

# 1950

## JAMES A. ROBINSON

### BLACKWELL, OKLAHOMA Our Constitution Sustained by Free Men

Note: James A. Robinson of Blackwen Oklahoma, won the thirteenth annual American Legion High School Oratorical Contest. The national finals contest, conducted in Phoenix, Arizona, saw Robinson defeat three other national finalists to capture the \$4,000 first place award.

Second place went to Edmund Kersten of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He took home a \$2,500 scholarship. The third-place winner was Rodney Mara of Rhode Island who received a \$4,000 scholarship. Fourth place went to Ross Larson of Kansas City, Kansas. He received a \$500 stipend.

The strength of the Constitution of the United States lies in the spirit by which it is sustained by free men. The very character of this dynamic document thrives on free men's meeting changing conditions. The American way of life always presents an enticement to free men, a challenge to be an individualist, to pioneer. The American people, free as they are, never hesitate to sweat and toil, to die if necessary, for a better day. In the pioneer spirit, free men nurture our free nation.

When the Fathers of this noble Republic launched the Ship of State in 1789, the pioneer spirit, the spirit of the Constitution, flourished. Tides of rugged individualism swept over the treacherous mountains, across the mighty Mississippi, up the rolling plains to the steep Rockies and beyond until this young nation of free men had stretched her borders from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Over the swollen streams the pioneer led his family. In ox cart, in covered wagon, on foot, the young and the old alike dared to make their way. As they tilled the fresh black sod with their crude plows, they never once lost sight of their belief in freedom and their trust in free men. The determination of the frontiersman, his tenacity, his rugged individualism built a great nation with its functioning local and state units and sustained that timeless Constitution with its division of powers. The Constitution with its declaration of the rights of free speech, a free press, and freedom of assembly provided an irresistible incentive for the pioneer. Free men under their Constitution raised an enviable nation out of a vast wilderness.

Unlike the land from which our forefathers hailed, this young country breathed deeply of individualism. Across the seas man served the State; in the new America the State served the individual. This relationship between individual and State was not achieved overnight. Because people had experienced generations of monarchial denial of life,

liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, the early Americans did not ask for, ladies and gentlemen, they demanded a set of written laws, the Bill of Rights. The constitutional protection of the home against unlawful searches and seizures by the militia, the insurance of due process of law, the guarantee of the rights of the individual established freedom from fear among the populace. The flexibility of the Constitution in meeting the rapid strides of scientific developments encouraged interstate commerce that has blessed the people with freedom from want. The resounding voice of the people spoke in the adoption of the Constitution. The age-old dream of freedom for free men began to be realized.

But like all roads to progress the winds of hard time blew ferociously. The House of State divided into opposite camps for almost a generation. But even in disunion, the fundamental principles of the Constitution still lived in both the North and the South. Even the War between the States did not deny freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of assembly. The reunion of the Gray and the Blue gave the world a living example of the efforts of free men.

Seemingly, however, the world was not yet ready for the way of life our Constitution emulated-domestic tranquility, the secret ballot, trial by jury. The Kaiser pardoned his atrocities with the excuse that his people were a superior race. Here was the first indication that a people who had pioneered as individualists and who had sustained freedom at home dare not remain neutral in the world-wide attack on the very essence of our Constitution. Liberty-loving people coined an international maxim: "One is not free, if all are not free." The principles of our Constitution were at stake in a world at war. Our progress and Our constitutional development had made us internationally minded. The belief in one world tied the sustainment of our Constitution, of peace, of individual freedom, of human liberty to the safety of Europe.

Free men fought that war to make the world safe for democracy. While the famed American Expeditionary Force waded in the mud in France, Woodrow Wilson and others formulated the doctrine of "self-determination of all peoples." A quarter of a century later a new generation resumed the battle to defend our Constitution. For many American boys boot camp and battle ground meant the first time ever to be away from home. And it was a rare American family whose representative in that war to sustain freedom and protect our Constitution was neither a victim of casualty or death. As a result of their giving the best years of their youth or sacrificing their very lives on the bloodstained fields of battle, more people breathe the air of freedom today than ever before. The blessings of independence have come to India, Burma, the Philippines, Israel, and Indonesia, all because free men believe that "one is not free, if all are not free." Today no force can confine individualism and the principles of our Constitution to this continent.

