

*We Believe in America &
Its Remarkable Freedom Trail
Commemorative Hymn Sing Program*

Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance:.....

Opening Hymn:.....Hymn #340

*The Star-Spangled Banner
Everyone--all verses*

Invocation:.....

Introduction

“Tonight , through music and spoken messages, we are remembering and celebrating Constitution Week and expressing gratitude to our Father in Heaven for the blessings of this free land, our remarkable freedom trail, and the great blessing of families, for strong families are the backbone and strength of our nation.

Though we are celebrating the 226th (2013) anniversary of the Signing of the United States Constitution, we also desire to share several inspirational stories from our history and declare, **We Believe in America and Its Remarkable Freedom Trail.** “

**Ring the Bells of Freedom (into)
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (hymn)**

A Mayor’s Constitution Week Proclamation (2 narrators)

“We call upon the citizens of _____ to renew and deepen their appreciation of the unique and precious heritage passed on to us by our Founding Fathers, and

WHEREAS, we recognize the fire of liberty is enshrined in the United States Constitution which remains a beacon of freedom to all people; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the blessings of Heaven for our Constitution and that it remains as Judge David Davis observed more than a century ago, ‘A law for

rulers and people, equally in war and peace, and covers with the shield of its protection all classes of men, at all times, and under all circumstance’, and

WHEREAS, we encourage families to regularly study the fortress of our liberty – the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, It is by choice, not by imposition, that the Constitution is the supreme law of our Land. Each of us has a personal obligation to acquaint ourselves with it and with its central role in guiding our Nation. While a constitution may set forth rights and liberties, only the citizens can maintain and guarantee those freedoms. Active and informed citizenship is not just a right; it is a duty.”

WHEREAS, in recognition of the importance of the Constitution and the role of our citizenry in shaping our government, the congress, by Joint Resolution has designed September 17 of each year as Citizenship Day and the Congress, by Joint Resolution also requested the President of the United States to proclaim the week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as “Constitution Week”.

Now **THEREFORE**, as Mayor of the City of _____, _____, do hereby proclaim September 17-23 as Constitution week, a time to renew our commitment to our country and the United States Constitution, looking to the future and future generations. I urge all Americans to plan fitting ceremonies and activities in their schools, churches, and other suitable places and encourage the citizens of Independence to become involved in the teaching, learning, and celebration of this great document and its principles of freedom.”

My Country, ‘Tis of Thee (hymn)

Narrator

“Though, the roots of our freedom extend back to our pre-mortal existence, given to us by a loving Heavenly Father, we will share some experiences from Magna Carta, Mayflower Compact, the wonder of winning our freedom and on to the blessings of the laws that govern our land, the United States Constitution.”

A Magnificent Stand (History Event)

“Although the birth of our freedoms began earlier, we will start with the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215. This event came about as a result of the unreasonable demands and the progressive usurpation of citizens’ rights by the King of England, King John. The signing of the Magna Carta was an attempt to bind the king to the rule of natural law, rather than of selfish decrees and the right of inheritance.

The king's barons involved in the writing of the Magna Carta recognized man had natural rights which did not have their origin with a king or any individual. This event was a monument to men's liberties, a beam of fragile light in an otherwise dark world, and a critical building stone for the freedoms we enjoy today.

On July 9, 1165, Stephen Langston, a key player in this story, was born. He was a bright young man who eventually went to France to study French and Latin. While in France he met a man with whom he became good friends, who later became Pope innocent. Several decades after completing school, Stephen's friend was made Pope and the Pope in turn made Stephen Langston a Bishop and offered him the position of Archbishop of Canterbury. Mr. Langston accepted the position but was compelled to wait several years before King John would allow him to come back to England. You see, the Archbishop of Canterbury was the most important Bishop in England since he was an advisory to the king in matters of religion and government.

While serving as Archbishop of Canterbury, it did not take Mr. Langston long to realize the injustices of King John. He tried several times to get the king to make some corrections but had no success. Willing to risk his position and life to correct the injustices placed upon the English people, he called a meeting of the barons and from his group selected a smaller number to attend a private meeting.

At this meeting, Stephen Langston presented a copy of an earlier proclamation by King Henry, written 200 years earlier, which discussed some of the inherent rights the people should have. From this proclamation, Mr. Langston built his case, and suggested they unite and call the current king to task and compel him to sign a proclamation granting the people certain rights.

Accordingly, the meeting was held with King John and, due to some current financial circumstances, the king was forced to sign the Magna Carta. He authorized handwritten copies of the Magna Carta to be prepared on parchment, affixed with his seal and publicly read throughout the realm. This bound not only him but his "heirs, forever" to grant "to all freemen of our kingdom" the rights and liberties the great charter described. With the Magna Carta, King John placed himself and England's future sovereigns and magistrates within the "rule of law."

Needless to say, the king was quite upset and decided to take action to reverse the signed proclamation.

This would not be an easy thing to do. Remember, when a proclamation was signed by the king it became the "rule of law," and he was subject to the law. So

the king hired mercenaries from Europe, subsequently called *Satan's Guards*, to assist him in a plan to overthrow the proclamation.

While waging war against the barons and also King Louis of France, King John and his mercenaries were in the area of the king's current destination, Swine Head Monastery. There in the area, they arrived at a place called Sandy Shallow. This was where a stream flowed into The Wash, which is what they called the ocean. This was the area of downfall for King John.

Little understood by the King, was that twice-a-day a meeting of fresh water and salt water sometimes would develop an enormous clash and create a dangerous situation.

