



FRA

AMERICANISM-PATRIOTISM
MANUAL

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FOREWORD

The purpose of this manual is to assist Branch, Regional and National Americanism-Patriotism Committeemen in the performance of some of their duties.

The delegates at the 40th National FRA Convention, held in our nation's capitol, recommended that a guideline be compiled and published to stress the significance of "special days" that should be observed by the membership and all Americans because of our nation's heritage and adopted principles.

The delegates at the 51st National Convention of the FRA, held in Las Vegas, mandated that the 1978-79 National Committee on Memorial Day and Patriotic Holidays update, reprint and mail to all branches a copy of the pamphlet "Faithfully Revered Anniversaries."

After review of the pamphlet the 1978-79 Committee commended the 1967-68 Committee for its detailed research and forethought in preparing this pamphlet. Some changes were necessary to include the Coast Guard, date changes for observance of holidays due to legislative action to include a mandate to the committee by the delegates.

The delegates at the 62nd National Convention of the FRA, held in Nashville, Tennessee directed that the 1989-90 National Committee for Americanism-Patriotism develop a National Americanism-Patriotism Committee Manual. It is hoped that this new manual will become a helpful reference for all branch and regional Americanism-Patriotism Committeemen.

Since this is a guideline and since many branch and regional chairmen already have in place a method that works for them; thus, for them most of this manual information will be only as a reference. Further, there can be no substitute for individual branch and region imagination, ingenuity, desire and planning to conduct a meaningful observance suited to the capabilities and locale or how to best conduct a successful essay contest. However, new branch and regional Americanism-Patriotism chairmen need a place to start and it is hoped that this manual will be of help to them.

This manual with minor changes since revised and retitled by the 1989-1990 National Committee on Americanism-Patriotism is promulgated as an addendum to the Branch Administrative Manual by the National Executive Director. Contributions to make this a better source document are welcome and encouraged and should be addressed to the Chairman, National Committee on Americanism-Patriotism.

COMMITTEE ON AMERICANISM-PATRIOTISM

Duties. The Chairman of the branch, regional and national committees on Americanism-Patriotism have the duty to encourage shipmates, as well as all fellow citizens.

- To honor the flag of the United States of America.
- To observe all patriotic days and anniversaries of distinguished persons and events in our nation's history.
- To promote the Constitution of the United States of America and to instill and foster the principles of our founding fathers to our youth.
- To plan appropriate activities, often with participation with other veteran organizations and encourage participation in all local patriotic programs and celebrations.
- To conduct an annual Americanism Essay Contest, in accordance with all branch, regional and national guidelines.
- To honor our departed Shipmates and their families.

Responsibilities. In carrying out their duties, branch and regional chairmen shall closely follow the direction of the National Chairman of the Americanism-Patriotism Committee.

Branch, regional and national chairmen shall perform such duties as respectively assigned by the branch, regional and national presidents and shall recommend programs to their respective president that reflect credit on the FRA.

Regional and branch chairmen shall promote and sponsor within their respective areas, support for the Americanism Essay Contest.

At the end of their term, branch, regional and national Americanism-Patriotism Committee Chairmen shall turn over to the relieving chairman, or the branch secretary for branch chairmen, this manual and all related committee papers, including a copy of their committee report.

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

The importance of the Americanism Essay Contest to the FRA cannot be overemphasized. An enthusiastic and energetic essay program can also provide tremendous public relations potential which, of course, may lead to membership increases for the branch and the association. A spin-off may be more opportunities for youth activities (by providing new school contacts) which can also lead to additional public relations, etc. All this increased activity awaits the branch that is willing to try the guidelines provided in this manual. Just as important to the FRA is the opportunity that is given to the youth of America to focus their attention and creativity in producing an essay which stirs thoughts of patriotism and reaffirms their love our great country.

The following order of events for the essay contest provides a quick reference and will be expounded upon, as necessary, in later paragraphs.

- The National Chairman on Americanism-Patriotism announces the theme for the essay contest, two years in advance, at the National Convention (See SR-12).
- The theme and rules for the contest are published in the July issue of *FRA Today* each year.
- The National Headquarters mails essay contest posters to all branches in June.
- Essays must be collected by branches no later than 1 December.

- Branch essay winners, first place for each grade, must be mailed to the Regional Americanism-Patriotism Chairman postmarked no later than 1 February.
- The Regional Americanism-Patriotism Chairman submits the regional first place winners for each grade to the National Chairman no later than 1 March.
- The National Chairman announces the national winners and forwards prizes to the sponsoring branches no later than 20 May.

If you wait until the school year starts, particularly in larger school systems, you have little chance of collecting massive numbers of essays. School systems are inundated with requests for essays and yours may get lost among the sheer volume of the others. Since the theme for the essay contest is announced two years in advance, normally using the themes listed in SR-12 on a rotational basis, it is not necessary to wait for the announcement in the July *FRA Today*. Even if your branch is unaware of the new theme, action can be initiated within your local school systems since the rules do not drastically change from year to year.

It is highly recommended that you make contact with your school system's Social Studies Coordinator (title may be Director or something else in your area) in June. Contacting the Social Studies Coordinator means that you only have to convince one person about the essay contest, rather than individual principals/teachers. The Social Studies Coordinator will then pass the information to all the social studies teachers in the system and your program is off and running. The initial contact may be by letter, or in person. In either case, there are certain essentials that must be considered.

- Most essay contests are on a national basis only and the chances of a local student winning are remote. If you explain that the FRA contest features local winners at six grade levels in addition to regional and national winners, your chances of having the school system's cooperation increases.
- Mention the fact that your branch has a youth activities program and what are some of your activities. This shows that you are not "essay oriented" but also have a vital interest in the youth of your community in other areas as well.
- This first contact is extremely important. You are in a position of being a salesman. You are selling the FRA, the essay contest, your branch and yourself. Show enthusiasm for the contest, pride in the FRA, and genuine concern for feelings of patriotism in our youth. Provide the coordinator with a copy of the contest rules. If you make contact in June, promise to return in July with the latest information from *FRA Today*.

Assuming you are now successful on a grand scale, certain logistics need to be considered. Your branch will probably have in excess of 1,000 essays to judge during December and early January. Can you handle that? Probably not. It is suggested that you ask the Social Studies Coordinator to have the individual teachers select the best 3-5 essays from each class and place the essay cover sheet on top of the selected essays. The branch will then have to judge only those essays previously screened by the teachers. Enclosure (1) is a suggested grading guideline for use by branch, region and national Americanism-Patriotism Committee Chairmen.

It is recommended that you provide the essay cover sheets, to the coordinator sometime in October. This gives you an excuse to return to his/her office to maintain contact and hopefully foster further good relations.

On 1 December, when the essays are collected from the coordinator, take a photographer along and have pictures taken of the occasion with the branch president, branch Americanism-Patriotism chairman and any available school officials. These photographs may prove to be a public relations boom at a later date.

Postmarked no later than 1 February, the branch first place winners are submitted to the Regional Americanism-Patriotism Chairman in accordance with SR-12. It is important that an identity sheet be attached to each winning essay and that the information is accurate and complete. This is the branch's responsibility and missing or inaccurate

information only adds to the regional chairman's workload. All branches submitting essay shall submit an interim report on the form provided as Enclosure (2).

As part of the branch "Americanism Night," invite the branch essay winners and their parents, school officials and someone from the local newspaper, if possible. Invite the winners to read their essays to the membership prior to presenting their awards. The first time that the Social Studies Coordinator attends, present him/her with a plaque or some other token of gratitude. This will show how much the branch appreciates their cooperation and it will put the branch in an excellent position for next year's contest. A proclamation from the Mayor, will add to the festivities. All this, together with whatever the branch normally does on "Americanism Night" will make this one of the best occasions of the year.

Regional chairman are encouraged to use the same system for distribution of essays as is outlined in SR-12. That is, number the essays and do not provide identity sheets to the committee members. This will ensure that each essay is judged on its own merit without regard to which branch submitted it. It is human nature, at times, to try to spread the wealth if one branch or region appears to have too many winners. The origin of the essay should have no bearing on its final grade. Regional chairmen are encouraged to use the grading guideline at enclosure (1) for the sake of consistency throughout the association. First place regional winners must be submitted to the National chairman no later than 1 March. Since the national awards will be distributed in late May, it is suggested that the regional first, second and third place winners be announced in March and awards be sent to the sponsoring branches at that time.

The National Committee on Americanism-Patriotism will act upon the regional winning essays in accordance with SR-12.

Branches having regional and/or national winners should notify the local school system immediately and arrange for proper award ceremonies at either a branch meeting or at the school awards ceremonies with media coverage.

The branch Americanism-Patriotism chairman must arrange for publicity in all media sources. This publicity should also be geared toward the observance of patriotic holidays and other patriotic endeavors by the branch.

In addition, the branch chairman must keep a record of all branch Americanism-Patriotism activities. This information shall be saved during the year and then used as part of the annual report.

Each branch within the association has numerous activities during the year relating to Americanism-Patriotism. Therefore, no branch should ever submit a "negative report." National SR-7 contains guidelines for the submission of standing committee reports. The annual report should include copies of any newspaper articles, photographs, programs, press releases, etc., relating to the branch's Americanism-Patriotism activities during the FRA year.

Placing the annual report in a report binder improves its presentation value.

WHY OBSERVE PATRIOTIC HOLIDAYS?