Accompanied by the presence of his Constitution, the American doughboy has proudly taken Old Glory into every climate. As her shining Stars and brilliant Stripes unfurled, a long-kindled hope of freedom burst forth as a mighty furnace. Her colors of courage,

truth, and valor give expression to the forward-moving hopes of free men everywhere. All over the globe free men are sustaining the freedom expressed in our Constitution.

The free men of America have paid a price to sustain their Constitution. The sacrifices of the thousands of Americans whose bodies lie limp in veterans' hospitals or are to move no more from foreign graves bear witness to the intensity of mass-murder warfare. The Death March on Bataan with its pitiful undernourishment so sapped thousands of American boys that today they are coughing away their lives in tuberculosis sanatoriums. Hundreds stricken with jungle fever will spend their remaining days suffering between alternate sensations of burning heat and shivering chills, eternally separated from home and family. The shock of torment and the anguish of war cause many psychotic patients to bang their heads against the walls of padded cells. Ladies and gentlemen, these men did not seek heroism. They would not have chosen such awful pain and misery. But they had no alternative if they were to protect their families, to defend the way of life which they held dear, to preserve liberty and freedom under the Constitution.

How marvelous it is that, even while the military forces were away, constitutional freedoms were never impaired. The United States still had trial by jury. The American people held their elections regularly as the Constitution prescribed. In fact, for the first time even those in uniform participated in the election of their own commander-in-chief. The greatest opportunity of our time is to utilize that Constitution in peace as our boys bravely defended and sustained it in war.

The seeds which the Puritans and the Cavaliers planted with their prayers, the men of 1776 cultivated into a magnificent Constitution with its inherent checks and balances. The strength of that document lies in the spirit of the American people. It is their courage, faith, and valor that continually sustain the Constitution. It is the courage of the pioneer to go west and homestead. It is the faith of the thousands who have given their lives in defense of home, family, country, and Constitution. It is the valor of the men in the Doolittle mission who, when in every theatre of war America was on the defensive, flew over Tokyo and revived our spirits to sustain our Constitution.

So, keep faith, America. Keep faith in the spirit that has sustained our Constitution. Keep faith in the tenacity of the pioneer, the spirit of free men, men who accept challenges and create better ways of life. Give us a nation of American free men with their self-reliance, initiative, and ingenuity, and we will pit our nation against any mass of millions of regimented peoples anywhere, even if the supreme test must be war. Even while the current tempest between individualism and collectivism requires our eternal vigilance, our apprehension need not turn to fear. For as long as free men live they will cherish the spirit of the American pioneer-courage, truth, and faithfulness-until in God's appointed time all men shall awaken to the spirit of our Constitution sustained by free men.



# 1962

## PATRICIA ANN TURNER

### MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA: The Constitution - Temple of Liberty

Note: Patricia Ann Turner of Muskogee, Oklahoma, became the second girl to be national champion of The American Legion's High School Oratorical Contest She earned the honor by defeating three other sectional winners at the national finals contest conducted at Salt Lake City, Utah. The former 1961 Sooner Girls State graduate received a \$4,000 college scholarship. She was sponsored by James G. Smith Memorial Post 15.

Charles John Hansen, Jr., of Indio, California, took home a \$2,500 scholarship for finishing second; Richard E. Darilek of Houston, Texas, was third and received a \$1,000 award; and Robert J. Barrett, III of Bangor, Maine, was fourth and received \$500. Hansen, Darilek and Barrett all attended their department's Boys State program Barrett also participated in the 1961 Boys Nation program in Washington, D.C.

Once there was a wise old hermit who lived in the hills of West Virginia. He was well known throughout the area for his philosophical insight and profound knowledge. One day some boys from a neighboring village decided to play a trick on the hermit to test his wisdom. They caught a bird and proceeded to the hermit's cave. One of the boys cupped the bird in his hands and called to the hermit, "Say old man, what is it I have in my hands?" Hearing the chirping noise, the hermit said it was a bird. "Yes, but is it dead or alive?" asked the boy. If the hermit said the bird was alive, the boy would crush it in his hands. If the hermit said the bird was dead, the boy would open his hands and let the bird fly free. The hermit thought a moment and then replied, "It is what you make it."

