

A NOTE FROM

Colonel William G. Willis

Jan 6, 2014

Dear Lion Andy,

Here are some clips of
Liberty Day presentations
this fall here in Indiana.
So far we have had 14
Liberty Day presentations
this school year and
plan to do another dozen
in the spring. The most
recent one last month
featured 8th Dist Congressman
Dr. Larry Bucshon
speaking at Jasper
High School.

TOGETHER WE'RE FEEDING AMERICA

Bill



LIBERTY DAY CONSTITUTION QUIZ

1. What word is NOT found in the U.S. Constitution?
a. Liberty b. Justice c. Democratic d. Republican
2. What are the three branches of government?
59% of teens know the three Stooges but only 41% can answer this question.
3. What are the first three words of the Constitution?
Only 35% of Americans know the answer.
4. How many US Senators are there?
Only 21% know the answer.
5. Who are the US Senators from Indiana?
Less than 1/3 of Hoosiers know.
6. How many freedoms are guaranteed by the First Amendment?
Only 5% of Americans know the number.
7. What are those freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment?
Only 1% can identify each of the guaranteed freedoms.

The Indiana Lions Liberty Day program provides the answers to these questions for 8th and 11th grade classes throughout the state with the help of local Lions Club coordinators.

To help or for more information call PDG Bill Willis, State Chairman, at 812-936-9450 or e-mail wgw@bluemarble.net.

LIBERTY DAY INDIANA

Instructions for coordinators

Providing copies of the Declaration of Independence & US Constitution to Hoosier students

8099 W. 3rd St., West Baden, IN 47469, (812) 936-9450

January 2015

Memorandum for: Liberty Day Indiana Coordinators; Info to District Governors

From: PDG Bill Willis, State Chairman

Subject: Liberty Day Indiana 2015

PURPOSE: To make Hoosier 8th and 11th grade US history students familiar with the United States Constitution, the oldest instrument of national government in the world. The Liberty Day Indiana program goal is to place copies of the Constitution in the hands of students in selected schools in each of the eight Lions districts. The program began March 16, 2001 and is: 1. Volunteer; 2. Funded by patriotic businesses paying for printing and distribution; 3. Non-partisan with elected officials talking about the Constitution; and 4. Coordinated by Indiana Lions Clubs.

District Coordinators:

Arrange for presentations in three schools in your district this year. That can be three club coordinators doing one middle or high school each, or as few as three clubs each doing one high school or middle school. Your district directory will help in recruiting a club coordinator for those communities targeted. Please provide the date of each scheduled presentation, speaker, number of booklets and where they should be sent (normally to club coordinator). There is no charge to clubs.

Club Coordinators:

Liberty Day was originally observed on or about March 16th (birthday of President James Madison, "Father of the Constitution"). We now do programs year-round with emphasis during the September 17th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution, and in March. A Congressional provision in 2004 now requires every school and college receiving federal money to have a class on the Constitution on or about September 17th. Plan for March and September programs and invite members of Congress or the state legislature, or another elected official, to speak at the event.

1. Call the local high school and/or middle school principal and ask for a convocation (assembly) for the eighth and/or 11th grade classes. Offer two alternatives (would you like to have a program in September or October; in March or April?)
2. Ask an elected official to talk for about 25 min on the meaning of the Constitution on the date selected, and allow another 10 min for questions. Total program time about 45 min including introductions. Two to four Lions are needed to pass out booklets as students arrive for the program. A sample speaker script is available.
3. Notify the local media about the event and please send me a clipping.
4. Please notify me of any potential sponsors. Liberty Day Indiana sponsorship levels are \$1,000 (Gold), \$500 (Silver) and \$300 (Bronze).

Need books? Call me at (812) 936-9450, or e-mail wgw@bluemarble.net. Thanks for your help in making our Hoosier students more familiar with our United States Constitution.

'We the people' heed Constitution's power

By JONATHAN STREETMAN
Herald Staff Writer

JASPER — Local eighth graders received a lesson in freedoms Friday as Jasper Middle School celebrated Liberty Day.

Founded in 1996 by the Lions Club, the Liberty Day Institute is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating young Americans about the contents of the Declaration of Independence.

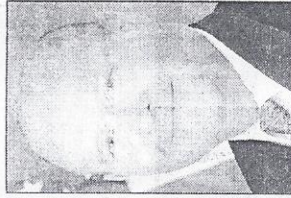
The Liberty Day Indiana program began in 2001 when then-Gov. Mitch Daniels signed a proclamation designating March 16 as Liberty Day, on the birthday of James Madison, the "Father of the Constitution" and fourth president of the United States. Schools are free to participate whenever they can schedule an assembly.