Many of us are inclined to accept patriotic holidays as a way of life. Most of these special days have been a part of our existence for such a long time that we are prone to overlook the true significance of the occasion. We fail to take advantage of our sea services legacy that provides a unique opportunity for us to publicly revere our country, principles, national heroes, Flag, honored dead, and hosts of living Americans who have served or are now serving the causes of freedom. In exhibiting such apathy, we fall short of our obligations to inspire a younger generation; they who will one day be called to stand in opposition to the forces who would seek to obliterate Democracy.

Unfortunately the observance of many of these "special days" is primarily devoted to recreation. Group and personal enjoyment is certainly not condemned, but such activity should never be allowed to surpass the deeper meaning of the observance of these days to such a degree that only a vague and shallow patriotism, devoid of any specific content, is portrayed.

HOW TO OBSERVE PATRIOTIC HOLIDAYS

It is obvious that many of the “special days” will require specific planning. For example, Lincoln’s Birthday and Navy Day might be observed with a banquet featuring distinguished speakers and honored guests. Occasions such as Veteran’s Day could be celebrated by branch participation in a community parade. Memorial Day brings to mind a cemetery observance; placing of flags on graves and impressive out-of-doors commemorative services. Available facilities, climate established customs and geographical locations are only a few of the decisive factors that must be considered at the branch level. It would be presumptuous to suggest that Pearl Harbor Day should always be observed by dropping wreaths from the fantails of Navy vessels. Such a gesture would prove most suitable for branches that are established in or near seaports, but for those who are landlocked, compliance would present an overwhelming obstacle. This is where resourcefulness can pay off; almost any body of water could substitute as a symbol of the various seas in which our honored dead made their last token of devotion to their country.

There are many methods of observing “special days” by each branch. Experience tells us that once a particular observance is initiated and properly conducted, it becomes an anticipated annual affair. Each succeeding year the program is improved through innovations and becomes more impressive and meaningful.

Adequate planning is the key to success for any and all observances, whether parade, banquet, pageant, rally or other significant ceremony. Planning should start with the selection of a chairman, committee and subcommittees as needed. Committee appointments should not be doled out at random. Do not jeopardize the success of any planned activity or handicap the committee chairman with the members who are known “non-producers.” Too often we observe instances where, after initial enthusiasm begins to wear thin, committee strength is reduced to a dedicated few. These loyal and hearty souls manage to do the job in some fashion, but sometimes are inclined to protest when prevailed upon to undertake some future project.

Fortunately, most branches are blessed in having assistance of inestimable value from their Units of the Ladies Auxiliary, FRA. Participation in all observances by these devoted and gracious ladies should be requested, encouraged and appreciated. Where else could a branch expect a more available and loyal service than from those who are sworn “to aid, assist and promote all matters pertaining to welfare, social and patriotic work, for the benefit of the FRA.” Don’t overlook the ladies!

The committee should begin working well in advance of the date of the observance. Select and delegate committee potential to provide adequate coverage of all requirements: planning, the program, finances, invitations, tickets, publicity, food, greeters, chaplain, color-guard, participants, master-of-ceremonies, etc. Follow-through is a vital necessity to ensure that each phase of planning and preparation is proceeding in a coordinated and timely manner.

Plan a program to suit the theme of a particular observance. The FRA’s “Book of Rituals” is a valuable source for program planning. A well conducted “Two Bell Ceremony” is almost always in order. Another means of obtaining helpful information is the public library.

Do not hesitate to take advantage of the services that might be available by virtue of nearby military installations or public educational institutions. A band, a military chaplain, color-guard and public address system are but a few requirements that will enhance certain types of observances. And when all is done, that expression of sincere appreciation, for services rendered, is so important. Do not forget the letters of thanks for these contributions to your program.

Principal speakers should be selected with discretion and advised well in advance of the topic that is desired. Avoid soliciting the oratorical services of either the “far-left” or “far-right” extremists. Fortunately, “down-the-middle-of-the-road,” old fashioned patriotism is still popular with the majority.

Whether performing in the capacity of Master of Ceremonies, chairman, narrator or toastmaster, a person with outstanding ability to direct the various phases of a program is an important factor. We should be prepared to open with a warm greeting, introduce distinguished guests and participants, announce ceremonials, and ensure that things are

proceeding as scheduled; an added important role, that of representing the FRA to the critical view of an audience that sometimes dares to be impressed, should not be overlooked.

Channel all planning to gain one specific purpose; the best observance possible. Anything less will hardly have been worth the effort.

PUBLICIZE YOUR ENDEAVOR!

Well prepared, comprehensive, and timely publicity is important to the success of every planned observance. Do not be neglectful by failing to present the efforts of the branch to the eyes and ears of the public. Modesty must take a back seat to patriotism. Publicity should be handled by the Public Relations Committee.

Because of inexperience, many of us have learned the do's and don'ts of obtaining adequate publicity through trial and error. It must be stressed again that each branch is unique in location and other variables. This fact certainly applies to the preparation and submission of publicity.

If possible, a representative of the branch should visit the local news sources in advance to find out what they will accept and the manner that they prefer regarding preparation, deadlines, and photo coverage. Remember, this will not be a once-in-a-lifetime contact. Others representing the branch will more than likely be required to negotiate with the very same sources on future occasions. Make it easier by making a favorable first impression.

The following basic rules should assist the branch in maintaining good relationship with local news media:

- Only one person or coordinated committee should be delegated to contact the news sources. This restriction will help to avoid confusion, erroneous reporting and conflict.
- Keep an up-to-date list of all local news sources. Note names of contacts, phone numbers, addresses and stipulated requirements. Do not demand that items be published. There will always be a next time.
- When members of the press attend branch activities in a professional capacity, treat them as invited guests - never ask them to pay admission or purchase tickets. Give them special attention and make sure they have full understanding of their role.
- Learn who the editors and reporters are in the media whether it be newspapers, magazines, radio or TV. Avoid the desk type assignment editor. Concentrate on the reporter or editor who always has an article in the Sunday magazine section of the Sunday newspaper. Always try to deal with the reporter or editor who handles your local area of coverage.

WRITING A NEWS RELEASE

Send press releases to editors and reporters a week in advance if possible. Follow up with a phone call two or three days later.

Six points are vital in the preparation of a good news release; WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, AND HOW. It is important to include all of these points in the first few sentences. The first sentences are the "lead." Next, go into the details of the observance. Each succeeding paragraph should be of declining importance.

Be brief. Almost any news release can be written on one or two double spaced, white sheets of paper. Two sentences make up a good paragraph. Use short words and write short sentences and paragraphs.

Do not write "next Saturday" or "next month." Give exact dates. Include the address as well as the name of the place that the observance is to be, or was, held.

Forget all about adjectives when writing a release, “Beauty is only in the eye of the beholder.”

Never use a telephone number in the text of a news release. The originator should include his own telephone number and address, along with the name of the branch, in the upper left corner of the first page, for reference.

Do not mention door prizes, raffles or lotteries in a release.

When identical typed releases are sent out to more than one source, list at the top of the first sheet all outlets that are receiving the same material. This will allow it to be rewritten for originality.

Type the desired release date in the upper right hand corner. Stipulate “FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE” if required.

Use only one side of the paper and double space. Indent each paragraph at least five spaces. If at all possible, do not send in carbon copies.

Do not staple the copies of a release.

Before submitting copy, check the contents for absolute accuracy.

PUBLICITY VIA RADIO AND TV

In sending a copy, use the same basic rules that apply for newspaper releases.

If a personal appearance by a member of the branch is desired, contact the station’s program director to set time and date.

Be particularly selective of those who are to represent the branch on radio or TV. They should have a pleasant speaking voice, be well informed and not given to stage fright. The personal appearance and appropriate dress of the FRA representative is important! Sometimes it is advisable to have notes handy to cover lapses of memory. Another excellent method is to prepare a list of questions and answers for use by the moderator and branch participant. Invariably the question, “What is the FRA?”, is almost always posed. A clear and comprehensive answer is essential.

Radio and TV time is valuable. Promptness, accuracy and good impressions are very important.

HONORING THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

One of the more important duties of an Americanism-Patriotism Committee Chairman is to encourage all shipmates, ladies and fellow citizens to honor the flag of the United States of America. Listed below are most of the days one should fly their flag, but if possible, one should fly their flag daily. Additional information on most of these flag days are covered later in the manual.

January 1st	New’s Year Day
Third Monday in January	Martin Luther King’s Day
February 12th	Lincoln’s Birthday (traditional)
Third Monday in February	President’s Day
February 22nd	Washington’s Birthday (traditional)
May 1st	Loyalty Day
Third Saturday in May	Armed Forces Day
Fourth Monday in May	Memorial Day
May 30th	Memorial Day (traditional)
June 14th	Flag Day
July 4th	Independence Day
August 4th	U.S. Coast Guard Birthday

First Monday in September	Labor Day
September 11th	Patriot Day
September 17th	Constitution and Citizenship Day
Second Monday in October	Columbus Day
October 12th	Columbus Day (traditional)
October 13th	U.S. Navy Birthday
Nearest Weekend to Veteran's Day	Navy Sabbath
November 10th	U.S. Marine Corps Birthday
November 11th	Veterans Day
Fourth Thursday in November	Thanksgiving Day
December 7th	Pearl Harbor Day
December 15th	Bill of Rights Day
December 25th	Christmas

While not all of the above dates are patriotic holidays, it is believed that we should constantly look for an opportunity to display our flag. Do not overlook state anniversaries and centennial days. A brief history on some of the patriotic "special days" are listed chronologically later in the manual, as well as suggestions on how to observe patriotic holidays.