As Washington had written to Lafayette, "We now have our freedom, but what are we going to make of it? Any weakness in the Union may ultimately break the band which holds us together."

For a long time the wise members of the Continental Congress had known the truth of the immortal words of Benjamin Franklin, "We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall hang separately," We were suffering from "too little government." There was no Central Government to deal with the problems of the new country. Finally, after long months of deliberation, our Constitution, our "Temple of Liberty," was fashioned.

Thirty-nine gentlemen in silk stockings, knee breeches, and rumed shirts signed the document. One by one, they penned a document to guarantee all the virtues sought by our forefathers ... Union, Justice, Tranquility, Safety, Welfare, and Liberty.

And as they signed, Franklin turned to a friend and pointed to the sun pictured on the back of the chair which had been occupied by the president of the convention, he said, "I have often in the course of the session looked at that sun behind the president without being able to tell whether it was rising or setting. But now at length I have the happiness to know that it is a rising and not a setting sun."

"We the People"-we'll never know in who's brain the idea originated, but we do know that it sounds the heartbeat of the framers of the Constitution. It is the voice of the people, giving expression to their soul's desire-a desire to unite the spirits and hearts of the people "under the roof," in an indestructible Union, making our Liberty forever secure.

In those simple yet powerful words the preamble comes alive with the strong verbs - "Form, Establish Insure, Provide, Promote, Secure, and Ordain."

"Will it work?" This was the question Franklin asked himself and others of the convention, "It works." That is the answer 175 years later. It will continue to work as long as "We the People" govern our own country of America.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "The common sense of the common people is the greatest and soundest force on earth." The Founding Fathers of the Constitution had that common sense and forethought when they devised an idea of government so solidly rooted it could grow in power and vision. Its flexibility and adaptability to the requirements of progress have served our every need. It has stood the test of time, war, and depression. Of the people, by the people, for the people, it has preserved, protected, and defended the rights of each and every one.

Yet we take too much for granted this wonderful document of democracy. We naturally think that to which we are accustomed is obvious and needs no justification. We forget the long and painful struggle to achieve our constitutional government. One from which other countries have drawn those elements which could best be adapted to their needs, and now, together with America, are trying to find the way to merge the pattern for a lasting peace.

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When our country was still a line of English colonies along the Atlantic coast, the story is told of a farmer living in New York who tried to tell the people of his native France what life in America was like.

He described the beauty and richness of the land, and the thrilling sight of men and women coming from every country in Europe to be forged together into a new nation. But he talked mostly about freedom. Nothing seemed to amaze him so much as how free a man could be in the New World.

In America, he said, a man is free to work for himself and keep what he earns; he is free from hunger and servitude and abasement; he is free to go to the church he prefers.

The farmer was so afraid his friends in Europe could not comprehend this kind of freedom that he repeated it over and over. In his book. This American People, Gerald W. Johnson says ... "What we need is not the flatterer who tells the American citizen what a wonderful fellow he is and what a glorious thing it is to be an American. What we need is a challenger who will tell him what a difficult and dangerous thing it is to be an American. For the American doctrine, our Constitution, was devised by brave men, for brave men." Next to the Bible, it is the most precious expression of the human soul...every word offering solace and security, every word a symbol of safety in our life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. All of its parts are links that bind the people together in an unbreakable chain-a chain so beautifully formed that one is reminded of the mystical golden chain which the poet saw binding the earth to God's footstool.

As William E. Gladstone so simply put it, "It is the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man."

To the framers, the Constitution was a new Declaration of Independence-a declaration that the hard-won liberty should not perish, but should be made perpetual by pooling our resources and energies in a firm Union. To this end may we constantly give thought and pledge "our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor" to that goal, that we might be worthy of those who did so much for us. In New York Harbor stands a symbol of the liberty and brotherhood which the citizens of a country enjoy under a free form of government. The right hand holds a great torch high in the air, while the left grasps a tablet bearing the date of the Declaration of Independence. A broken chain at her feet symbolizes the bonds which claim a people struggling for their freedom. At night the

torch in the right-hand gleams with light... a symbol of liberty shedding light upon the world.

May we ever lift our eyes to that soaring dome where freedom stands, "With her laurel crowned helmet and her grounded shield," and have that one dream in our hearts-the dream that freedom and justice, which is our true heritage, may become that of every nation of the world.

