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September 2009—Hadley Nagel, Editor/ Publisher--To join us or for more information, visit our website at <http://www.americansformadison.org>--©Americans For Madison, 2009

Constitution Day takes Center Stage on 17th

Baltimore, MD—Ever since the Federal government began requiring in 2005 that, as a condition for Federal funding, educational institutions provide Constitution training on Constitution Day (September 17th), there has been a resurgence in interest in its greatest historical figure—James Madison. With this resurgence, a corresponding level of anticipation has developed as educational institutions around the Nation unveil their formal Constitution Day plans.

Part of this anticipation is driven by the fact that, since **Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-WV)** initiated the legislation in 2004, the actual form of institutional compliance has never been defined by any of the three branches of government. See:

<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/other/2005-2/052405b.html>

As a result, the manner in which institutions comply continues to take on a wide range of forms despite no clear evidence of enforcement. For instance, some lower schools have students draw charts depicting how the Constitution organizes government or edit essays on the Constitution and James Madison where they correct spelling, grammar and punctuation. Other schools have assigned historic figures for students to research during the day and others recreate the historic day's signing ceremony with students performing roles of the document's signers and reading its text as they perform. Alternatively, some schools have students

write essays about James Madison (or other signers) or analyze a particular facet of the Constitution's construction. Still others add a level of competitiveness with prizes for those who successfully research answers to Constitutional questions. While these events may ultimately inspire young minds to greater civic action in the future, the events scheduled at our Nation's colleges and universities seem at times to already reach that level. In this vein, despite severe budgetary cutbacks, Harvard has scored something of a coup with its Constitution Day activities by hosting freshly "retired" **Supreme Court Justice David Souter** who leads a panel discussion that asks: "**The U.S. Constitution: What Should we Celebrate and What should we Criticize?**" The event will be broadcast live and archived for viewing at:

http://video2.harvard.edu:8080/ramgen/vpf_ufs/Constitution2009.rm

Beyond the Campus: Nevada City, California

Of course, it never took Federal legislation for the citizens of Nevada City, California to focus on the Constitution. This year, the entire town will be out in force for its 43rd Annual Constitution Day whose parade is recognized as the oldest and largest such event of its kind: <http://www.nevadacitychamber.com/events/constitution.cfm>

The Big Ten and Constitution Day

If the students at certain Big Ten universities add a parade to their annual events, they may begin to compete with Nevada City's claim to having the largest celebration. School starts at the biggest of the Big Ten--**Ohio State**--a week after Constitution Day, but at **Michigan State** 46,000 students are offered an entire day of activities under the auspices of its law school and its appropriately named undergraduate college, **James Madison College**:

<http://www.law.msu.edu/constitution.php>

Beware of Eventual Government Enforcement

Here at **Johns Hopkins University**, *New York Times'* Supreme Court reporter **Adam Liptak** will discuss "The Roberts Court in the Obama Era." Of course, certain colleges, however, seem bent on flaunting the fact that the 2004 law exists and have seemingly ignored scheduling any Constitutional Day activities. Given that hundreds of millions of dollars—if not billions of dollars of government money can be withheld for not doing so, it is amazing that some institutions are willing to risk such a practice despite the ability for acceptable compliance to be seemingly and refreshingly quite broad. At some point, someone is going to recognize that a law is being ignored and enforce it. Perhaps at that point, a Court might even define what constitutes appropriate Constitution training and then demand rebates of Federal funds from non-complying institutions.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Washington, D.C.—Key legislation supporting the legacy of James Madison and calling for the creation of a James Madison Memorial Commission remains under discussion within the 111th Congress.

Introduced by **Representative Baron Hill (D, IN-9th)** as HR 992, the legislation rests among the many pieces of business that remain unresolved while Legislatures work to find ways to handle key elements of the Barack Obama legislative agenda. Ordinarily, a shift in Administrations or a shift in electoral power would present their own special challenges to Congress, but the two simultaneous shifts have left both

...HR 992 NOW PENDING BEFORE 111th CONGRESS

Legislators as well as their staffs scrambling to achieve consensus and resolution.

As a part of the opening salvo in the bi-centennial salute to the Madison Presidency of 1809-1817, HR 992 ultimately seeks the construction of a national monument on the National Mall that recognizes the importance of Madison in providing the intellectual thinking underlying the founding of the Nation. With Health Care and the Economy clearly preoccupying Congress, technically HR 992 is in referral before the House Natural Resources, chaired by **Representative Nick J. Rahall II (D, WV-3rd)**, and its Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, chaired by **Representative Raul M. Grijalva (D, AZ-7th)**.

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

To alert your Washington, D.C. representatives of your interest in action on HR 992 visit our website—

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

—designed exclusively to transmit emails to Washington, D.C. legislators regarding HR 992.

MADISON IN AMERICA

Editor's Comment: Anyone visiting the AFM website can quickly observe that there are many ways that James Madison appears in our current lives. Here is the story of one:

Orange, VA—If anyone wants to meet James Madison today, some people would say they just need to find **John Douglas Hall**. A native of Connecticut, Hall lives in Stafford, Virginia and can be, of course, frequently found here at Montpelier but he might just as likely be in Washington or some other site across the Nation. For over 30 years, Hall has immersed himself in the "Madison era" initially gaining a reputation as both a teacher and period musician. Since 1985, however, he has evolved into a living embodiment of Madison by engaging in an ongoing study and analysis of Madison thinking. Blessed with an appearance that resembles Madison, Hall utilizes a performance style that is reminiscent of **Hal Holbrook** in "Mark Twain Tonight." Unlike Holbrook, Hall typically appears dressed in period garb without a stage and armed with only his mind to create mesmerizing performances that leave audiences inspired and engaged.

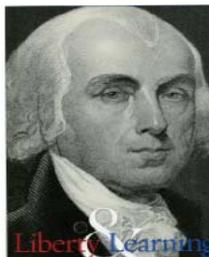


The "Ideal" Constitution Day Speaker John Douglas Hall as James Madison

NEW BOOK ON JAMES MADISON: TESTIMENT TO GREATNESS

Harrisonburg, VA—James Madison University has unveiled a major new work on James Madison written by the Director of its James Madison Center, **Phil Bigler**. In its Foreword, JMU president **Linwood H. Rose** observes that "while it is an ele-

gant notion that a memorial to James Madison exists in the libraries of all free nations, historians often wonder why Madison's legacy is not given the same popular attention as other founders...[as his] accomplishments are the most important to the perpetuity of our democratic republic." Bigler successfully spells out Madison's historic importance as only a gifted teacher like he can do.



Liberty & Learning: The Essential James Madison by Phil Bigler with Annie Lorsback and Shay Cochrane

AFM Joins With Gilder-Lehrman To Create First Scholarly Constitution Day Book on James Madison

New York, NY—Work continues on the first scholarly publication to focus on James Madison developed exclusively for use by students on Constitution Day. Acting in conjunction with scholars at The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, a book is being finalized that focuses on the unique role James Madison performed in the creation of the U.S. Constitution. As the publication process progresses and its planning is realized, distribution is expected to enable the book to become available for educational institutions to utilize as part of their Constitution Day 2010 activities. Founded in 1994, the Gilder Lehrman Institute holds a massive collection of over 60,000 documents detailing the Nation's history whose study it actively promotes. AFM Advisory Board member **James G. Basker** is president of the Institute.