THE TWO BELL CEREMONY

Section 2703. The Two Bell Ceremony. When executed properly, the FRA's "Two-Bell Ceremony" is dramatic testimony to humility, dignity, reverence and honor. It fulfills the promise of our preamble--"our reverence for the memory of our departed Shipmates."

Unfortunately, there is no written documentation or knowledge that clearly identifies the origin of this beloved ritual except that it is unique and ours alone. In researching naval history back to the time of Britain's Lord Nelson we can find no record of a memorial ceremony using the ship's bell. Our current elder statesmen credit several deceased Shipmates as being largely responsible for the originating and refinement of the ritual. But it is clear the sounding of two bells is the "time," or the "moment," to pause and reflect on our Shipmates who are now serving on the staff of the Supreme Commander.

In days past, "two bells" marked the end of the routine day aboard ship. It was time for "Tattoo" and soon "Taps" would sound throughout the ship. Certainly, this is a most appropriate time to honor our departed Shipmates.

Those familiar with one of the greatest stories of the sea, "The Ancient Mariner," will remember that he found safe passage in narrow waters by listening to the bell on the marking buoy. That bobbing marking buoy sounds much like the tolling of a bell for a funeral dirge, solemn, reverent and mournful.

Since the beginning of recorded time, men of the sea have been guided and impressed by the sounding of the ship's bell. In our "Two Bell Ceremony," the tolling of the bell and the spoken word can and should be combined to execute a ritual that contributes to and strengthens the bond that exists amongst all Shipmates of the FRA.

The following steps should be followed closely in performing the "Two Bell Ceremony" to achieve the full effect of this impressive ritual uniformly throughout the Association. The Shipmates selected to conduct the ritual should be chosen for their talent and willingness to rehearse the ceremony until perfection in performance is achieved. Rehearsal will not only achieve uniformity and perfection, but familiarity with the words enabling the ritual to be memorized.

This ritual should be performed by a minimum of three persons. The master-at-arms to tend to the lights, a Shipmate to serve as bell toller and a third Shipmate to recite the ritual. This Shipmate may be the Branch Chaplain or the script may be divided between another Shipmate and the chaplain, with the chaplain conducting the prayer portion. If a Shipmate in addition to the chaplain participates, he should be selected on the basis of the quality of his speaking voice.

The ceremony may be conducted at anytime during the meeting. However, the custom of conducting it as close to 2100 as is possible at a regular stated meeting is adhered to by many branches. This custom is associated with the fact that "Tattoo" was sounded at 2100 aboard naval vessels. It also signifies that important business notwithstanding, we take time to pause and remember our departed Shipmates.

A ship's bell should be used in the tolling process. The size of the bell, meeting hall and the acoustics dictate how firmly the bell should be struck. But the bell should be struck firmly obtaining a sharp, clear, reverberant sound like that of a rocking bell buoy. The cadence of the tolling should be measured so that the reverberation of the toll (a single stroke) is allowed to slowly fade before striking the bell again.

At the appropriate time, the bell toller strikes the bell twice sharply signifying the ritual is commencing.

THE MASTER-AT-ARMS stations himself at the light switch in preparation to "darken ship."

THE CHAPLAIN moves to the altar and lights the candles.

If another shipmate is participating in the oral part, he should position himself to the left of the altar facing the audience.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER gives three taps of the gavel and all Shipmates stand and lay their FRA caps on their left shoulder and bow their heads.

THE BELL TOLLER: Strikes the bell for the first toll, allowing the sound to slowly fade as the ceremony is recited, then continues to toll the bell at the end of the lines where the * indicates:

"The toll of the ship's bell*
reminds us of the reverence
we owe to our departed Shipmates*
and to those who guard the honor
of our country*
upon the sea,
under the sea,*
in the air
and upon foreign soil.*
Let it be a reminder
of the faith they
confide in us.*
Let us who gather here
not forget our obligations*
and in silence
breathe a prayer
for our absent Shipmates."*

(Pause and slowly count to five and toll again.*)

THE CHAPLAIN: "Each in his own words, and each in his own way, bow your heads and let us pray,* offering a silent prayer for our departed Shipmates* who are now serving on the staff of the Supreme Commander."*

(Note: If any member of the branch has passed away during the month, the chaplain continues.)

THE CHAPLAIN: "This moment of reverence we dedicate to the memory of Shipmate
(giving his full name.)"*

THE BELL TOLLER: Should toll the bell after each name is stated.

THE BELL TOLLER: Pause and slowly count to 30 to allow the moment of prayer and then strike two bells sharply to signify the end of the ceremony.

The chaplain extinguishes the candles. The master-at-arms turns on the lights. The presiding officer seats the audience with one tap of the gavel and resumes the regular order of business.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY FEBRUARY 12

“I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.”

--President Abraham Lincoln
21 November 1864

(From a letter to Mrs. Bixby, whose 5 sons were reported killed in battle.)

In his freedom from passion and bitterness, in his acute sense of justice, in his courageous faith in the right, and his inextinguishable hatred of wrong, in his warm and heartfelt sympathy and mercy, in coolness of judgment, in his unquestioned rectitude of intention - in a word, in his ability to lift himself for his country's sake above all mere partnership, in all the marked traits of his character combined, he has had no parallel since Washington, and while our republic endures he will live with him in the grateful hearts of his grateful countrymen.

--Schuyler Colfax

The first national celebration of Lincoln's Birthday was held in the Capitol in Washington, February 12, 1866, less than a year following his assassination. In addition to members of both Houses of Congress, President Andrew Johnson and his cabinet, the Supreme Court Justices, the diplomatic corps, governors, army and naval officers, and many others attended. On this same day the Lincoln Association which had been formed in Atlantic City, New Jersey, observed the anniversary.

In 1891 Hannibal Hamlin of Maine, who was vice President during Lincoln's first term, urged, in an address to the Lincoln Club of New York, that the day be made a National holiday. The next year the legislature of Illinois did make the day a legal holiday. In later years other states followed that example.

The year 1909 was the one hundredth anniversary of Lincoln's birth. Elaborate celebrations were held in New York, Chicago, Boston, and Pittsburgh. The day was observed at the battlefield of Gettysburg, and in such foreign cities as London, Berlin, Paris, and Rio de Janeiro. In our own country New Orleans, Birmingham, Little Rock, Harrisburg, and several cities of Texas also commemorated the day. The great interest shown during the centennial led to the erection of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. The completed Memorial was dedicated on Memorial Day in 1922. Although Lincoln probably had no more than a year of formal schooling, he read all the books he could obtain and educated himself so that he became successful in law and in politics.

Lincoln served his country well during the Civil War. In his pursuit of justice and freedom for all, he issued the famous "Emancipation Proclamation." Among his greatest traits were humility, honesty, sincerity, friendliness and his ability to study and improve himself. He believed he had been elected to execute the will of the people.

Since 1923, a fitting tribute to Abraham Lincoln has been the designation, through a nationwide, inter-faith inter-denominational effort, of the Sunday nearest to Lincoln's Birthday as Race Relation's Day.

Each Branch of the FRA is encouraged to observe this great American's Birthday in some befitting manner. Each shipmate is asked to display our Colors on February 12.

***GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY
FEBRUARY 22**

First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen, he was second to none in the humble and endearing scenes of private life. Pious, just, humane, temperate and sincere; uniform, dignified and commanding, his example was edifying to all around him, as were the effects.

--Henry Lee

In the winter of 1778, at the Valley Forge encampment, a band of the Fourth Continental Artillery marched to General Washington's headquarters and serenaded their commander. This incident of an artillery band playing before the tent of their commander on a wintry February 22nd may have been the first "official" observance of his birthday.

There were official celebrations in Newport, Rhode Island in 1781, and in Virginia and Maryland in 1782. Cambridge, Massachusetts and New York City held celebrations in 1782. On his first birthday in the presidency in 1790, Congress adjourned and extended congratulations to the President. The Tammany Society of New York also celebrated that same day and the next year Philadelphia, which was at that time the national capitol, celebrated with a military parade. The birthday of Washington was celebrated sporadically throughout the United States in the following years. Earlier observances were held on 11 February. Only after 1796 was February 22 commonly accepted as the proper date.

When Washington died in 1799, Congress, then in session in Philadelphia, adopted a resolution whereby February 22, 1800 would be observed as a day of mourning.

In Washington, D.C., between 1848 and 1885, there was erected the prime memorial to George Washington, the Washington Monument. The Continental Congress in 1783 first considered honoring Washington with a monument, but this was not acted on. The Washington Monument Society was formed in 1833 to see that the first President received his lasting memorial.

The cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1848. Political quarrels and national disharmonies of pre-civil war days halted construction in 1854; the Civil War further delayed the work, and it was not resumed until 1880. February 21, 1885, marked the dedication.

Washington's Birthday is a legal holiday in all of the states of the union. A birthday ball, banquet or other appropriate ceremony to pay homage to the "father of our country" is suggested for branch participation - fly the Red, White and Blue on this day.

*NOTE: Observed on the third Monday in February.

**LOYALTY DAY
MAY 1**

"Our country; In her intercourse with foreign nations may she always be right; but our country, right or wrong."

