OMNI CONSTITUTION WEEK AND DAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2012, NEWSLETTER #5. Compiled by Dick Bennett, FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE. (See #4 Sept.17, 2011; #3 September 17, 2010; #2 September 17, 2009; #1: September 17, 2008).

My blog: It's the War Department
http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/

Newsletters:
http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/

Index:
http://www.omnicenter.org/omni-newsletter-general-index/

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Patriot Act versus US Constitution
Understanding the Patriot Act (PBS NewsHour)
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Here is the link to all OMNI newsletters on all subjects:
http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/

CELEBRATE THE RATIFICATION OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2012

Constitution Day commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution by thirty-nine brave men on September 17, 1787, recognizing
all who, are born in the U.S. or by naturalization, have become citizens.

GEORGE WASHINGTON was the commander of the Continental Army in the American Revolutionary War and served as the first President of the United States of America. Read More

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN was a noted polymath, leading author and printer, satirist, political theorist, politician, scientist, inventor, civic activist, statesman, and diplomat. Read More

ALEXANDER HAMILTON was the first United States Secretary of the Treasury, economist, political philosopher and led calls for the Philadelphia Convention. Read More

CONSTITUTION DAY EVENTS SEPTEMBER 17, 2012

Celebrate the Birthday of Our United States of America Government

On September 17, 1787, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention met for the last time to sign the document they had created. We encourage all Americans to observe this important day in our nation's history by attending local events in your area. Celebrate Constitution Day through activities, learning, parades and demonstrations of our Love for the United State of America and the Blessings of Freedom Our Founding Fathers secured for us.

CONSTITUTION DAY 2012, SENATOR ROBERT BYRD

Constitution Day 2012!

- » Administration
- » Financial Assistance
- » Constitution Day 2012!

Celebrate Constitution Day September 17, 2012

Background
Senator Robert C. Byrd, a West Virginia Democrat and the United States Congress' unofficial constitutional scholar, believes that the American primary, secondary, and post-secondary students lack significant knowledge regarding the United States Constitution. In December 2004, Senator Byrd offered an amendment that was passed by both the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate in an attempt to increase students' knowledge about the constitution.

The legislation requires that all educational institutions that receive federal funds implement educational programs relating to the United States Constitution on September 17 of each year. September 17th was selected as the date for the celebration due to the fact that on September 17, 1787 the delegates to the Constitutional Convention met for the last time to sign the United States Constitution and present it to the American Public. Click here to visit the official Constitution Day [http://www.constitutionday.com/index.html](http://www.constitutionday.com/index.html)

**How will YOU celebrate Constitution Day?**

George Friday, Bill of Rights Defense Committee
bordc@mail.democracyinaction.org
Sept. 10, 2012

Dear Dick,

Constitution Day is Monday, September 17, designated by Congress to celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the Constitution in 1787. Today, as threats to civil liberties and freedom continue to escalate, our Constitution needs your help more than ever.

This very week, the House could vote to extend the NSA's dragnet domestic spying scheme by five years, even though the program is the world's most expansive monitoring program, has been repeatedly ruled unconstitutional by federal courts, and has wasted vast (and untold) resources.

Since it's an official holiday created by Congress, Constitution Day offers a great opportunity to raise your voice and share your concerns.
First, tell your congressional representatives where you stand. It won’t be enough, but it is the least we can each do.

We’ve highlighted some important issues online, and offer talking points to refine your advocacy on three of them: http://bordc.org/august_recess/index.php (1) the domestic military detention provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), http://bordc.org/august_recess/index.php#NDAA (2) the JUSTICE Act (which would address surveillance under the USA PATRIOT Act and FISA reforms up for reauthorization this fall) http://bordc.org/august_recess/index.php#justice and the End Racial Profiling Act (ERPA) http://bordc.org/august_recess/index.php#erpa.

Second, consider writing an op-ed or letter to the editor for your local paper. Let us know if it gets published, so we can point a link back to your work from our blog to share your concerns with a broader audience.

Finally, think about organizing a public event. September 17 presents a great chance to educate students, since many schools will already be doing programs. Can you reach out to your local school principal to see whether there are opportunities for speakers from your coalition to offer guest presentations?

Events can also be organized at churches, cafes, or college campuses, especially with the sponsorship of student groups. Your program could be as simple as screening a documentary, as involved as a panel discussion featuring speakers, or as fun as a picnic or trivia night.