May we always remember the Constitution as our most precious gift. A declaration that liberty and justice shall forever reign .. .for every man, woman, and child, beneath the Stars and Stripes. Time does not wear down nor eat away its eternal truths. Instead of fading with age, the Constitution takes on new splendor. War does not overturn our "Temple of Liberty." built by our forefathers, with a faith which gave them the strength to plan for the ages. With equal faith, may we guard our birthright and hand it down to our posterity as their most precious heirloom-liberty, "the immediate jewel of the soul." As our President once said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country."

Just as the bird in the cupped hands of the boy, it is in the hands of each American to let our liberty die or make it live.



# 1978

## DEBRA A. MORRIS

### LAWTON, OKLAHOMA The Constitution: Parent to a Young Democracy

Note: Debra A. Morris, a 17-year-old senior from Lawton, Oklahoma, won the 41st annual American Legion High School Oratorical Contest. She was presented an \$8,000 scholarship after taking top honors at the National Finals Contest held at Klamath Falls, Oregon. The other national finalists who received scholarships of five, three and two thousand dollars respectively were: David A. Silva, Staten Island, New York; Neal Ray Jones, Smithfield, North Carolina, and Roberta Jane Zachary, Shafter, California.

The subject of raising children has never been one on which psychologists or parents have chosen to compare notes. Therefore, as many strategies have evolved as there are "how to" books for parents. The most recent compilation of tactics was written by Dr. Thomas Gordon, mastermind of "Parent Effectiveness Training." Gordon has devised what he believes are three revolutionary principles: One, that a child must challenge his parents in order to grow; two, that his parents must be flexible enough to adjust to each challenge; and three, that new responsibilities must result from each challenge made. Dr. Gordon's theories are not revolutionary. We know that it's natural and healthy for a child to question his parents. Any 15-year-old will readily admit that it certainly feels healthy to protest their policies by confounding them with careful cross-examination, astounding them with rapid refutation, and overwhelming them with the powers of persuasion. His parents will readily admit that he does it often enough for it to be classified as "natural." And why not? It is human nature. We were born of challenge. Birth, our eviction from the protective womb, was a challenge even to survive.

Our nation was also born of challenge. America's bloody repudiation of Mother England and her subsequent emergence as a sovereign state was a critical period-no less critical than our own infancy. Her traumatic birth endowed each patriot with the spirit of challenge. Our founding fathers knew that this spirit was the life force of the young nation. Therefore, when they assembled at the Federal Convention of 1787, they created a constitution that encouraged challenge, allowed for change, and imparted attendant obligations to the public. The Constitution embodies three principles similar to the ones that Dr. Gordon is advocating for parents.

First of all, the Constitution encourages challenge. The system of checks and balances among the three branches of government is the best example of this. Each branch is given certain constitutional powers, and each is given a check on the abuse of these powers by the other branches. The system of checks and balances is as essential to the

health of the government today as it was in 1787. Five years ago, the Supreme Court challenged President Nixon's privileges as the chief executive by ruling that he could use his unique powers to protect the nation's security, but that he could not use them to protect his own. Only weeks ago, President Carter challenged Congress by threatening to check its power with a veto. Challenge is a healthy impulse within a child-it is a healthy influence upon a government. Like Thomas Gordon, the delegates to the Federal Convention believed that challenge should be encouraged, and devised the system of checks and balances for that purpose.

Secondly, the Constitution allows for change. According to Dr. Gordon, an effective parent will modify his policies if criticism of them is justified. The delegates knew that an effective constitution was one that could be changed when challenges made against it were legitimate. Therefore, the framers of our Constitution worked for flexibility, not rigidity. They provided two ways to modify the Constitution. The first way was through an interpretation of the document by the Judicial Department. Charles Evans Hughes was correct when he said that the Constitution is what the judges say it is. Their decisions have changed the scope and meaning of the Constitution. For example, the scope of the Fourth Amendment was broadened in 1914 when the Supreme Court justices decided that protection from illegal search and seizure included protection from the evidence obtained in such a way. Their decision gave birth to the Exclusionary Rule. The intent of Article 14, Section 1, was made clearer in 1954 when the justices determined that "equal protection under the law" did not exist in separate educational facilities. Their decision gave birth to desegregation. The power in judicial interpretation was best expressed by John Garraty when he said, "Troops deploy, great corporations dissolve, little children march past jeering mobs to school because nine black robed justices in Washington have discovered new meanings in an old and hallowed document."