--Stephen Decatur
United States Navy

There have been many efforts to counteract the May Day Communist exhibitions in the United States. Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars thought that a challenge must be given to what they considered the disruptive forces of communism, and that the loyalty of Americans to the American ideals must be openly asserted. Consequently, they began urging the institution of a "Loyalty Day" in the early 1930's. In towns across the country war veterans organized parades and ceremonies. Other patriotic organizations joined in, and with help of speakers' bureaus and an ex-

tensive letter-writing campaign, celebrations on the theme of loyalty to America took hold. Schools, churches, labor unions, fraternal societies, and other groups sponsored oratory contests, patriotic plays and tours to national shrines.

Proclamations exhorting the observance of Loyalty Day were issued in 1949 by forty nine state and territorial governors. President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1958 proclaimed 1 May as a day of national observance.

The word “loyalty” is perhaps the most significant requirement for good citizenship. For this reason it stands first in the motto adopted by the FRA: Loyalty, Protection and Service. When one seriously considers the advantages which we enjoy merely by proclaiming and exhibiting continuing loyalty to the ideals of our country, ideals that provide us with religious political and economic freedom, the mainstays of Democracy, then we can readily see that we have struck the greatest bargain of a life-time; a nominal fee of loyalty for freedom, hope and security.

America’s founders and pioneers suffered, sacrificed, fought and died for the basic principles of individual freedom which are our inheritance. The struggle continues to this day. Now, as never before, our nation’s principles and aspirations are under attack by totalitarian enemies and ideologies seeking to destroy not only principles but also the spiritual faith upon which they rest. A vital need of all Americans now is for renewed incentive to express by word and deed their faith in THE AMERICAN CREDO.

Any message of individual loyalty addressed solely to the shipmates of the FRA is certainly not required, but, as ambassadors of national pride, patriotism, and protection, we do have one set course: to relay to others the gospel of patriotism. We can do this by being vehement “flag wavers,” by being the squarest of “squares,” by expressing unashamedly love for our country, and demonstrating publicly our steadfast devotion to the ideals upon which our country was founded -- a nation under God.

Add Loyalty Day to the branch agenda and display patriotism in your community, but exhibit to others that you revere every day as Loyalty Day.

Methods of observances can be noted with parades of veterans, drum and bugle corps, Boy Scouts and Patriotic addresses made by civic leaders.

ARMED FORCES DAY THIRD SATURDAY IN MAY

Since 1947, the third Saturday in May has been observed by Presidential Proclamation as Armed Forces Day. The week preceding it is known as Armed Forces Week. The purpose of the observance is to pay tribute to the many Americans serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps.

Armed Forces Day was designed to replace Army Day (April 6), Navy Day (October 27), and Air Force Day (the second Saturday in September) with a single day of ceremonies which emphasize the unity existing among the separate branches of the service.

The slogan for this observance has gained prominence as “Forces for Freedom.” The slogan is definitive of the role the armed forces of this country have displayed since General George Washington at Yorktown in 1781.

This special day of recognition was first observed in 1950 by proclamation of President Truman. Prior to that time, each service observed its own day of dedication. It is fitting that the “All American Team” which trained, planned and fought for one common purpose, preservation of freedom for our nation, should be honored together on this day.

The sacrifices of those who serve or served in the uniform of the United States have written a heritage of freedom and dignity not only for our country but for the entire free world.

Methods of Observing:

- Sponsor parades, balls and banquets featuring representatives from all branches of the armed forces.

- Attend open house at military establishments.
- Editorials in local publications.
- Massing of colors.
- Fly the Stars and Stripes at home and at place of business.
- An FRA booth display at a local military base or local shopping center.

Hymns of the Armed Forces:

“ANCHORS AWEIGH”

An-chors A-weigh my boys
 An-chors A-weigh
 Fare-well to col-lege joys,
 We sail at break of day - day - day - day!
 Though our last night on shore,
 Drink to the foam
 Un-til we meet once more
 Here’s wish-ing you hap-py voy-age home.

Note: At the 39th National Convention of the FRA in 1966 at Las Vegas, Nevada, the delegates adopted the suggestion of National Executive Secretary Robert W. Nolan that all members of the FRA and the Ladies Auxiliary, FRA will stand at attention whenever “Anchors Aweigh” is played in their presence.

Heave a - ho there sail-or
 Ev-’ry - body drink up while you may;
 Heave a - ho there sail-or
 For you’re gon-na sail at break of day,
 Drink a-way, drink a-way,
 For you sail at break of day, Hey!

Stand Na-vy down the field,
 Sails set to the sky,
 We’ll ne-ver change our course,
 So Ar-my you steer shy-y-y-y.
 Roll up the score, Na-vy
 An-chors A-weigh
 Sail Na-vy down the field
 And sink the Army, sink the Army Grey.

Words by CAPT Alfred H. Miles, USN

“THE MARINES’ HYMN”

From the Halls of Montezuma
 To the shores of Tripoli,
 We field our country’s battles
 In the air, on the land and sea.
 First to fight for right and freedom,
 And to keep our honor clean,
 We are proud to claim the title
 Of United States Marine.

Our Flag's unfurl'd to ev'ry breeze
from dawn to setting sun
We have fought in ev'ry clime or place
Where we could take a gun'
In the snow of far off northern lands,
And in sunny tropic scenes,
You will find us always on the job,
The United States Marine.

Here's health to you and to our Corps,
Which we are proud to serve;
In many a strife we've fought for life,
And never lost our nerve.
If the Army and the Navy
Ever gaze on Heaven's scenes,
They will find the streets are guarded by
The United States Marines.

Words by unknown Marine Corps author.

“THE ARMY GOES ROLLING ALONG”

First to fight for the right,
And to build the Nation's might,
And the Army Goes Rolling Along.
Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battle's won,
And the Army Goes Rolling Along.

Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey!
The Army's on its way.
Count off the cadence loud and strong!
For where'er we go,
You will always know
That the Army Goes Rolling Along.

Based upon The Caisson Song by
BG H. W. Arberg

“THE U.S. AIR FORCE”

Off we go - in-to the wild blue yon-der,
Climb-ing high - in-to the sun;
Here they come - zoom-ing to meet our thun-der
At 'em boys, - give 'er the gun!
(Shout) Give 'er the gun!
Down we dive, spout-ing our flame from un-der
Off with one - hell-uv-a roar!
We live in fame - or go down - in flame,
(Shout (Hey!))
Noth-ing can stop the U.S. Air Force!

MAJ Robert M. Crawford, USAF

“SEMPER PARATUS”

From Az-tec shore to Arc-tic zone,
To Eu-robe and Far East,
The Flag is car-ried by our ships
In times of war and peace;
And nev-er have we struck it yet
In spite of foe-men's might,
Who cheered our crews and cheered a-gain
For show-ing how to fight.

So here's the Coast Guard March-ing Song,
We sing on land or sea.
Through surf and storm and howl-ing gale,
High shall our pur-pose be.
"Sem-per Pa-ra-tus" is our guide,
Our fame, our glo-ry, too.
to fight to save or fight and die! Aye!
Coast Guard, we are for you!

CAPT Francis S. Van Boskerck, USCG

**"A POEM"
"MARINE GREEN AND NAVY BLUE"**

Today I stood with shipmates,
Hats off, heads bowed in prayer.
Gathered to offer sincere respect
For the memory of those not there.
My thoughts recalled days long past
And the shipmates I once knew
Who proudly wore their badge of honor;
MARINE GREEN and NAVY BLUE.

Have they reached that harbor of contentment
Where Happy Hour is daily routine?
Do they know of the reverence we feel
For immortal spirits-alive-though unseen?
Are they aware of the heritage they left
Which demands that we pledge to renew
Our faith and pride in those who serve-in
MARINE GREEN and NAVY BLUE?

One day I'll receive my orders,
And the Commander will summon me,
"You have served your tour on Earth my son,
Now it is time you put to sea."
I pray that I will be worthy then
To sign on with a crew
Whose uniform-of-the-day is
MARINE GREEN and NAVY BLUE.

Jack F. Langham
Branch 163, FRA

***MEMORIAL DAY
MAY 30**

“Faith with the Dead kept through our living faith; In this along the true remembrance lies.”

Basil Ebers

“Your silent tents of green
We deck with fragrant flowers
Yours has the suffering been,
The memory shall be ours.”

H. W. Longfellow

The observance of Memorial Day began shortly after the Civil War. Its purpose was to honor the war dead of both North and South. As time passed and the United States fought other wars, Memorial Day became the occasion for commemorating lives lost in all military conflicts. In the popular mind, however, not only the military dead but also the ancestral dead, the family dead, are remembered at this time when graves are tended and adorned with flowering plants. Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day.

The United States House of Representatives passed a resolution on May 17, 1966 giving official recognition to Waterloo, New York as the “Birthplace of Memorial Day.”

At the close of the Civil War a group of women in Columbus, Mississippi, honored both Confederate and Union soldiers by placing flags on their graves. When at the close of the war, this news reached the North, it helped to heal the recent wounds.

Probably the greatest impetus for setting aside a national holiday for the purpose was given in 1868 by General J.A. Logan, National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, when he issued an order to all chapters to set aside May thirtieth as a day for decorating the graves of those who died in defense of their country.

Gradually the idea spread. New York, in 1873, was the first state to make the day a legal holiday. Today, all the states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. possessions, by Presidential Proclamation, celebrate Memorial Day. Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Florida observe Memorial Day on April 26; North and South Carolina on May 10; and Louisiana and Tennessee on June 3.

