



From the Provost's Office

Re: "Constitution Day and Citizenship Day"

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff:

I am honored to bring to your attention a very important day in the annual calendar of our nation's history. That day is September 17, and it was on that day in 1787 that our Constitution was signed. We now refer to that date as "Constitution Day." Because of the importance of "Constitution Day," Strayer University is joining in a national commitment by educational institutions across the country to provide students, faculty and staff with information about the Constitution. In light of this, the University has implemented a "Constitution Day" link to its website. The "Constitution Day" link not only contains connections to important documents and resources related to the Constitution, it also provides links to related information about the history of the United States.

Let me share with you some additional information regarding the historical significance of Constitution Day. Although the final vote on the Constitution was two days earlier, September 17 was the day that 39 of the 55 delegates, who initially assembled in Philadelphia on May 14 only to revise the Articles of Confederation, signed the new Constitution. Thus, from a government where the separate states retained primary sovereignty, the 1787 Constitution provided a new government formula -- one that clearly defined and separated the powers of the central government, the powers of the states, the rights of the people, and the process of electing representatives of the people.

However, it was not until June of 1788 that the Constitution was ratified by the states and March of 1789 before the new government was in place. As important as these events were, it was many generations later before formal public recognition was given to the day itself. The actual public celebration of "Constitution Day" evolved from a bill signed by President Harry Truman in February, 1952, establishing September 17 as "Citizenship Day." The original "Citizenship Day" had been in May, established by a bill in 1940 and signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

As you can see, what we as a university are doing now adds another element to the recognition of these historical developments. Please check out our website link at <http://www.strayer.edu/quick-links-and-contacts/student-consumer-information> and explore the learning opportunities you will find there.

We encourage you to join the nation this September 17 in honoring our very special American "Constitution Day."

Sincerely,

Cale Holman
Provost, Strayer University