

FFWPU USA: Honoring *Bill of Rights Day* in the United States of America

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"I believe that God's hope is for freedom on the earth," said True Father, as he spoke before members of Congress in June 1984. "The survival of the entire world depends on America fulfilling its responsibility. America is the last bastion of freedom."

Today, America celebrates Bill of Rights Day, which commemorates the first 10 Amendments to the U.S. Constitution that were ratified on December 15, 1791. The bill - introduced by James Madison, who later became the fourth U.S. President - established this important day to celebrate the framework of society that ascribes rights and freedoms to our citizens.

The 10 Amendments (known as the Bill of Rights) protect the most basic rights of Americans, including notions like freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, the right to protest, and equal protection under the law, among others. A first in human history, the Bill of Rights has proven to be one of the most influential documents in modern times, codifying the theory of natural rights, which holds that humans are granted certain freedoms and liberties by God.

Since the inception of the Unification movement, True Parents have often spoken about the importance of America and our God-given freedoms, as well as exercising our rights with responsibility and love. As we observe Bill of Rights Day, we honor the sanctity of the freedoms God has bestowed upon every human being, and God's hope of America leading the way to establishing the kingdom of peace on earth.

Below is an excerpt from True Father's 1976 speech, "America and God's Will," which shares the historic responsibility of our nation to the rest of the world.

God is eternal, unchanging, unique and absolute. If those are the qualities of God, His purpose of Creation must also be eternal, unchanging and absolute. In the beginning, God's ideal was to create one world of unity and harmony. Today, however, our world has no unity or harmony... Clearly, something is fundamentally wrong.

Religion has an explanation: It says that this worldwide division is the result of our first ancestors' rebellion against God, the Fall of Adam and Eve... The human Fall brought about this fallen world. To be restored as an original person, we must reverse the process of the Fall... God's formula to restore us is for us to become God-like. This means that we must become completely

selfless and public-minded...

God sent Jesus Christ as the Messiah. God's hope was that the chosen nation and religion would become one with Jesus, establish the kingdom of God on earth and restore the world to God... Jesus was not accepted as the Messiah, and finally was crucified. Thus, God's kingdom remained a promise, not a reality. However, Jesus opened the way to spiritual salvation and started Christianity...

[Eventually] the British Empire started on its path to become the greatest power in the world... However, Britain persecuted the Puritans and was apathetic toward the reforming spirit. The persecuted people had to look for a land of hope. They were united by a common destiny. Transcending race and national barriers and fleeing persecution, they came to the New World, the American continent.

Today, America and Christianity together must take up the sacred task of world restoration. America must unite the cultures of the West and the East, as well as the Middle East, and create one great, unified culture, ultimately fulfilling the mission of establishing the kingdom of God on earth.

The United States of America, transcending race and nationality, is already a model of the unified world. The people of the United States must realize that the abundant blessings God has been pouring upon this land are not just for America but for all human beings throughout the world...

One world under God is the unchanging, eternal and absolute desire of God. This goal will be realized... when all people worship one God as their Father, accept one Messiah and uphold Godism, an absolutely God-centered way of life.

You can read the 2021 national proclamation of Bill of Rights Day from President Joe Biden [here](#).



BRIEFING ROOM

A Proclamation on Bill of Rights Day, 2021

DECEMBER 14, 2021 • PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

More than two centuries ago, our Founders drafted the Constitution in order to create an American Government that could act with urgency on national issues without compromising individual rights and freedoms. They had the genius not only to craft such a Government but to foresee their own fallibility as well. In their foresight, they made the charter at the heart of our Nation a *living* document — including within it a process by which it could be amended to evolve and keep pace with the wisdom of passing time.

Opportunities to improve our Constitution have been contemplated since its inception. On December 15, 1791, three-fourths of the existing State legislatures ratified the first 10 Amendments of the Constitution — the Bill of Rights. These Amendments protect some of the most indispensable rights and liberties that define us as Americans. Though we have often struggled to live up to the promises they contain, 230 years after the ratification of the Bill of Rights, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms remains at the center of our democracy.

The Bill of Rights is important not only in the freedoms it protects but in its demonstration of America’s enduring commitment to self-improvement and striving to continuously form a “more perfect union.” Since 1791, 17 additional Amendments have been ratified for a total of 27 Amendments to the Constitution. From the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery; to the 14th Amendment, which guaranteed birthright citizenship, promised “equal protection under the laws,” and safeguarded fundamental rights and fair process; to the several Amendments devoted to prohibiting electoral discrimination based on race, sex, age, and the inability to afford a tax; to the most recent amendment ratified in 1992 to keep members of Congress more responsive to their voters — our history of amending the Constitution illustrates that improving our democracy is the shared and constant duty of all Americans. Democracy’s greatest strength is the ability it provides its citizens to improve their system of governance, which is why democracy is uniquely suited to face the challenges of a changing world.

Just as our Founders overcame their differences to form the democracy we know today, our country continues to confront its problems head-on and work together to fix them, even in the face of disagreements. Respectful disagreement is healthy and American — indeed, it is protected by the Bill of Rights itself — but there is no place in a democracy for threats or violence.

Earlier this month, the United States hosted the first ever Summit for Democracy, where Governmental and non-governmental leaders from

around the world came together to set forth an affirmative agenda for democratic renewal and to tackle the greatest threats faced by democracies today through collective action. By working with our democratic partners, we can meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 15, 2021, as Bill of Rights Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.

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