Memorial Day is marked by parades of military units, bands, civil officials, boy scouts, camp fire groups, school children, veteran and service organizations and other local groups. Speeches and music fitting to the occasion are a part of a traditionally dignified and reverent observance.

Certainly every branch and every shipmate is obligated by oath to the Preamble of the FRA to express “reverence for the memory of our departed shipmates” on this very special day. Do not break the faith with a shipmate who is no longer able to answer roll-call.

*Note: Observed on the last Monday in May.

**FLAG DAY
JUNE 14**

CREED

Lord, let me not in service lag,
Let me be worthy of our flag

Let me remember when I'm tired,
The sons heroic who have died
In freedom's name, and in my way
Teach me to be as brave as they.
In all I am, in all I do,
Unto our flag I would be true;
For God and Country let me stand.
Unstained of soul and clean of hand,
Teach me to serve and guard and love
The Starry Flag which flies above.

--Edgar A. Guest

President Harry S. Truman signed the National Flag Day Bill on August 3, 1949, thereby giving official recognition to June 14 as Flag Day. Every year since then the succeeding presidents have designated by proclamation, the same date as Flag Day, and have urged that the stars and stripes be displayed and suitable ceremonies be performed in honor of the flag. As some of life's deepest meanings are projected by symbols, so in the life of our country, its flag, as a symbol, comes to a place of significance in expressing the unity of the people.

Our Flag Born Through Valor

Out of the travail of our nation's birth, in the midst of a bitter war for independence, there emerged on June 14, 1777, our National Emblem, a beautiful flag combining the blue of vigilance, perseverance and justice, with the white of purity, with the red of hardiness and valor, in a symbol of freedom that has lifted the hearts of Americans down through the years.

It has been said that our Stars and Stripes is a "living" flag. It breathes vitality as it ripples in the breeze. It has exemplified vigor and endurance in proclaiming man's freedom and his right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness through almost two centuries. It grows as our nation grows, adding a star for each new state taken into our Union.

The Navy is closely involved in the history of our flag. The records of the Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia on June 14, 1777, reveal that the resolution authorizing the Stars and Stripes appears between several naval matters, leading some historians to believe that the resolution was proposed by the Marine Committee, which introduced all naval legislation.

The name of John Paul Jones, revered as the father of the American Navy, is also closely linked to our flag. An order placing Jones in command of the new warship USS RANGER was issued by the Congress the same day the flag resolution was adopted.

Jones raised the flag on the USS RANGER in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on July 4, 1777, and may have been the first military commander to have flown it. He requested a group of patriotic ladies of Portsmouth to gather in a "flag bee" and sew together the Navy's first Stars and Stripes ensign.

History tells us that the Stars and Stripes is a development of an earlier flag, authorized by Congress in November 1775, and known as the Congress Colors, the Grand Union Flag, and the Cambridge Flag. The Congress Colors included the same red and white stripes, signifying separation from the mother country, but had the Union Jack of Britain instead of the blue field and white stars.

The Navy was the first to fly the Congress Colors, raising them on the first day of its own existence, December 3, 1775. John Paul Jones, then senior Lieutenant of the Fleet and executive of Commodore Esek Hopkins' flagship USS ALFRED, personally raised the ensign to the gaff. The Navy fought many gallant actions under this flag.

The devotion of John Paul Jones to the flag of his adopted nation, and the principles for which it stands, is best demonstrated in his determination and success in gaining the recognition of a foreign country in the form of a salute to our Stars and Stripes. On February 14, 1778, after negotiations with French Admiral La Motte Picquet, Jones sailed

the USS RANGER into Quiberon Bay, near Lorient, France, where Picquet's fleet was moored, rendered a salute and was saluted in return.

John Paul Jones left a great heritage to the United States Navy, and this devotion to the Stars and Stripes is a shining part of it.

Methods of Observing:

- Promote a pageant portraying history of the flag.
- Sponsor a school essay or poster contest using the flag as the theme.
- Plan a banquet, meeting hall or out of doors observance for a Flag Day program.
- Join other organizations in a massing of the colors ceremony.
- Conduct public lectures on proper care and display of the colors.
- Choose a worthy institution in need of a flag; perform a public flag presentation with branch members participating.
- Conduct a non-profit flag sale in your community.
- Fly your colors on Flag Day and encourage others to follow your example.

A TOAST TO THE FLAG

Here's to the red of it -
There's not a thread of it.
No, Nor a shred of it
In all the spread of it
 From foot to head
But heroes bled for it.
Faced steel and lead for it.
Precious blood shed for it
 bathing in Red!

Here's to the white of it -
Thrilled by the sight of it.
Who knows the right of it.
But feels the might of it
Through day and night?
Womanhood's care for it
Made manhood dare for it.
Purity's prayer for it
 Keeps it so white!

Here's to the blue of it -
Beauteous view of it.
Heavenly hue of it.
Star-spangled dew of it
 Constant and true;
Diadems gleam for it.
States stand supreme for it
Liberty's beam for it

Brightens the blue!

Here's to the whole of it -
Stars, stripes and pole of it.
Body and soul of it.
O, and the roll of it.
Sun shining through
Hearts in accord for it.
Swear by the sword for it.
Thanking the Lord of it.
Red, White and Blue!

John J. Daly

INDEPENDENCE DAY JULY 4

The Fourth of July is the greatest patriotic holiday of the American year. It celebrates, of course, the birthday of our nation - that July 4, 1776, when John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress, and Charles Thomson, Secretary, signed the Declaration of Independence.

For a century and a half, since the first colonists settled on American shores, these pioneer people were subject of the British Crown. As such they were ruled, taxed and presumably, protected by England. There was little thought of separate independence until the British Parliament started exacting exorbitant taxes in 1764. The Sugar Act, probably the first of the severe revenue measures of Parliament to antagonize the Colonies, was enacted in 1764.

A growing resentment was dramatically expressed by Patrick Henry as early as 1765 in his famous "give me liberty" speech. These rebellious feelings were augmented by the Stamp Act. At first, the colonists tried to get the King and the Parliament to correct the inequities. But when harsher dictatorial rule was the result, some of the colonial leaders began to talk of independence. On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee, following instructions given by the Virginia Convention to their delegates, introduced into the Continental Congress a declaration of independence. Action on it was deferred until July 1 in order to allow time for a committee of five to prepare a statement explaining the reasons for independence.

On July 2, the Lee resolution was approved. On July 4, after much debate and some slight deletions from the explanatory statements as presented by the committee of five, the total statement of declaration, including Lee's resolution, was adopted.

The very next year, 1777, even though they were in the midst of war, Philadelphia residents observed July 4 as a day of celebration. Today practically every hamlet in all of the 50 states, plus American servicemen and civilians who happen to be in other countries at the time, observe the day with prayers, speeches, parades, pageantry, and fireworks.

The day symbolizes the divine right of each man to have a voice in his own government.

From a letter written by John Adams to his wife, July 3, 1776:

"Yesterday the greatest question was decided which ever was debated in America; and a greater perhaps never was, nor will be, deciding among men. A resolution was passed without one dissenting colony, that those United Colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent States. The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with show, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forevermore."

U.S. COAST GUARD BIRTHDAY AUGUST 4

The history of the Coast Guard goes back almost two centuries to the beginning of the United States. The Nation dates from the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776, but the constitutional government we know today did not start until 1789. That was the year George Washington was inaugurated as first President and that the first Congress convened in New York, the first capital. The very next year, on August 4, 1790, Congress passed and Washington signed a bill authorizing the construction of “ten boats” for guarding the coast against smugglers.

This was the beginning of the Coast Guard. It was known in those first days, however, as the Revenue Marine. Later it was called the Revenue Cutter Service. Not until 1915 was it given its present famous name. But despite name changes it has kept its identity as an organization, and in point of continuous service the Coast Guard is considered the oldest of the Nation’s seagoing armed forces.

The father of the Coast Guard was Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury. It was he who asked Congress to provide a fleet of armed cutters to ensure the collection of tonnage dues and import duties from vessels entering United States waters.

Smuggling had been a popular activity during the struggle to throw off Britain “Taxation without representation.” Colonials had considered evasion of duties imposed by the Parliament overseas an act of patriotism - such as the Boston Tea Party. Patriots had been smugglers; smugglers had been patriots. Respectable citizens like John Hancock and Samuel Adams, both signers of the Declaration, engaged in smuggling.

By the time the Revolution was over, smuggling was a habit. It was Hamilton’s job to stop it, if the young nation was not to go bankrupt. It was easy enough to show people that the customs duties instituted by Congress were taxation “with” representation, but it was not easy to make people see smuggling as a crime and smugglers as criminals. Faced with public apathy, if not outright sympathy, toward smuggling, Hamilton decided to resort to a fleet to enforce the customs laws.

Hamilton asked “that there be ten boats, two for the coasts of Massachusetts and New Hampshire; one for Long Island Sound; one for New York; one for the Bay of Delaware; two for the Chesapeake (these of course to ply along the neighboring coasts); one for North Carolina; one for South Carolina; and one for Georgia.”

After the close of the Civil War in 1865, the cutters enjoyed a relatively long period of peace, interrupted only by the eight-month Spanish-American War of 1898.

