

We now move forward to 1787, please do not disturb the 55 men who are meeting in this old Philadelphia state house. They are statesmen, patriots, each with their own ideas about how this new government should be organized. Some of them are states' rights advocates. Many of them are federalists. But you will notice that one man stands out in the crowd. His name? James Madison. And he is presenting the Virginia Plan to his fellow delegates. They will soon refer to the plan as a "political masterstroke," and in the next 5 months, it will serve as the foundation of our Constitution. By 1789, all the states had ratified and approved this new form of government. This unusual document was the first written, national constitutional since ancient times. It was also the first to set up what was called the federal system. Under this system, sovereign power comes from the people, for the good of the people.

The Founders attempted to create a form of government that would be stable, but would also allow for change. You see, in a sense, the Founding Fathers were time travelers too; they were looking to the future, planning ahead, and forming a basic framework to endure for all time. It is a document written for "we the people" and that means that "we the people" have a job to do!

Fast forward to April 1999. An issue of the USA Today Newsview+, states that one of the first things that come to mind when Americans are asked what they think about the United States and its government is "freedom". Yet according to current public opinion research fewer than 15% of Americans can name the freedom of the press and one of the rights protected under the First Amendment. And little more than half of Americans know that there are three forms of government. You see, time travelers, with freedom also comes responsibility—the responsibility to understand and defend the Constitution.

James Madison once said, "The people who are the authors of this blessing must also be its guardians." Today more than ever before we witness people and organizations testing the bounds of their Constitutional rights. From tabloids that slander high profile figures, to hate groups who use their misunderstanding of freedom to infringe upon other's inalienable rights, we are constantly called upon to defend and uphold our constitution. As such, we must be able to use our privileges responsibly. In words of Benjamin Franklin, "we have a Republic, only if we can keep it!"

And now, as we make our way back to the, 21st Century, I will remind you that this flight is interactive—meaning it is not enough to simply understand our constitution and to use our rights responsibly. Clearly, this travel back in time has taught us that our duties as citizens also carry the obligation to participate in our government.

Long after our Founding Fathers penned the last words of the Constitution, the amendment process ensured their continued involvement. You will see what I mean, by looking out the windows on the right side of the aircraft: here we see that The Bill Rights was added to the Constitution in 1791. In 1865 the 13th amendment abolished slavery and in 1868 the 14th amendment outlined the rights of all citizens. Meeting the changing needs of a growing country, however, had been known to cause slight turbulence in our return flight. Therefore, in the event that we experience any threat to ourselves and our posterity any one of the 27 amendments, will drop from the overhead compartments to ensure our domestic tranquility.

The amendment process is not the only way that we as citizens can participate in our government. What we have witnessed today should force us out of complacency and self-centeredness and put us in touch with a greater reality. Robert Kennedy made it popular, but George Bernard Shaw said it long ago: "Some people see things as they are and ask, 'Why?' I prefer to see things as they might be, and ask 'Why not?'" That is what the framers of our constitution had in mind so long ago. Our participation in that process in the 21st Century is essential to ensure that the Constitution continues to withstand the many and varied assaults from those who criticize it, misinterpret it, or challenge it.

We can begin participating in small ways such as reading a daily newspaper or weekly newsmagazine. Then, we will begin participating in bigger ways such as writing letters to public officials, investigating the qualifications of political candidates, and exercising our right to vote. So you see, even in little ways, we must take a more active role in our government—that, time travelers, is the real journey!

Our Founding Fathers, in the words of Justice Hugo Black, ". . . dreamed of a country where the mind and spirit of man would be free; where there would be no limits to inquiry; where men would be free to explore the unknown and to challenge the most deeply rooted beliefs and principles. . . ."

Today, on flight U.S. 1-7-8-7, we have traveled back in time to the formation of The Constitution of the United States. Our itinerary included a basic knowledge and understanding of the constitution; and appeal to engage in our rights responsibly; and finally, a call to participate in our government.

Here in the 21st Century, the flight crew tells me that we have been cleared for landing. We have people on hand waiting to assist you in your efforts to continue the good work of our Founding Fathers. Remember what you have experienced today is much more than a fantastic journey in to the past, it is a reminder of your responsibility for the future.

HONORING SAM CAUDILL COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a man that has made numerous contributions to his community as well as the United States as a whole. Mr. Sam Caudill served his country in the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) during World War II, and since has served the community of Aspen, Colorado as a leading architect and historian. For his life of service and adventure, I would now like to take this opportunity to honor him.

Sam started his illustrious career on a mission for the Office of Strategic Services to China in 1945 to teach guerilla warfare to Chinese soldiers so that they would be able to defend themselves if the Japanese attacked. Although Sam did not realize it at the time, this type of work was the beginning of what was to become the most extensive and complex intelligence network in the world—the

CIA. At the age of 21 Sam volunteered to be a mule packer for the American guerilla fighters. Already fighting the Japanese, he had no idea that he would be presented with the opportunity to help start a new wave of national defense.

Upon finishing his duty in the army, Sam returned to Cornell University to complete his education. After receiving his degree Sam returned to Colorado to make his mark on the skyline of Aspen. Following the lead of Frank Lloyd Wright, Sam has always strived to create buildings that grow out of the environment. Sam was awarded for his unique design of Aspen High School, which reflects the rolling hill surrounding the school with its rounded shape. He has been commissioned in numerous places throughout the state of Colorado. When people refer to Sam, he is often called "the dean of Aspen architecture."

Sam has also made a significant contribution to preserving wildlife in Colorado. He served on the Colorado Wildlife Commission from 1975 to 1983, and was chairman of the commission in 1978. During this time he has been credited with the law that allows Colorado citizens to apportion part of their tax return to the non-game and endangered species program. He also worked on the state's catch and release trout program. Sam still enjoys the outdoors and tries to hike and fish whenever possible.

An interest in local history has spurred Sam's latest contribution to society. For the last twelve years Sam has been interviewing "old timers" about their lives logging, mining and wrangling here in Colorado. Sam hopes to compile all these stories and photos he has gathered into a book titled, "Colorado—the Wild Years." His love for the old west and his reputation in the Aspen community suggests that Sam may have been born a century too late.

Mr. Speaker, like so many of us, Sam has fallen in love with the natural beauty of Colorado. He has spent his life trying to preserve that magical quality that the untamed mountains of Colorado exude. For this I and the citizens of Colorado are grateful.

REMEMBERING HAROLD BERKE

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance and to pay tribute to Harold Berke of Williamsville, New York.

While Harold Berke is no longer with us, we are blessed that his memory and his achievements live on to this day. Born Harold Berkowitz, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps prior to the start of World War II. Harold achieved the rank of Master Sergeant, and during his service to our nation, invented a device that allowed a single man to lift the tail sections of airplanes for repair and inspection.

Following his graduation from the University at Buffalo, which he attended under the GI Bill, Harold Berke went to work for Bell Aerospace, where, beginning in 1954, he led a group that provided a solution to an engine