

WHAT THEY SAY

The following is a transcription of the first 10 amendments to the United States Constitution. Called the "Bill of Rights", these amendments were ratified on December 15, 1791.

Amendment I.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment III

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense.

Amendment VII

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people

WHAT THEY MEAN

Amendment I.

You have the right to believe in God or not. You can go to church where you want to or not go. You can hang out with whoever you want to.. You have the right to tell the government when they have done something wrong and insist that they make it right.

Amendment II

You have the right to own a gun to use against the government, if they get so bad that they try to take away everybody's rights.

Amendment III

You can't be forced to have a soldier sleep on your couch when there is not a war going on, and if there is a war the government has to pass a law before they make you do it..

Amendment IV

You have a right to privacy. No one can come in to search your house, or listen in on your phone conversations, or read your mail, unless a judge is convinced its necessary. Even then, the judge has to state exactly what it is that the police are looking for.

Amendment V

The government can't put you in prison for a crime unless they first convince a group of people that you probably did it. The government can't take you to court twice for the same crime. The government can't make you tell on yourself. The government can't kill you, throw you in jail, or take your property with out first convincing a group of people that you deserve to be punished. Finally if the government has to use your land they have to pay you for it.

Amendment VI

The government can't throw you in jail and forget about you. The government has to give you a public trial as quickly as possible, and in the town you live in. A group of people from your town will decide if you go to jail, not the government. The government has to tell you what they think you did. If the government has witnesses against you, you get to see them and hear what they say. If you have witnesses the government has to go and get them so the people can hear what they have to say. The government has to give you someone to help you stay out of jail.

Amendment VII

If you are arguing with someone about money, you have the right to have the government get a group of people together to decide who's right once and for all.

Amendment VIII

The government can't keep you in jail by making you pay an unreasonable amount of money to get out, or charge you an unreasonable fine for something you have done wrong, or punish you in a way designed to be especially painful to your body, or designed just for you.

Amendment IX

Just because we didn't mention all the rights you have doesn't mean you don't still have them.

Amendment X

We give permission to the government to do things. They don't give us permission. We tell them what to do, they don't tell us what to do. If we allow them to do something today, we can tell them tomorrow that they have to stop. We have the freedom to do whatever we want. If we give the government control over a few things, we still have control over all that's and can take back control of everything if necessary.

WHY WE NEED THEM

There are those who think that average people are too stupid to decide what is right for themselves, for their families, or for their country. They would rather have a king, or a dictator, or a government agency decide. But democracy is based on the idea that the people are able to make the right decisions. We elect people to make the decisions for us. We hope they spend their time learning what they need to know to make the right decisions. They decide the issues while we work at our jobs. If we think they made the wrong decisions we elect someone else the next time. That's the way it works in America.

The people we elect are just like us. Some are smart, some are stupid, most are just average. Some of them are good guys and some of them are criminals. Just like every where else. We are too busy working to pay much attention to what they are doing. We trust them to do what's right.

The gentlemen who wrote the Declaration of Independence thought that:

It's obvious that everyone is more or less the same

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are

That God gives us rights no one can take away

created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with

like Life, Freedom, Being Happy, and more...

certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these

We elect the government so they can help us

rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That

When they don't help us anymore we can get rid of them

whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish

and start over.

it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

Good times come and go, taxes go up and sometimes down. There is never enough money. Everywhere. But this is the first country where they wrote down in the law that the power belongs to the people.

Overseas everyone will soon be using the same kind of money. Soon they will all have the same laws, and soon we will have to join with them, having the same money and the same laws worldwide in order to buy and sell. The great question of this century will be whether Americans will keep our rights and share them with the world or whether we will have to give them up in order to eat and buy and sell. This decision is going to be up to you, the citizen.

WHAT YOU MUST DO

DECIDE IF THERE IS ANYTHING IN LIFE WORTH DYING FOR.

Is it your children? It is making sure that they have enough to eat, a place to lay their heads, and a chance in life? Is it your home, your property, being able to say "this belongs to me"? Is freedom worth dying for? The ability to say what you want, and to do what you want, and hold and exercise all the rights listed in this flyer? If you say, "Yes that's worth dying for!" then is it worth voting for?

VOTE!

Have you heard someone say, "It doesn't matter who you vote for, all politicians are alike!" They don't know what they are talking about! Democrats, Republicans, Socialists, Libertarians, all believe in very different types of government. You should be voting for the candidate that belongs to the group that believes in protecting your rights.

TRY TO FIND OUT WHAT IS HAPPENING

Have you heard someone say, "I vote for the candidate, not for the party!" They don't know what they are talking about! No one can be elected without an organized group of people (a political party) to help them. If a candidate does not put into practice the ideas that the party stands for, he or she won't get any money or help to get elected next time! The person who is elected will appoint other people from their party to positions in the government, (judges for example) who will make sure that the government runs the way the party wants it to, sometimes for years and years. All political parties write down what they believe in. You can get a copy of what they wrote down. You will rarely learn the truth about political parties from newspapers or television. Today, newspapers and television are designed to entertain, not to inform. Instead, you can find out how their candidates voted and what they said about things, at the library or on the internet.

THINK FOR YOURSELF

Could you put down that drink and turn off the TV for a minute? I know you are tired, and that your job is killing you, and that your family is driving you crazy. I know that there are things you need to do that never get done and things you'd like to do but don't have the time or money for. But the government is like your car. If you don't change the oil, or the tires, you might be left stranded, at the mercy of your mechanic, or worse. If you don't pay attention to the way your government runs, you may wake up one morning and discover that you are a slave and have no rights. Spend time thinking about the difference between right and wrong, good and evil, freedom and slavery, and how this country should be run. Then go tell someone else what you think.

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHTS

Have you heard that saying "In numbers there is strength"? Find a group of people that think the way you do and decide to do something to change this world, for better or for worse. Join a church or some other organization. Register as a Republican, a Democrat, or whatever party you think is right and vote in the primaries and in the general election.

Buy a handgun or rifle and ammunition. Learn how to effectively use them. Keep them in a secure place that only you know about.

Call or write your elected officials. Tell them what you think is wrong and right with this great country and what you would do about it. They may take the hint. File a law suit if you think you should. After all, you have your rights, don't you?

"I've Got My Rights" is a pamphlet about the basic rights guaranteed to United States citizens under the Constitution and what must be done, in the opinion of the author, to preserve and defend them.

This pamphlet is provided at no charge to the reader but does cost money to print.

Those interested in providing assistance in the printing and distribution of this pamphlet may send it to:

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