In the peaceful periods before and after the Spanish-American War, the Revenue Cutter Service underwent changes that presaged the tight-knit, efficient, dependable organization that the Coast Guard is today. Regulations of 1871 provided for regular inspection of cutters and for physical and professional examination of officers. In 1876, a system for training cadets to become officers was instituted. Finally, in 1915, the Revenue Cutter Service and the Life-saving Service were merged and the new organization, headed by a Captain Commandant, was called the Coast Guard, the name it has borne ever since.

CONSTITUTION WEEK AND CITIZENSHIP DAY SEPTEMBER 17-24

THE AMERICAN CREED

“I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people: whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

“I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies.”

-- William Tyler Page

“The Constitution, of course, is still in force but it is a solemn contract made in the name of ‘we the people’ and it is an agreement that should be renewed by each generation.”

-- John F. Kennedy

On February 29, 1952, President Harry S. Truman signed a bill which designated September 17 as Citizenship Day. The new holiday replaced Constitution Day and I am an American Day. Constitution Day had also been observed on September 17, the anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution in 1787. The first day noted with any degree of enthusiasm was on its centennial date in 1887 when a three-day observance was held.

On September 17, 1787, delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia proudly signed their names to a remarkable document - the Constitution of the United States. It has been termed “the finest expression ever made of the determination of free people to govern themselves and protect their liberty.”

The original copy of the completed Constitution has been kept at the seat of government, first in New York City, then in Washington, D.C. except for a period during the War of 1812 and again during World War II when it and the Declaration of Independence were placed in hiding. Until 1921 these documents were kept in a vault when at the request of President Harding they were displayed in glass in the Congressional Library. In 1952, they were transferred from the Library of Congress to the National Archives Building where they are viewed by thousands of Americans each year.

Constitution Day has now expanded to Constitution Week - a week long observance of this great event and document. September 17 has come to be known as Citizenship Day, an outgrowth of an observance formerly held in May under the title of “I am an American Citizen Day.” This particular day has special significance for naturalized citizens.

Some localities present pageants depicting the signing of the Constitution or displays of patriotic and historical documents, pictures, and flags. It is also popularly a time for ceremonies admitting new citizens to the United States. It is truly a day to remind us of our rights and privileges guaranteed by the Constitution - and of our responsibilities to our nation, as well.

Probably the best way to observe this period by branch participation, would be to acquaint our younger generation of the duties of a good citizen.

THE DUTIES OF A CITIZEN

It is my duty to obey my country’s laws.

It is my duty to vote, so my government may truly represent the will of the people.

It is my duty to keep informed as to the honesty and ability of candidates for public office.

It is my duty to, by my votes and my influence to correct injustice.

It is my duty to pay such taxes as have been devised

by representatives elected by me, to defray the cost of government.

It is my duty to serve on a jury when called upon.

It may sometimes become my duty to hold a public office for which I am suited, so my government may function efficiently.

It is my duty to defend my country, if need should arise.

It is my duty to abide by the will of the majority, to stand behind my government, so my nation may be unified in time of crisis.

PRAYER FOR OUR NAVY

O Eternal God, Creator of the Universe and Governor of Nations: Most heartily we beseech thee with thy favor to behold and bless thy servant, the President of the United States, and all the officers of our Government, and so replenish them with the grace of thy Holy spirit that they may always incline to thy will and walk in thy way. Bless the Governors of our states, and all who are in authority over us; give them Grace to execute justice and maintain truth that peace and happiness, religion and piety, may be established among us for all generations.

May the ships of our Navy be guarded by the gracious of Providence and care; May they not bear the sword in vain, but as the minister of God be a terror to those who do evil and a defense to those who do well. Graciously bless the officers and men of our Navy and Marine Corps. May love of country be engraven on their hearts and may their adventurous spirits and severe toils be duly appreciated by a grateful nation; may their lives be precious in thy sight.

Bless all nations and kindreds on the face of the earth and hasten the time when the principles of holy religion will so prevail that none shall wage war any more for the purpose of aggression, and none shall need it as a means of defense.

-- Amen.

COLUMBUS DAY OCTOBER 12

So far as can be learned the first celebration of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus occurred in New York City on October 12, 1792, three centuries after the event. It was arranged by the Society of St. Tammany, or the Columbian Order, founded by William Mooney, on May 12, 1789. The society gave a dinner, accompanied by elaborate ceremonies, on the three-hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America. A monument was erected in the headquarters of the society as part of the decorations. This temporary structure is said to be the first monument to Columbus raised in the United States. The second, outside of those in Washington, was erected by the subscriptions of Italian citizens in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, in 1876, at the time of the celebration of the centennial of the Declaration of Independence.

There had been few if any celebrations of the anniversary between that of the Tammany Society in 1792 and 1892. In celebration of the four-hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America, a monument to Columbus was erected at the southwestern entrance to Central Park in New York and the place was named Columbus Circle in memory of the discoverer. In 1892, elaborate preparations were made for the observance of the quadricentennial and a great international exposition was planned, supported by a Federal appropriation. The City of Chicago was selected as the site of the centennial. As it was impossible to complete the buildings in 1892, the fair was not held until the following year. But that the actual anniversary might not be ignored, Congress, on June 29, 1892, adopted a joint resolu-

tion directing the President to call upon the people to observe “the four-hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America on the 21st of October 1892, by public demonstrations and by suitable exercises in their schools and other places of assembly.”

There were celebrations in all parts of the country in obedience to the proclamation by President Harrison. The next year the celebration on October 12 at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago was the most elaborate arranged up to that time. The day was not yet a legal holiday in any of the states, and did not become such for several years. But the Knights of Columbus had been actively urging the passage of laws in various states making the day a legal holiday. In 1908, the state of New York passed such a law. The first observance in that state was in 1909 with two Italian cruisers coming to New York harbor for the celebration. The following year the states of Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Montana followed suit. It was made a holiday in Massachusetts and Rhode Island in 1910, and President Taft reviewed the parade on its first observance in Boston.

From 1904 until 1968 almost two-thirds of the states adopted laws making October 12 a legal holiday. On June 28, 1968, President Johnson signed Public Law 90-363 making Columbus Day, October 12 a national holiday and commencing in 1971, this holiday has been observed on the second Monday in October giving the American public another long holiday weekend.

In keeping with our American heritage, the Branches of the FRA should encourage, sponsor and participate in the observance of this national holiday by the various opportunities presented each. For example, participation in parades, special social affairs, cooperation with schools and youth groups to instill in young Americans the need to perpetuate the memory of the acknowledged discoverer of America.

NAVY DAY/NAVY BIRTHDAY OCTOBER 13

“Honor the sea breed for on them the wreath and security of the Nation Depend.”

-- Senator Claiborne Pell

The U.S. Navy had its beginning during the period of the American Revolution. Faced with a struggle for survival with Great Britain, and being surrounded by sea with no ships, it was readily recognized that commerce and a sea going capability were essential to the well-being of the colonial families.

It was early in the Revolution that American leadership keenly missed having a naval capability. George Washington had 10,000 British troops under siege at Boston and lacked enough powder for precious guns brought all the way from Ticonderoga. The powder, a vital necessity, could only be obtained by sea going ships. Further, Washington also was unable to prevent the British from supplying themselves by sea, nor could he prevent their escape by sea.

Subsequently, he outfitted ships from small surrounding Massachusetts towns intent on capturing munition at sea. The schooner Hannah, commissioned by Washington on 2 September, was the first of the privateers to return with a price - the British Ship UNITY - laden with precious naval stores. In all, Washington's Navy took 55 prizes in its short existence.

Shortly thereafter, the newly-formed Naval Committee of the Continental Congress took command and began to shape a Continental Navy and Marine Corps. On 13 October 1775, the Continental Congress authorized the fitting out of small ships for the Navy. This action constituted the 1st Naval legislation and became the genesis of the U.S. Navy. Inasmuch as that date marks the beginning of the U.S. Navy, it is appropriate to celebrate 13 October as the Navy's Birthday.

Those of us who have completed our active duty now look with pride to the “new breed” who continue to serve with loyal distinction. Perhaps we may be excused for a breach of modesty if we proclaim that those who have selected a career in the naval services have indeed adopted a birthright in the glorious pages of our nation's history.

As shipmates, we have little need to extol the outstanding achievements and traditions of the Navy to each other, but there is a vital message that we can pass on to our fellow countrymen, an awareness of the ever prevalent need for a strong and modern naval force if we are to continue to survive as a free nation. Also, it is important that the sacrifices of shipmates on active duty be appreciated and rewarded. In this respect, we, as members of the FRA are obliged to recognize every day as NAVY DAY.

Past reports of the FRA observances of the various special days indicate that the few branches who do celebrate Navy Day are too much in the minority. For every location which has sufficient population to support a branch, there is undoubtedly enough citizenry with a naval background or interest who would proudly respond to an invitation to celebrate Navy Day. Who else but members of the FRA would have more right or reason to promote a Navy Day observance? If it hasn't been done before, why not get your feet wet and give it a try next October.

Another birthday in October of great significance to our Navy is October 27, the birthday of Theodore Roosevelt. President Roosevelt was a strong advocate of sea power and as a force for peace, dispatched the "Great White Fleet" on a course around the world to back up his statement; "Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far."

Methods of Observing:

- A ceremony with publicity as the Governor or Mayor issues a proclamation for Navy Day.
- A Navy Day luncheon, picnic, banquet or ball honoring a distinguished Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard benefactor.
- Branch speakers for civic and service clubs.
- Memorial services for honored dead of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.
- Attend and participate in "Open House" at Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard installations, or on board naval vessels.
- Editorials in local publications on the subject of Navy Day.
- Sponsor essay contests in local schools with Navy theme.
- Special recruiting drive for FRA members.
- Navy Day Parade.
- Hoist your colors on Navy Day and encourage others to do likewise.
- Show everyone that you are extremely proud of your naval heritage.