Jasper High School was one of the first schools to participate in the program's inaugural year, said Bill Willis, state chairman for Lions Club of Indiana.

On Friday afternoon, it was Jasper Middle School's chance to learn about the document on which this country was founded.

Dressed as a Revolutionary War soldier, Willis handed out pocket-sized Constitutions to students as they walked into the JMS auditorium Friday. He and fellow Lions Clubs members distributed 280 documents, one for each student.

As the students settled in for their final period of the day, they flipped through the pages. In it, they saw each of the articles



Bucshon

will always be in the People."

"This afternoon, you'll have the chance to learn about the most important government document that has ever been written," Willis told the students before introducing the guest speaker.

U.S. Representative Larry Bucshon, fresh off a flight from Washington, D.C., addressed the children of his 8th District constituents.

"The key to being where I am today was my education," Bucshon told the students. Bucshon, one of two heart surgeons in Congress and a resident of Newburgh, stressed the importance of knowledge. "I was asked to discuss with you one of the founding documents of this country."

Bucshon read the Preamble, suggesting the eighth-graders memorize the introductory paragraph.

"We are so blessed to live where we are," Bucshon said as he launched into an explanation on enumerated powers and how laws are formed and passed and what the Constitution means to him. "I



RACHEL MUMMEY/THE HERALD

Jasper Middle School eighth-grader Madison Allen read portions of a pocket-size version of the U.S. Constitution during a Liberty Day assembly Friday at the school. Liberty Day Indiana, sponsored by the Indiana Lions Club, aims to make students familiar with the Constitution and Declaration of Independence and the men who drafted the documents.

always have a pocket Constitution with me. I represent you guys, so I think it's important to have it with me at all times."

At the end of his prepared remarks, Bucshon reminded the stu-

dents to vote when they turn 18, because democracy and the ability to voice our opinions and elect our leaders is what makes this country great.

"We're the greatest country

that man has ever created," Bucshon said. "This document is why."

Contact Jonathan Streetman at jstreetman@dtheherald.com.



Staff Photo by Marcia Walker

Bill Willis, state chairman of the Lions Club program called "Liberty Day Indiana", talks to eighth grade students at Salem Middle School about the Constitution.

'We the people of the United States'

By **MARCIA WALKER**

Leader-Democrat Staff Writer
marcia@salemleader.com

OK, it's time for a quiz. Which of these words does not appear in the United States Constitution? Democratic. Liberty. Justice. Republican.

Just ask an eighth grader at Salem Middle School for the answer. The answer to the question was one of the points brought out by Bill Willis, state chairman of Lions Clubs of Indiana.

Willis talked Monday to eighth graders at the school in recognition of Constitution Day, which is Wednesday, Sept. 17.

Appropriately, Willis was decked out in the uniform of a soldier with the Continental Army. He stressed the enormity of the task when the ragtag army took on Great Britain, which had the mightiest Navy and mightiest Army at that time.

Willis noted that the Constitution has served as a guiding document for the United States for well over two centuries, through such life-altering events as the Civil War, the Industrial Revolution, two World Wars and the addition of 37 states.

He mentioned the three branches of government: executive; judicial and legislative.

Willis also covered the freedoms protected by the First Amendment: freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom to peacefully assemble and freedom to petition the government for redress of grievances.

Oh — about which of those four words that doesn't appear in the Constitution. Give up?

It's the word Democratic.

Willis said that's because it's not a pure Democracy, that a pure Democracy wouldn't last. It's a Republican form of Democracy, he explained, where people are represented by elected officials.

The Lions have been sponsoring the Constitution Day program since 2001, Willis said, and Salem was one of the first schools to participate. Now, the program is given all around the state.

WE THE PEOPLE

Program teaches basics of Constitution

By Nick Hedrick
nick@thebanner.com

Karlee Harper learned something new about Congress while recognizing the 227th anniversary of the creation of the U.S. Constitution.

"I didn't know there were 435 people in [the House of Representatives]," the 14-year-old eighth grader said.

Harper joined her classmates in Seymour Middle School's cafeteria Thursday, Sept. 18 for a presentation by the Indiana chapter of the Liberty Day Institute about the nation's founding charters. The organization teamed up with the Seymour Evening Lions Club to help celebrate Constitution Day.



Eighth graders hold up copies of the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence Thursday, Sept. 18 during a Constitution Day program at Seymour Middle School. The convocation, organized by Liberty Day Indiana and the Seymour Evening Lions Club, covers the basics of American freedom for eighth and eleventh grade Hoosiers.

