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October 2008—Hadley Nagel, Editor/ Publisher -- To join us or for more information, visit our website at <http://www.americansformadison.org> -- © Americans For Madison, 2008

MADISON MEMORIAL BUILDERS MEET AT MONTPELIER

Orange, VA—On September 17th, two leading builders of the James Madison legacy met at the reopening of Montpelier: AFM Founder Hadley Nagel and Chief Justice of the United States John G. Roberts, Jr.

Commenting on the occasion, the Chief Justice stated: "Montpelier restored is certainly beautiful but is in no sense the most fitting memorial to James Madison. If you're looking for Madison's memorial, look around...look around at a free country governed by the rule of law." In response it was observed: "That's a wonderful quote for a phenomenologically-designed memorial to Madison on the National Mall."



Madison Memorial Builders Meet at Montpelier: Chief Justice of the United States John G. Roberts, Jr. and Hadley Nagel, Founder of AFM.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ...HR 3640 NOW PENDING BEFORE 110th CONGRESS

Washington, D.C.—Key legislation involving the legacy of James Madison remains pending before the 2nd Session of the 110th Congress as legislators begin to contemplate whether they will adjourn by November 4th or reconvene to hold a post-election, "lame duck" session. As the opening salvo in the forthcoming bi-centennial salute to the Madison Presidency of 1809-1817, HR 3640 was introduced to construct a national monument for the key founder of the Nation.

Led by the enthusiastic co-sponsorship of **Representative Brian Baird (D, WA-3)** and **Representative Baron Hill (D, IN-9th)**, the legislative process that seeks adoption of HR 3640 and the creation of a James Madison Memorial Commission remains in committee referral before the House Natural Resources and its Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands.

*How to Email a **Take Action** request to your Legislator*

To alert your Washington, D.C. representatives of your interest in action on HR3640 visit our website—

<http://www.rallycongress.com/americansformadison>



—designed exclusively to transmit emails to Washington, D.C. legislators regarding HR 3640.

AFM's 1st Public Bi-Centennial Event: Oct. 2

New York, NY—Benno C. Schmidt, Jr. joins legendary U.S. historians and AFM Advisory Board Members **Joseph J. Ellis** and **Sean Wilentz** and AFM Founder **Hadley Nagel** and NYHS CEO **Louise Mirrer** on the podium, for **Americans for Madison's** first public Bi-Centennial event in celebration of the 1809-1817 Madison Presidency, on Thursday, October 2nd at the **New York Historical Society**.

The event will begin at 6:30P.M. and include a lively discussion of Madison and his Presidency. Afterwards, an open question and answer session will be followed by the historians autographing their books. Tickets are available on line from nyhistory.org through <http://www.smarttix.com/show.aspx?showCode=JAM9>.



Benno C. Schmidt Jr., former President of Yale University, is Chairman of the Edison Schools and City University of New York.

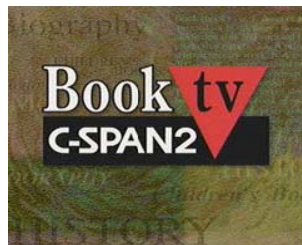
WHY WE SHOULD REMEMBER MADISON'S PRESIDENCY'S BICENTENNIAL by Hadley Nagel

History News Network—While Americans are focused on the 2008 Presidential election, it is important to note that this year also marks the bicentennial of James Madison's election as the fourth President of the United States of America. There are interesting parallels between the two events: national security is an issue of paramount import to this election, and our country was invaded in 1812 while Madison was president. As we compare partisan tickets and the qualifications of running mates, it is worth noting that it was in 1808 when a President and Vice President ran on the same ticket for the first time in our new nation.

We all learned in U.S. History class that it was James Madison who worked tirelessly for the ratification of the Constitution and wrote a third of "The Federalist Papers." His proposed amendments to the Constitution, created to appease the Federalists into ratifying the Constitution, became the Bill of Rights, the document that guarantees freedoms for every American. Madison was also largely responsible for creating the format of our national government -- the three branches—legislative, executive, and judicial -- that serve as our cherished checks and balances.

Shockingly, we have paid little homage to Madison as a people. There is no federal monument to our nation's fourth President. Congressman Baron Hill (D, IN-9th) has sought to correct that oversight by introducing the H.R. 3640, which asks for a federally funded monument to honor James Madison and his work as the Father of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. There are no other agendas attached to this bill, and yet, after one year, it has still not been ratified. Further, a similar bill must also be introduced in the Senate for it to become law and to this date it has not been introduced.

Other small steps, however, have been taken toward acknowledging James Madison's contributions to our nation's history. Since 2004, September 17 has been dubbed Constitution Day, a federal holiday that recognizes the ratification



The October 2nd AFM event at The New York Historical Society is expected to be rebroadcast on C-SPAN 2 to a global audience.



Joseph J. Ellis is the Pulitzer Prize winning Ford Foundation Professor of History at Mount Holyoke College.



Sean Wilentz is the Dayton-Stockton Professor of American History at Princeton University and the General Editor of the James Madison Library.

of the United States Constitution. Any school receiving funds from the U.S. Department of Education must implement an educational program on this day.

This year's Constitution Day was coupled with a momentous event -- the grand reopening of James Madison's home, Montpelier, in Orange County, Virginia. Years have been spent restoring what became a pink stucco Du Pont estate to the way it looked during James Madison's time. It is a remarkable

undertaking, and this year's celebration included John G. Roberts, Jr. (Chief Justice of the United States). And on October 2, historians Joseph J. Ellis and Sean Wilentz will lead a panel discussion, moderated by Benno Schmidt, on James Madison at the New York Historical Society.

These people understand Madison's brilliance and his seminal role in shaping this nation. Before serving as President, Madison was Thomas Jefferson's Secretary of State, and before that he served as a U.S. Congressman. In his home state of Virginia, he was a representative in the state legislation, where he drafted the Virginia Plan, which set forth the idea of a population-weighted representation, the basis of Congress (a bi-cameral legislation), and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, which disclaimed any power of state compulsion in religious matters. So, enjoy our freedom but remember Madison—ask your Congressman to support HR 3640 by clicking here: [AFM](http://www.americansformadison.org).