NAVY SABBATH WEEKEND NEAREST TO VETERANS DAY

A TIME TO REMEMBER

That for 213 years the Navy and Marine Corps have been in the forefront of the efforts to gain and preserve our freedom.

As our nation struggled for freedom 203 years ago, Thomas Paine gave us a guide still relevant. "Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must undergo the fatigues of supporting it." Certainly the freedom to worship, each as his conscience dictates, is a keystone.

Not only have the men and women of our Navy and Marine Corps continued to bear the fatigues of supporting freedom but so have their families. They do for us that which we cannot do for ourselves. These families too share the anxious days of crisis, of separations and loss of contact.

Let us remember that "Not by bread alone" do we exist. As spiritual creatures, we need spiritual food. Navy Sabbath seeks to bring this to our Navy family. It seeks the prayers and recognition of the community to help overcome their inner fatigue, to provide inner peace, and a satisfaction that their sacrifices are appreciated.

The Navy has always recognized this need for spiritual food by making church services available whenever possible. The Church pennant is the only flag to fly above our national ensign. So, it is the community where Navy Sabbath seeks similar recognition.

Navy Sabbath was established in 1966 by laymen members of the Naval Reserve Association to seek this recognition and remembrance of our Navy-Marine Corps family. They are setting examples of courage, charity and fortitude. They need to be reminded that they do not serve an ungrateful nation.

PRAYER FOR NAVY SABBATH

Grant, O God, Your blessing and protection to the men and women of our Navy and Marine Corps. Preserve them from the dangers of the sea, the air, and the fury of our enemies. Give them fortitude, courage and steadfastness in keeping Your word, and bring them safely to port.

Most merciful Father, we humbly entreat You to accept our praises and prayers this Navy Sabbath. We beg You to remember especially, O God, those who wait at home. Extend to those fathers and mothers, wives, sons and daughters, the strength to bear the trials, the sacrifices, and the loneliness demanded of them by long separations. Give them Your graces and blessings that they bear their many problems with pride and dignity, and that peace of mind and soul which only You can give. Grant that we all may recognize their contributions to the security of our nation, and that the United States may continue to exist in freedom and in service to Your cause. Amen.

SUGGESTED HYMNS

O God, Our Help	My Eyes Have Seen The Glory
Faith Of Our Fathers	God Of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand
O God, Beneath Thy Guiding Hand America	
Lead Us Heavenly Father	Navy Hymn (Eternal Father Strong To Save)
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God	

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE TEXTS

“Greater love than this no one has, that one lay down his life for his friends.”

“I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: My God in Him will I trust.”

“I have lifted up my soul to You, O Lord, in You I place my trust.”

“Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in time of visitation; cast all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.”

“May the peace of God which surpasses all understanding guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

“The Lord is my light and salvation; whom should I fear? The Lord is the protector of my life; of whom should I be afraid.”

“God grant you to be of one mind towards, one another, that, one in spirit, you may with one mouth glorify our God.”

This adjunct to Veterans Day has gained strong support and personal endorsements from the Secretary of the Navy, the Navy’s Chief of Chaplains, and prominent churchmen of almost every denomination.

The aim of Navy Sabbath is to promote mutual and spiritual understanding between the American public and Navy and Marine Corps personnel through religious observances during this period.

Undoubtedly, each of us, at one time or another, while involved in the duties of serving our country, has had good reason to seek the blessings of our Maker in times of peril, strife or personal conflict. Navy Sabbath is an opportune period to band together as shipmates to conduct meaningful religious services, to give our thanks, to ask for the welfare of our nation and for the blessing of all who protect our freedom. There is always an urgent need to express our love for God and Country.

We, as shipmates of the FRA, should willingly accept the challenge to keep this “special day” rolling and growing. By all means implement this period of observance in each branch’s annual agenda. If applicable, wear your uniform to church. Fly our nation’s colors on this weekend.

U.S. MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY NOVEMBER 10

BEGINNINGS

Almost eight full months before the Declaration of Independence, the Continental Congress passed a historic resolution beginning: “Resolved, That two Battalions of Marines be raised; .. that particular care be taken, that no persons be appointed to office, or Enlisted into said Battalions, but such as are good seamen, or so acquainted with maritime affairs as to be able to serve to advantage by sea when ... (and) that they be distinguished by the names of the first and second battalions of American Marines...” The date was November 10, 1775; the place, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In March 1776, Marines conducted their first amphibious operation, a successful raid against New Providence in the British Bahamas.

With the decline of our naval establishment following the Revolution, the Marines also went out of existence until an undeclared war between France and our government proved the need for a strong Navy and a Corps of Marines. The U.S. Marine Corps was authorized by the Marine Corps Act of July 11, 1798, and has remained in existence since that time.

During the War of 1812, Marines served on our principal warships and fought under Admiral Perry at Lake Erie. They also participated in land battles at Bladensburg and New Orleans. At the battle of Bladensburg, a detachment of Marines and sailors held the field long after other American forces had been routed.

Marines seized numerous enemy seaports during the Mexican War and a battalion of Marines marched on Mexico City. Following the fall of the Mexican capital Marines occupied the National Palace -- “The Halls of Montezuma.”

During the Civil War, Marines served aboard U.S. ships as gunners and a battalion of Leathernecks fought in the First Battle of Manassas (Bull Run). Other Marines participated in the capture of Fort Fisher near Wilmington, N.C.

With the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, the Marine Corps expanded rapidly, Marines were the first force to land in Cuba, seizing the Guantanamo Bay area as an advanced base. Other Marines served at Santiago and with Admiral Dewey at Manila Bay.

In the summer of 1900, Marines were called on to help put down the Philippine Insurrection. That same year they participated in the defense of Peking’s Legation Quarter during the Boxer Rebellion in China. In 1911, the Marines were again ordered to China, this time during the overthrow of the Manchus.

Leathernecks of the 4th Marine Brigade fought on the battlefields of France during World War I. They turned back a German drive which threatened to engulf Paris during the battle for Belleau Wood. Marines also fought major engagements at Soissons, St. Mihiel, Blanc Mont Ridge and the Meuse-Argonne in France.

It was during the period of 1918 to 1941, a time of relative world peace, that the Marine Corps developed the techniques and doctrine for successful amphibious warfare. It was these doctrines that were used virtually unchanged in concept, throughout all of World War II by Marines in the Pacific and the Army in Europe and Africa.

At the beginning of World War II Marines served with the Army in the defense of Corregidor and Bataan. The stubborn defense of Wake Island by a few Marines won great respect from the enemy.

The first American offensive campaign of the war came at Guadalcanal in August 1942. Marines spearheaded this campaign and after months of jungle-warfare, they conquered the island and moved on to island-hop across the Pacific. Tarawa, Saipan, Guam, Tinian, Peleliu, Iwo Jim, Okinawa, and many other islands were assaulted by Marines in fierce and bloody struggles where the enemy almost always fought until the last man.

In 1950, war came to Korea and after the U.S. went to the aid of South Korea, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur requested a Marine Division.

A Marine Brigade and later a full Marine Division arrived on the scene. Leathernecks in Korea participated in every ground offensive launched by U.S. forces. The last Marine ground forces were withdrawn from Korea in March 1955.

Since Korea, Marines have been utilized as the Nation's force-in-readiness. During the 1960's, Marines saw service in the Republic of Vietnam, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Cyprus and other world trouble-spots. In Vietnam the III Marine Amphibious Force at its peak strength was comprised of approximately 178,000 men (80,000 Marines). This force comprised the largest single combat command in Marine Corps history.

Furnishing a vital part to the military strength essential to ensuring the defense of the Nation, the Marine Corps continues to be ready for any eventuality and to "...perform other duties as the President may direct."

"I can see the possibility we might be able to live without the Army, without a Navy. We might be able to live without an Air Force, but this Country can never live without a corps of lean, mean Marines."

10 November 1970 -- Honorable David Packard.

It is fitting that the members of the FRA pay tribute to the United States Marines on their birthday.

At most Marine installations ceremonies will be held in commemoration of the day. If your Branch is near-by, please send a personal message of good-will from the FRA.

Fly our colors in honor of the Marine Corps' Birthday.

VETERANS DAY NOVEMBER 11

WHAT AMERICA MEANS TO ME

"I love to live in America. I love it for its freedom and for its forests, mountains, barren lands and plains. I like the warm summer weather and the cold of winter.

"I may go anywhere I please, but now I am not quite old enough to do so.

“My father fought in World War II. He was wounded on Saipan, and lost a leg on Okinawa. He can’t do many of the things that I can, and he doesn’t talk much about the war. He received the Purple Heart with a leaf, a Victory Medal and a Bronze Star. I’m proud of my father, very proud, because he helped win for America.

“I love America, it is like heaven on earth. I have fun doing many things because I live in America. We are free to do almost anything we want to do.”

-- Stan Wollersten, 7th Grade.

Veterans Day is an occasion for honoring United States veterans of all branches of the military service. It is also a time for Americans everywhere to rededicate themselves to the cause of peace for which these veterans sacrificed. Originally known as Armistice Day it commemorated the cease-fire which brought World War I to an end November 11, 1918. On June 1, 1954, President Eisenhower signed a bill, introduced by Representative Rees of Kansas, which changed the name to Veterans Day.