The second way to modify the Constitution was through amendment. Our legislators have exercised their power to amend the Constitution 25 times-each time in response to challenges made against it. Even before the Constitution had been passed by the states, the absence of a bill of rights was criticized by Thomas Jefferson and others. Within four years of ratification, the first ten amendments were enacted. When the exclusion of the black man from "the blessings of liberty" was protested, the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments were ratified. When the denial of suffrage to women was denounced, the Nineteenth Amendment was enacted.

The framers of the Constitution provided us with two ways to modify it. They knew that change would one day be necessary and desirable. Thomas Jefferson predicted this when he wrote, "Some men look at constitutions with sanctimonious reverence and deem them like the ark of the covenant, too sacred to be touched ... I am certainly not an advocate for frequent and untried changes in laws and constitutions ... but I know also that they must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind ... and keep pace with the times."

We have examined two ways in which our Constitution is comparable to Dr. Gordon's "model parent." Both allow challenge, and both are flexible. There is a third way they can be compared. The wise parent will make it clear to his child that more privileges mean more responsibilities. The privileges of challenging and changing our government also come with certain responsibilities and obligations. I can think of two very important ones. The first is our obligation to remain informed. Only after we have learned about the Constitution and how it works, can we challenge it. Only after we have learned about the government and how it works, can we change it. Education helps us to make wise and responsible changes. Thomas Jefferson agreed with this. He said, "When the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government; whenever things get so far wrong as to attract their notice, they may be relied upon to set them to rights."

Our second obligation is to safeguard the rights that are provided in the Constitution- especially the First Amendment rights to communicate freely. Diverse ideas and information must be available if this nation is to remain healthy. Weaknesses in the system cannot be detected unless we assume that critical thoughts are not subject to censorship. Weaknesses cannot be corrected unless we incorporate the diverse ideas and opinions and use them every time we vote, write a letter to the editor, or speak at a town meeting.

The Constitution has proved to be an effective parent to this young democracy. Just as a wise parent modifies his policies with each successive child, the Constitution has changed with each successive set of national circumstances. It has encouraged challenge through the mechanisms of amendment and interpretation. Finally, it has entrusted each citizen with the attendant obligations of remaining well-informed and of safeguarding the freedom to communicate. A parent's outstanding qualities become more precious to a child as he matures. Likewise, the Constitution's flexibility and comprehensiveness have become more valuable to us with each passing decade. Just as a healthy child is a source of pride to his parents, this democracy has been the source of our pride in its parent-the Constitution.

# 1980

## LAURA M. VANCE

### LAWTON, OKLAHOMA The Framework

Note: Laura Vance became the fourth female winner of The American Legion's National High School Oratorical Contest when she topped competition at the 43rd annual national finals contest held at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. The 15-year-old senior from Lawton, Oklahoma, received an \$5,000 college scholarship for her efforts.

Ms. Vance went on to the University of Oklahoma where she received a BA Degree in Language Arts. She later taught at Notre Dame High School in Salinas, California. She said, 'I gained from the contest the realization that what I thought was important; I could make a difference. I could change things. This is the confidence I try to instill in my students. '

The other national finalists who received scholarships of five, three and two thousand dollars respectively were: Paul C. Kuhnelt of Garden City, New York; William D. Spencer of Alexandria, Virginia; and David T. Warner of Provo, Utah.

We've often pictured the first meeting between Adam and Eve, but how many of us have considered the meeting between the two first men? In their own way, they almost certainly discussed the necessities of life and how to obtain them, but man, being the unique creature he is, probably also discussed happiness and how to attain it in his surroundings. As time passed, both man and his environment changed. Small family units developed into tribes which turned into villages which grew into cities; and it became necessary to establish an outline, a framework for the construction of man's rapidly growing society that would give each individual the chance to have not only the necessities of life but also the necessities of happiness-the rights of equality and freedom. Throughout time man has searched for the perfect framework to promote these rights. Perhaps, in America's Constitution, man's search has ended.