Banner/Nick Hedrick

Since 2001, Liberty Day Indiana has conducted programs in schools throughout southern Indiana after the Lions Club noticed a need for children to learn more about the Constitution. The program targets eighth and eleventh graders who take U.S. history. This was Liberty Day Indiana's first year in Seymour.

National polls have

shown 35 percent of American's don't know all the freedoms granted to them in the Bill of Rights, chapter president Bill Willis said.

"A nation that hopes to be free must be an educated nation," Willis said. And part of that education is the document itself that

See LIBERTY, page 10

Liberty

[From front page.]

gives us those freedoms."

Kent Waggoner, president of the Evening Lions Club, put it another way.

"If we don't know what we believe and why we believe it, it's difficult to maintain our society," he said.

During the presentation, Willis—a retired Army colonel—covered the highlights of the Constitution and challenged the students to memorize its 52-word preamble.

"I challenge you to learn it because it will keep you in good standing in your life," he said.

Most of the students received a small booklet containing the Constitution and Declaration of Independence.

Willis also localized Hoosiers' contribution to the Constitution and patriotism, including former U.S. Sen. Birch Bayh's role in lowering the voting age to 18 and establishing presidential succession rules.

He also mentioned Indiana-born President Benjamin Harrison's order to fly the American flag at the White House and all federal buildings.

Principal Doug McClure said Willis's presentation was a nice supplement to what the children have already learned about the nation's founding.

"It's always good to reinforce that," he said. "It's also good to have a veteran in our midst."

Willis said he knew the organization's mission wasn't complete. He said Seymour's eighth graders were some of the few students who knew all five freedoms granted in the First Amendment.

"We've got a lot of work to do," he said.

The Jackson Co. Banner, Seymour, IN, Tuesday, September 23, 2014



LIBERTY DAY---Pictured from the November 10th Liberty Day Constitution Program at Bloomington South High School are PDG Bill Willis, Liberty Day State Chairman; Lion Wally Myers of the Ellettsville Lions; Lion Ed Hitchcock Of the Bloomington Lions; Abraham Leite, a member of the junior class; and Speaker State Representative Peggy Mayfield.



9/16/2014

Liberty Day Program features Attorney General. Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller speaks to the 8th grade class at Oolitic Middle School during a Lions Liberty Day Constitution program held September 16th the day before Constitution Day. Zoeller spoke to about 400 students from four Lawrence Co. middle schools that were participating in the Liberty Day program. Lion Eleanor Himebaugh of the Bedford Noon Lions Club coordinated the event.

(Network Indiana state-wide news story
from WIBC Radio, Indianapolis)

Liberty Day
Network Indiana/RH
11/10/14

(UNDATED) Some Indiana schools are marking Veterans' Day by reminding students of the document those soldiers fought for. Liberty Day Indiana Chairman Bill Willis says the Indiana Lions Clubs began "Liberty Day" presentations 14 years ago, after a survey found more people could name the Three Stooges than the three branches of government. The programs were originally timed around James Madison's birthday in March -- to avoid conflicts with ISTEP, they've expanded to Veterans' Day week and the September anniversary of the signing of the Constitution.



