



PUBLIC RELATIONS

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CONSTITUTION WEEK FACTS

What is a proclamation?

A proclamation is an official public announcement, usually issued by mayors, governors, etc.

Why does the DAR actively promote Constitution Week?

Constitution Week was initiated by the Daughters of the American Revolution. The DAR is a patriotic organization that encourages education and historic preservation in communities across America.

How did Constitution Week begin?

In 1955, the President General of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Gertrude S. Carraway, adopted a project to promote the observance of the U.S. Constitution with a memorial week beginning on the anniversary of the signing of this document, September 17. She asked DAR chapters, committees, and members to study, teach, and discuss the U.S. Constitution. Caraway also encouraged members to invite their governors and mayors to issue proclamations celebrating the Constitution.

When did the United States government begin to observe Constitution Week?

Constitution Week was officially declared by President Eisenhower on August 2, 1956. This was the culmination of a proposal the DAR sent through Senator William F. Knowland of California.

Is there a memorial honoring the Constitution?

Yes. DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. The inscription on the pediment reads, "Constitution Hall – a memorial to that immortal document, the Constitution of the United States, in which are incorporated the principles of freedom, equality and justice for which our forefathers strove." DAR Constitution Hall is the only structure dedicated to the U.S. Constitution.

How can I celebrate Constitution Week?

- Provide local media with the Constitution Week press release and FAQ sheet.
- Encourage your local government representatives to issue a proclamation about Constitution Week.
- Ask the school principals in your community to observe Constitution Week by issuing a school proclamation encouraging staff to teach the Constitution.
- Urge children to study the Constitution with their personal proclamation pledge.
- Contact your local DAR chapter and invite them to give a program on the Constitution.