The King determined to reach the monastery by nightfall, believed they could cross Sandy Shallows safely. Ignoring the advice of his knights, he was the first to urge his horse into the water. The guards and troops then followed him into the stream. At that moment it seemed certain the whole train could cross over before the tide imposed by serious problem.

Just as all the wagons had entered the river, (Wagons containing all the King's gold, silver, and other costly possessions) the in-coming tide crashed with the exiting fresh water creating a tremendous turbulence.

The king saw his wagons suddenly engulfed with an incredible force and he watched as his entire treasury was carried away—never to be found. The mercenaries realizing the king now had no means to pay them abandoned their efforts and within six months King John and his campaign to destroy the Magna Carta was ended.

Does it not seem more than a coincidence to you that this great turbulence happened precisely as all the king's wealth was at risk?

Had he succeeded in his efforts to nullify the Magna Carta, the train of events leading up to the freedom we enjoy today and our constitution may not have been.”

Building Us a Nation (song)

Freedom's Highway of 1620 (History Event)

“Religious persecution in England sent the first successful colonizers on freedom’s highway to America during the fall of 1620. On November 9, the Pilgrims first sighted land. They originally intended to land on the coast of Virginia, where they had a land patent from England. But because of violent storms, which proved to be Providential, they were driven off course and compelled to enter Cape Cod Bay (Massachusetts).

Two days later, before leaving the Mayflower, they drafted the Mayflower Compact. “The Mayflower Compact was our first American document of self-government with unity. It was the mustard seed transplanted to the shores of America . . . It was the seed of American Federalism, of voluntary principles of government derived from the Word of God, and with the consent of the governed.”

It began,

“In ye name of God Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James by the grace of God, of Great Britain, Franc, & Ireland king, defender of ye faith, &c. having undertaken, for ye glories of God and advancement of ye Christian faith, Do by these presents solemnly & Mutually in ye presence of God and one of another, covenant, & combine ourselves together into a civil body politic; for our better ordering, & preservation & furtherance of ye ends aforesaid.”

“Immediately upon setting foot on land, the Pilgrims fell to their knees and blessed the God of Heaven who had safely brought them there. To their amazement, as they explored their new home, they discovered the land had been cleared, leveled, and was ready for planting. There were sweet water wells and a large kettle filled with corn. You can imagine their surprise.

It wasn’t until March of the next year they discovered the answer to this riddle. Samoset, an Indian brave, walked into camp and in the English language welcomed them—another miracle. He told them that four years before their arrival, a large tribe of hostile Indians, the Patuxets, had settled there. During that time a mysterious plague occurred among the Indians and every one of them died. Since then, no other Indian tribe had dared to visit this location, which made it the safest possible place for the pilgrims to settle and build their new home.”

Building Us a Nation (song)

Providential Hand of Protection (History Event)

“In October of 1781, during our battle for freedom, General Charles Cornwallis and some 7,000 British and Hessian soldiers had been waging war in the south and had determined to capture Virginia, and then on to the central states. General Cornwallis designed Yorktown as his staging area because of the ready access to the ocean and York River.

A few months earlier, during June and July of 1781, Washington had planned to attack the British in New York, but was unable to gather sufficient troops. Upon hearing Cornwallis had moved to Yorktown, Washington changed his plans and headed for Virginia to capture Cornwallis. Manned with French and American troops and the support of 28 French sail-of-the-line ships and several frigates carrying some 3,000 more troops, Washington planned to block the Chesapeake Bay entrance to Yorktown. For the first time, it seemed the odds clearly favored Washington.

The French and American quickly surrounded Yorktown and began their siege. Realizing the extreme danger, General Cornwallis planned to abandon Yorktown to Gloucester and then on to New York.

On the night of the 16th, Cornwallis sent a portion of his troops across the river arriving at Gloucester Point just before midnight. A storm then arose, which made the return of the boats and transportation of the rest of the troops totally impracticable. All night the wind howled making the passage of the rest of his troops impossible. On the 17th, Cornwallis had the troops return to Yorktown, just in time to take part in their surrender. This effectively ended the war. Some 7,000 British and Hessian troops, including all their guns and ammunition were surrendered to the Americans.

Had the storm not arisen, it is quite possible the British could have escaped making possible the continuation of the war.

General Washington recognized providential assistance, and the day after the surrender issued the following general orders; “Divine service shall be performed tomorrow in the different brigades and divisions. The Commander-in-Chief recommends that all the troops that are not upon duty do assist at it with serious deportment and that sensibility of heart which the recollection of the surprising and particular interposition of Providence in our favor claims.”

“A proclamation was also issued by Congress appointing the 13th of December as a day of thanksgiving and prayer, on account of this signal and manifest favor of Divine Providence in behalf of our country.”

Building Us a Nation (song)

America the Beautiful (song)

**September 17, 1787 from the *A More Perfect Union* DVD Segment
(Multi-media)**

Hymn for America

Narrator

“Families are the backbone and strength of the nation. We are encouraged to take the time to study the lives and dedication of our Founding Fathers and Mothers (families) for they are constant reminders that we are blessed beneficiaries of a freedom earned by great sacrifice of property, reputation, and life. It is our responsibility and opportunity to instill the sacred principles contained in our remarkable history and in this great document, the Constitution of the United States, into the hearts and minds of our youth. We have the obligation to rekindle the flame of Liberty that existed well over two hundred years ago among those who pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor—to nurture, teach, cherish and protect our Constitutional Freedoms given to us by God.”

Loving Families (song)

Behold, A Royal Army! (hymn)

In closing, let us share together the great Battle Hymn; Mine eyes have seen the glory and the benediction will then be given by _____.

Battle Hymn (hymn)

Benediction