

THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION 231 years...

September 17, 1787 – September 17, 2019

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America. Constitution Day commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution by thirty-nine brave men on September 17, 1787, recognizing all who are born in the U.S. or by naturalization, have become citizens. George Washington, Virginia was the first President of the USA and served in the position between 1789 and 1797. He was aptly called the father of his nation for the important role that he played in the formation of the USA. George Washington was instrumental in forcing the British forces out of Boston as the commander-in-chief of the revolutionary forces. George Washington played a key role in drafting the Constitution of the United States in the year 1787. As president, he set up protocols in the new government's executive department. His singular aim was to create a nation that would stand strong even with the war between Britain and France. The Proclamation of Neutrality under his leadership in 1793 clearly spelt out the country's stand of non-involvement in conflicts of foreign nations. His other reforms included support to set up an effective tax collection system, creation of a national bank, and reducing the nation's debt to build an economically strong country. In spite of severe opposition, he avoided war with Britain at all costs and maintained peace for over a decade with the Jay Treaty that was put together in 1795. As Washington's farewell address was clearly a lesson on republican virtue and warning against support of war in foreign nations and sectionalism. Benjamin Franklin, Pennsylvania was one of the Founding Fathers of United States of America. He was an extremely talented person with diverse skills including being an author and printer, scientist, civic activist, diplomat and statesman. He came up with glass 'armonica', the lighting rod and the Franklin stove. He is the reason behind the formation of the first fire department in Pennsylvania and the first public lending library in the USA. He was seen as a role model due to his hard work, self-governing institution, community spirit and education. Due to his interest in science and technology, he did many experiments and became famous and paramount because of such. He established the Marshall and Franklin College and the University of Pennsylvania. In Philadelphia, he served as a delegate in the Philadelphia Convention. He is known to be the only Founding Father that is a signatory of U.S. founding documents which are, United States Constitution, Alliance Treaty with France, Paris Treaty and the Declaration of Independence of the United States. Alexander Hamilton, New York is considered by most



historians to be a Founding Father of the United States of America. He was the country's first Secretary of the Treasury, and can still be seen as the face on the nation's ten dollar bill. He was considered to be a political philosopher and was a coauthor of the Federalist Papers along with James Madison, and John Jay. During the Revolutionary War, Hamilton first served with the New York militia and later become an aide to General George Washington. He fought at Yorktown leading several battalions in battle. After the war, he practiced law and founded the Bank of New York. He also served in the state legislature in New York. When Washington became the first President of the United States, Hamilton went to work for him as the Secretary of the Treasury. Hamilton was well known for his belief in a strong central government, much like the British had. Hamilton's ideas concerning the importance of a strong central government were never lost. During the Revolutionary war it was the decentralized nature of the effort to fight the British that was the beginning of his frustration. After the war he urged the new constitution to be ratified and was the only one from New York to sign the document at the convention. After signing the constitution, he worked hard to get the state of New York to ratify it. Working with Madison and Jay, he took it upon himself to write the Federalist Papers, which was in essence a defense of the new constitution of the United States. New York ratified the constitution in 1788 and Hamilton was influential in getting all thirteen states to ratify the country's new constitution. The Federal Education Department issued a proclamation to commemorate Constitution Day and Citizenship Day from September 17 to September 23, as Constitution Week of the United States of America. The Mayaguez University Campus and the Department of Economic Assistance of the University of Puerto Rico join the celebration by contributing to the inspiration and dedication of the fundamental principles in the emotional, intellectual and occupational development of our students. Thanks to federal funding, most of our students have been able to achieve their goals. We encourage our university community to learn more about the Constitution of the United States of America.