One of the first frameworks of society came forth from a region once known as Babylon. Written in 1770 BC., Hammurabi's Code was searching for foundations of justice. "If a man destroys the eye of another man, his eye shall be destroyed. If a man knocks out the teeth of a man who is equal to him in rank, his teeth shall be knocked out." These, and the rules which followed, may have supplied some crude code of honor, but they did not allow the equality needed for man's individual growth and happiness, for these guidelines did not apply to all men but only to a privileged few.

The "eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth" theory was later quoted in yet another guideline for human society - the Old Testament. The Bible set down not only laws which were

formed to protect the rights but also attempted to develop a code under which man could pursue true happiness. This same framework, however, became warped as man interpreted the Bible to meet his own selfish needs. This interpretation caused some to forget or ignore God's true purpose in the Bible; and this, in turn, made many men so confused or unsure that they either sought to reform the distortion itself or they began a search for other paths to happiness. During this period of religious uncertainty, man attempted to create another outline for society which would promote equality and freedom. He succeeded, and the ideals of "Innocent until proven guilty" and "All men are created equal" were formed. These were presented in the document called the Great Charter, which we know as the Magna Carta. Unfortunately, the rights which were voiced in this truly impressive record were abused almost from the time they were written. The people of the world would have to wait another five hundred years for the rights they so desperately wanted. It is for this reason that some men fled from England and began their search for a land where they would be allowed to conceive yet another framework through which they would be able to achieve happiness. Out of this search was born the United States of America, where it is recognized that all men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights. Slowly but surely this ideal was molded into our Constitution, the law of our land and the hope of those in other lands. It established the first type of government which was really controlled by the people through their power to vote, yet, at the same time, acted as a regulator and organizer of the people in times of need.

Does this framework still meet man's needs for the necessities of life and happiness, however? After all, in the one hundred ninety-one years that it has been in operation, we have gone through one civil war, two world wars, and have placed a man on the moon. No document written in 1789 could have possibly kept up with our rapidly changing life style ~ or could it have? Some claim that the Constitution is outdated. They advocate a change in the way our government is run, suggesting fewer rights and more efficiency and material goods. These modern individuals appear to have forgotten two very important points. First, the ideals of equality and freedom, which are the foundation of our Constitution, should be eternal. To remove the article which safeguards these qualities endangers not only these rights in our time but also in the time to come. The future generations of the world should not have to pay for our hasty or mindless decisions by sacrificing their rights. Secondly, the Fifth Article of the Constitution insures the flexibility of our form of government by allowing us to build on the original framework through the adoption of amendments which are ratified by three-fourths of the fifty states.

Looking back over our surprisingly short list of amendments, which now stand at only twenty-six, we can actually see America and her values being built. The first ten additions, which are better known as the Bill of Rights, secure the right to a speedy trial, the freedom of religion, and the right of the people to be protected against unreasonable search and seizure of private property. Amendments like these reflected the values of an America that was attempting to break free from the rule of a nation which denied

rights to the colonies because rights weakened the control it had over America. The Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution set the precedent for freedom of all men. This addition to the framework strengthened our foundation of equality by allowing equality to become reality for everyone, no matter what race, color, or creed. Today, we are still rebuilding, renewing, reviewing. E.R.A., an amendment to balance the federal budget, landmark decisions by the courts, such as the Bakke case or Brown versus the School Board of Topeka, all prove that America's great house of freedom is still under construction, still growing, still being guided by the framework of the Constitution.

Critics have argued that many other just as profound and useful frameworks have been developed, such as the Communist Manifesto or the Political Thoughts of Mao. To some minds, they all promise the same thing ~ a life of freedom and equality for all of mankind. These people don't seem to realize, however, that the quality which sets the Constitution above the rest, above the Magna Carta and the communist regimes of the world and transforms the promise of a full life into the reality of a full life lies in the builder ~ the American people. Never was the Constitution the work of one man who was waiting to spread his political revelation around the world. No, we, we the people, through the constant impressions we make on our framework through our votes and opinions, take part each day in the construction of America. It is only through the constant impressions we make on our framework through our votes and opinions, take part each day in the construction of America. It is only through us that it continues to exist. Just as the first primitive man discussed how to pursue a good and happy life, our founding fathers discussed and then gathered together those same basic wants and needs of man and molded them into a framework, and through this framework ~ the Constitution ~ man has finally attained Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.