The focal point of the November 11 observance has long been Arlington National Cemetery. Its 620 acres established in 1864, are located on the gently rolling hills of Virginia, overlooking the Nation’s Capitol across the Potomac River. The cemetery holds the remains of more than 176,000 men and women who gave their lives serving their nation in uniform or as statesmen.

The stately and majestic Tomb of the Unknowns is also located in Arlington Cemetery. The Tomb is guarded 24 hours a day by specially selected soldiers. Three unknown servicemen chosen from those who fell in World War I, World War II and the Korean Conflict are interred there.

On each November 11, just before 11:00 a.m. a combined honor guard, representing all branches of the military, present arms at the Tomb of the Unknowns. The nation’s tribute to its war dead is symbolized by the laying of the Presidential Wreath. A bugler sounds “Taps” and the ceremony is concluded by a brief address in the open air marble amphitheater before the assembled delegates and members of our nation’s veteran organizations and their massed colors.

The emphasis at these community ceremonies is one of honor to all veterans, living as well as dead, who have served our nation in uniform. People are reminded that it is the responsibility of the individual citizen to serve national interest when governmental policy and the Commander-in-Chief call for military vigilance or action.

VIETNAM

The bronze plaque (pictured on the following page), honoring all Veterans of the Vietnam conflict, was unveiled by President Carter during his Veterans Day address at Arlington National Cemetery on November 11, 1978. The plaque is displayed in the Memorial Display Room of the cemetery’s amphitheater.

After the Gulf of Tonkin incident in 1964, America became increasingly involved in the Vietnam conflict with a build-up in 1969 of 543,000 servicemen in Vietnam. Overall casualties from the Vietnam conflict between 1964 and 1975 was 56,962.

Never in the history of our country have our servicemen served under such trying conditions: a war that was never declared a war, decisions of battlefield problems being made halfway around the world and not being able to recognize friend from foe. With all these hardships our men served with valor and courage.

Veterans Day should be a time for Americans to rededicate themselves to paying homage to those veterans sacrificed during the Vietnam conflict, as we on this particular day dedicate ourselves to the cause of freedom and peace for those veterans sacrificed in other wars.

PEARL HARBOR DAY DECEMBER 7

“Yesterday, December 7, 1941 - a date which will live in infamy - the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan ... The facts of yesterday speak for themselves ... Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us ... With confidence in our armed forces - with the unbounded determination of our people - we will gain the inevitable triumph - so help us God.”

-- President Franklin D. Roosevelt to Congress
December 8, 1941

On what started out to be peaceful Sunday morning, the name “Pearl Harbor” was soon known around the Globe. Hawaii and her vital American naval base were suddenly thrust into world prominence. Radio stations interrupted their regular programs to announce the world-shaking news - “Pearl Harbor attacked by Japanese planes.”

In Hawaii the time was 7:55 a.m. Island residents were getting up to a Sunday of leisure. Many of the men on the ships in the harbor were at worship or having breakfast, when suddenly the stillness of early morning was shattered by the sound of low flying planes. As curious faces peered upward, 343 Japanese carrier-based planes broke through the low-hanging clouds to launch a devastating attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor. Less than two hours later a vital part of the fleet was impotent and the bulk of U.S. military might in the mid-Pacific lay in shambles.

Of 97 ships in the harbor, 18 were sunk or damaged. The major target of the day was the concentration of battleships at Ford Island. The Battleship NEVADA was the only one to get underway. Damaged and burning, she was grounded at the harbor entrance rather than risk sinking in the channel.

Some 2,117 Navy men and Marines were killed during the attack. More than half went down with the battleship USS ARIZONA, which blew up after taking several bombs and aerial torpedo hits. Heroic rescues were made throughout the attack by Navy and Marine personnel and civilian workers of Pearl Harbor Naval installations. Hundreds of burned, oil-covered men were pulled from the water and rushed to hospitals. Thirty-two sailors trapped in the capsized battleship OKLAHOMA were rescued by Shipyard workers who made a hole in the hull with pneumatic chipping guns.

All Shipmates of the FRA have good cause to reflect back to the holocaust of “Pearl.” The tragic events of that fateful morning gave way to the formulation of the greatest naval force in history. Inspired by the battle cry “Remember Pearl Harbor,” our Navy and Marine forces fought long and hard for ultimate victory.

After World War II, the FRA conducted a drive to raise over 40,000 dollars that was donated to help toward the construction of the USS ARIZONA Memorial at Pearl Harbor. And later, on December 7, 1967, an FRA endeavor was finalized when a six foot scale model of the ARIZONA was presented at the Memorial. The model is on permanent display inside the impressive monument.

Pearl Harbor Day is gaining in prominence regarding participation in observances by many branches. It is an obligation which all shipmates share in order to keep the public aware of the countless sacrifices that were made for our country. A day to revere our gallant dead. DO NOT FORGET PEARL HARBOR and December 7, fly our nation’s flag.

BILL OF RIGHTS DAY DECEMBER 15

December 15, 1791, was proclaimed the first Bill of Rights Day by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. This was one hundred and fifty years after the December 15, 1791, adoption of the Bill of Rights, ratified by the consent of Virginia whose action brought three-fourths of the states into agreement. The Bill was thereby made a part of the Constitution.

The President urged that Bill of Rights Day be celebrated by displaying the flag, by prayers, and by other ceremonies suitable for the occasion. Today, patriotic, civic and educational groups put on programs featuring speeches or skits emphasizing the importance of the Bill of Rights underlying concept of freedom and of the need to guard our liberty diligently. Newspapers have promoted the day by sponsoring essay-writing contests among students.

The date is significant because it commemorates ratification of the first ten amendments to the Constitution of the United States on December 15, 1791. We know them today as the Bill of Rights. They are an insurance of the rights for free men against tyrants. Some of the highlights protect freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom from unreasonable search, right to assemble, right to petition, right to jury trial and counsel. The Bill of Rights also prevents excessive bail, illegal loss of liberty, and provides for just compensation of property.

Twelve possible amendments were offered by the First Congress to the states for ratification on September 25, 1789. Ten of these provisions were accepted by the states. The two rejected ones dealt with the apportionment of representatives and the pay of Congressmen. These first ten amendments became known as the Bill of Rights.

In the glorious history of our nation, the Bill of Rights stands as a symbol of freedom and the guardian of the rights of man.

Today, as much as ever before, because of vast differences of world ideologies, it is most important that all Americans understand and appreciate the implications of these rights. The annual observance of Bill of Rights Day should be stressed to all. A very special day to all who enjoy freedom by virtue of being an American.

Perhaps your Branch could sponsor an essay contest on the topic in local schools. Or provide your schools with a framed copy of the Bill of Rights.

Show your colors on December 15, and give thanks that you are an American!

CONCLUSION

The heritage of the past is the seed that brings forth the harvest of the future. The committee has intended that this pamphlet might be the seed of some harvest in thought or action.

DO NOT TAKE FREEDOM FOR GRANTED

We conclude with George Washington's prayer for the nation:

“Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of all the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience for the government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large.

“And finally, that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose of all of us to do justice, to love mercy, and demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation.

“Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.”

**FRA
AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST EVALUATION FORM
(FRA Use Only)**

ESSAY CONTROL NUMBER: _____ MAXIMUM POSSIBLE POINTS 100

		1 st Eval.	2 nd Eval.	3 rd Eval.
	INITIAL			
1. Follows theme? Maximum if essay follows theme throughout, less points if it drifts off, and failure to follow theme eliminates the essay.	0-40 POINTS			
2. Is sentence and paragraph structure good? Original, concise, clear in meaning, and interesting?	0-30 POINTS			
3. Spelling and punctuation. If one or two small errors occur and essay is otherwise excellent, continue evaluation.	0-10 POINTS			
4. Legibility and neatness.	0-10 POINTS			
5. Personal Reaction.	0-10 POINTS			
	TOTAL POINTS			

COMMENTS:

NOTES:

1. The Essay Evaluation Form is designed for use by one to three evaluators per essay.
2. Be fair and consistent in your evaluations.
3. Evaluators are normally not concerned with cover sheets, however, Branch, Regional and National Chairmen need to ensure all required data is provided.

(Enclosure 1)

BRANCH INTERIM AMERICANISM REPORT

(This report to accompany the essay entries when forwarded to the regional chairman)

Date:	Branch:	Membership Group:
Branch Americanism Chairman's Name:		
Address:		
Telephone:		
E-mail address:		
Total Number of Essays judged by branch:		
(a) Total number of first place awards presented or to be presented:		
(b) Total number of second place awards presented or to be presented:		
(c) Total number of third place awards presented or to be presented:		
(d) Additional awards if any:		
(e) Explain or describe additional awards:		
(f) If monetary awards were given, what is the total value:		
(g) Total amount of money expended or estimated to be expended for the cost of the Americanism Essay Contest, including mileage @ .20¢/mile, cost of awards, printing, duplicating, postage, telephone, etc.:		
(h) Number of news releases for the essay contest, to be included in the branch Americanism report:		
(i) Number of public appearances to promote the essay contest, such as meeting or speaking with school administrators, teachers, PTA groups, youth groups, students, or other organizations:		
(j) How award presentations were made:		
(k) Number of man house expended on Americanism program:		
(l) Estimated mileage expended on Americanism program:		

Branch Americanism Chairman

(Enclosure 2)