

What Exactly Are We Celebrating?

The United States Constitution.

Established in 1789, it is the oldest written national constitution currently in effect. It adapts to our changing society through the addition of amendments.

The First Amendment protects many of the freedoms that we exercise on a daily basis, such as freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right to freely practice religion, and the right to peacefully assemble. The first ten amendments together - otherwise known as the Bill of Rights - outline the various basic freedoms that make this country such a wonderful place to live.

Bill of Rights - The Really Brief Version

The first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution are summarized below.

- ◇ Freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition.
- ◇ Right to keep and bear arms in order to maintain a well regulated militia.
- ◇ No quartering of soldiers
- ◇ Freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures
- ◇ Right to due process of law, freedom from self-incrimination, double jeopardy.
- ◇ Rights of accused persons, e.g., right to a speedy and public trial.
- ◇ Right of trial by jury in civil cases.
- ◇ Freedom from excessive bail, cruel and unusual punishments.
- ◇ Other rights of the people.
- ◇ Powers reserved to the states.

*The Oath of Allegiance

I hereby declare on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign

and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant services in the armed forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, So help me God.



Earlier this Spring, Maria Juluryabake recited the Oath and was sworn in as a United States citizen at her Naturalization Ceremony!

Her children, Evangelina and Josiane, by virtue of being the minor children of a Naturalized Citizen, also became citizens that same day.

Welcome to them all, and also to others in our community who have become citizens!