Liberty Day Constitution Program at Indianapolis Emmerich Manual HS

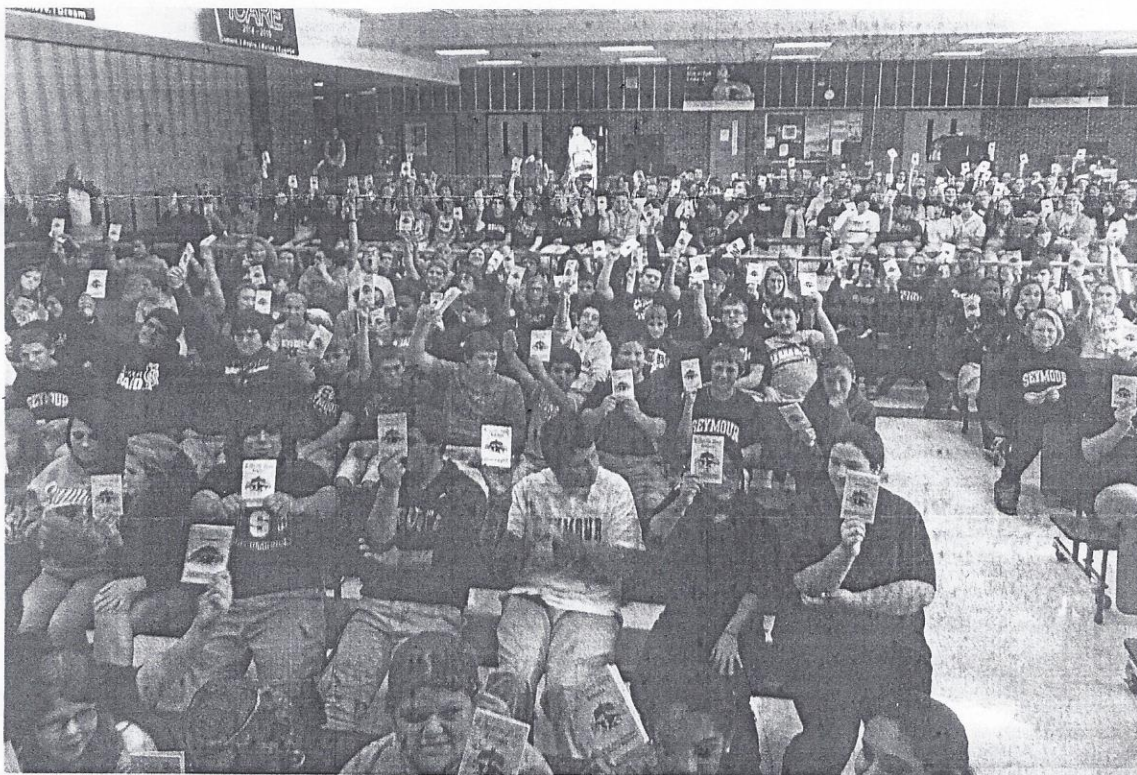
Eric Holcomb, right, spoke to 115 juniors at Emmerich Manual High School During a Lions Club Liberty Day Constitution program held November 10th. Holcomb is Chief of Staff for Sen. Dan Coats. Others shown, from left, are Col. (Ret) Bill Willis, Liberty Day State Chairman, Chad Gerard, American History teacher, an Emmerich ROTC junior student, and Eric Holcomb.



LIBERTY BELL VISIT — PDG Bill Willis, State Chairperson of the Lions Liberty Day Indiana program, visits the Liberty Bell during a July trip to Philadelphia. The Liberty Bell inscription, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land," comes from Leviticus 25:10. Lions will be conducting constitution programs for 8th- and 11th-graders during Sept. 17 Constitution Week.



CONSTITUTION BOOKLETS — Michelle Kirkman-Hardman, left, of the Mitchell Lions Clubs gives Liberty Day Constitution booklets to Mitchell students during a May presentation to 127 eighth-graders. PDG Bill Willis, right, Liberty Day Indiana State Chairperson, talked about the five liberties protected by the first amendment.



Lions Club tells Seymour Middle School 8th Graders about Constitution
Members of the Seymour Evening Lions Club provided Constitution booklets to 365 students in the eighth grade at Seymour Middle School during a Liberty Day program held September 18th, the day following Constitution Day. Liberty Day State Chairman, Bill Willis, wearing a Continental Army uniform, talked about the three branches of government and the five freedoms protected by the First Amendment in the Bill of Rights. Students were asked to memorize the Preamble to the Constitution which has been called "an epigram for the ages."

WFLQ Radio
P.O. Box 100
French Lick, IN 47432

Q-100 Radio editorial for December 15, 2014

1 minute

Bill of Rights Day

Today, December 15th, is the 223rd Anniversary of the approval of the First Ten Amendments to the US Constitution, referred to as the "Bill of Rights."

The author was James Madison, called "The Father of the Constitution" and our fourth president. There have been just 17 other Amendments to our Constitution since those first ten amendments were added in 1791. The First Amendment guarantees our freedoms says what Congress may NOT do. Only 5% of Americans know how many freedoms are protected by the First Amendment, and only 1% of Americans can identify each one. Do you know? Well, there are five freedoms protected by the First Amendment which reads: Congress shall make no law respecting (1) an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or (2) abridging the freedom of speech, or (3) of the press, or (4) the right of people to peacefully assemble, and (5) to petition the Government for redress of grievances. Today we give thanks for the five liberties protected by the First of those First Ten Amendments.

USA SNAPSHOTS® 12/15/14

Bill of Rights Day

The first U.S. constitutional amendments — the Bill of Rights — were added on this day in 1791:

Main author	James Madison
Amendments added	10
States needed to ratify	11
Years since ratified	223
Other amendments since 1791	17

Source Library of Congress

ANNE R. CAREY AND PAUL TRAP, USA TODAY