street, #200
St. Paul, MN 55104

Contact: Michael Moriarity; (612) 296-6508

Montana Statehood Centennial Office
Constitution Connections Committee
P. O. Box 1989
Capitol Station
Helena, MT 59620

Contact: Cheryl Hutchison, Centennial Coordinator; (406) 444-3111

Constitution 200
Political Science Department
Oklahoma University
455 West Lindsay Street
Norman, OK 73019

SAR State Chairmen

California Society
Paul H. Davis, 166 Beechtree Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024; (619) 436-0369

Massachusetts Society
Jerome L. Spurr, 62 Fiske Road, Wellesley Hills, MA 02181; (617) 235-5770

New Mexico Society
Clarence W. Dickinson, Jr., 10501 Lagrima de Oro NE, Apt. 325, Albuquerque, NM 87112; (505) 291-3325

What an excellent way to generate ideas for Chapter level programs!

- The "Blessings of Liberty", a twelve-poster exhibit of Project '87 covering the story of the United States Constitution, is available for order now through us at a favorable discount price on a bulk order basis. These posters are in full color, 22" x 36" in size. The exhibit includes a "User's Guide" as well. The posters come either unmounted, or mounted on three, free-standing kiosks that stand six feet high (but will pack FLAT!). By placing a bulk order with Project '87 we can provide these for a discount of 20% off the stated price of \$70.00 for the unmounted posters, and \$100.00 for the mounted posters. SAR Societies/Chapters wishing to order this outstanding display for use in such areas as public libraries, school libraries or bank lobbies should send a check made out to "Treasurer General, NSSAR" and send to Col. S. B. McCarty, Jr., 3222 Prince William Dr., Fairfax, VA 22031 (703-591-2060) to arrive no later than **August 25th**. Please include "Ship to" instructions with your order. The unmounted posters will be \$56.00 for each set, and \$80.00 for each mounted poster set. DAR Chapters are cordially invited to join us to take advantage of bulk prices under the same conditions. We expect the poster exhibits to be shipped in September.

- "Fully, Freely & Entirely" is an excellent newsletter-type publication by the Delaware Heritage Commission, 3rd Floor, Carvel State Office Building, 820 N. French Street, Wilmington, DE 19801 (302-652-6662).

- "The Humanities and the Constitution: Resources for Public Humanities Programs on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution," has been published by The National Federation of State Humanities Councils, 1012 14th Street, NW, Suite 1207, Washington, DC 20005. An excellent listing of resources and contacts. Our program information appears on page 45. There may well be grant money for qualifying programs — the Minnesota Humanities Commission has indicated an interest; possibly other state commissions will too.

- At the March 1, 1986 NSSAR Trustees Meeting in Louisville, the following motion was passed UNANIMOUSLY: "The Trustees of the NSSAR support the passage of House Resolution 106 which provides for a one-time, one-day National Holiday on September 17, 1987 to be known as Constitution Day". *Please write your Senators and Representatives urging its passage!*

- Again, please provide clippings, photos, copies of proclamations, and any other media coverage, on a continuing basis, to the Chairman of the NSSAR U.S. Constitution Bicentennial Committee at 3222 Prince William Drive, Fairfax, Virginia 22031. This documentation will provide the basis for reporting in *The SAR Magazine* of our activities, as well as provide an historical file in SAR Headquarters of our accomplishments. *Let's make the*



A scaled-down model of a portion of the Project '87 Constitution exhibit was on display at the 96th Annual Congress, shown here being viewed by Winston C. Williams (left), Editor of *The SAR Magazine*, and Col. Stewart B. McCarty, Chairman of the NSSAR U.S. Constitution Bicentennial Committee. As discussed in the accompanying article, the exhibit consists of three kiosks of the type above — with each featuring four posters. Poster subjects, which are profusely illustrated, range from the Articles of Confederation to the Bill of Rights. Numerous Compatriots placed orders for the exhibit during the Congress.

period commemorating the Bicentennial of the Constitution one we can take pride in as SARs!

- The Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution has re-

cently published a booklet titled, "A Guide to Celebrating the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution". Write to 734 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, DC 20503. *Excellent ideas in here!*

PROCLAMATION

by

WHEREAS on September 17, 1987 our nation will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States of America, one of the truly monumental events in the political history of the world; and

WHEREAS the signing of our Constitution represented the climax to a historic struggle by its framers for a philosophical consensus and unanimity of purpose among the representatives of thirteen very diverse states within our newly formed nation; and

WHEREAS the Constitution has endured to this day as one of the most significant state documents ever penned by mankind and has served throughout two centuries as a model charter for freedom loving peoples around the earth; and

WHEREAS in drafting the Constitution the delegates captured in words the hopes, the dreams and the deep longing that all men have had, since the human race first appeared on the planet, for responsible government and guarantees of liberty, thus assuring the immortality of this great document; and

WHEREAS it is altogether fitting and proper for all of our citizens to celebrate the Bicentennial of the signing of the Constitution which embodies the ideals of liberty under law and assures the blessings of liberty by the consent of the governed.

NOW THEREFORE, I, _____

of _____ do hereby proclaim September 17, 1987 as Constitution Day to remind us of the precious heritage contained in this historic document and ask all of our citizens to celebrate and observe the Bicentennial of its signing in a suitable manner.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of _____ to be affixed hereto this _____ day of _____, 198____.

This model resolution, or proclamation, as referred to in the accompanying article, is for use by appropriate local and state governmental bodies. State Societies and Chapters are encouraged to submit it to them for action.