Let us know if you have ideas or need help pulling an event together. We’re here to help you raise your voice.

Standing for liberty when our government won’t,
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Fax: 413-582-0116

Dear Dick,
Perhaps you’ve marched alongside him or heard him speak passionately about justice as an indispensable engine of progress. Maybe you’ve seen him on
Democracy Now! and CNN or heard him on NPR or his radio show, Law and Disorder.

I’m talking about Michael Ratner, who for over 40 years has fought on the side of the oppressed—finding a home for his pioneering work at CCR as a staff attorney, legal director, board member and president. CCR recently honored him as a Relentless Radical, a people’s lawyer and a leader at CCR. We encourage you to show your appreciation as well!

Watch this video to learn more about Michael and CCR’s groundbreaking history together:

Please consider making a gift of $4, $40, or $400 in honor of Michael’s four decades at CCR.

As President Emeritus of CCR, Michael remains on the front lines today, whether working with OWS, Wikileaks and Julian Assange or continuing to seek accountability for war crimes and the closure of Guantánamo. And he continues to be a mentor and inspiration to the next generation of radical social justice lawyers—much as the founders of CCR were to him.

On behalf of the Center, thank you for joining us in not only honoring Michael’s relentless efforts to promote a more just society, but also allowing CCR to continue to do this work.

Warmest regards,

Vincent Warren
Executive Director

P.S. Michael recently spoke about WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange’s request for asylum in Ecuador. Click here to

PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY

Dear Dick,

As the year comes to a close, I wanted to share with you this video celebrating our affiliate PFAW Foundation’s 30th anniversary -- 30 years on the front lines of the critical fights to defend liberty and the constitutional values that both PFAW and PFAW Foundation continue to champion today.

All of us here at People For the American Way wish you happy holidays, and we thank you for your incredible ongoing support. It’s your commitment to constitutional values and to the organization that will help PFAW make 2012 a banner year for progressives.

With gratitude,
SECRET GOVERNMENT VS THE CONSTITUTION

The Secret Government PBS 1987 Bill Moyers - YouTube
www.youtube.com/watch?v=jiRBxDFDqw Jun 19, 2011 - 87 min - Uploaded by bustaballs
Great documentary with information you don’t see much anymore. Enjoy.
1. More videos for Moyers Secret Government »

2. Secret Government
www.wanttoknow.info/050423secretgovernmentCached - Similar
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Bill Moyers, Secret Government. PBS (Public Broadcasting Service) 1987. Moyers: "The Secret Government is an interlocking network of official functionaries, ...

www.mohammadmossadegh.com/news/bill-moyersCached - Similar
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Nov 5, 2007 – Watch the video "The Secret Government: The Constitution in Crisis", a 1987 TV program hosted by Bill Moyers examining the Iran-Contra affair ...

4. NOW with Bill Moyers. Transcript. Secret Government...
www.pbs.org/now/transcript/transcript_secretgov.htmlSimilar
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Apr 5, 2002 – BILL MOYERS: Eileen Welsome learned just how hard it is to find out what government doesn’t want us to know. She won a Pulitzer Prize for ...

5. Bill Moyers - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_MoyersCached - Similar
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bullnotbull.blogspot.com/2007.../secret-government-bill-moyers.htmCached - Similar
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7. The Secret Government by Bill Moyers
www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Moyers/SecretGovt_Moyers.htmlCached - Similar
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The Secret Government. by Bill Moyers. Seven Locks Press, 1988. Introduction / Iran-Contra 1987 / The Cold Cold Warriors · Send in the CIA · The Shredding of ...

8. The Secret Government - Part I
www.informationclearinghouse.info/article3281.htmCached - Similar
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www.informationclearinghouse.info/article17720.htmCached - Similar
US IMPERIALISM VS US CONSTITUTION
SUBJECT: BOOK FORUM ON US EMPIRE, MILITARISM, AND WAR ON TERROR

When: Friday, September 21, 2012 (United Nations International Day of Peace)
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Moderated by Dick Bennett

PANELISTS (IN ORDER OF PRESENTATION)
Empire Abroad
John Gray, killing Hope by William Blum (over 40 unconstitutional invasions and interventions after WWII)
John Rule, Blood on Our Hands by Nicholas Davies (unconstitutional violations of Geneva Conventions in Iraq invasion and occupation)
Empire at Home
Attack on Liberties
Bettie Lu Lancaster, Taking Liberties by Susan Herman (violations of US citizens constitutional liberties)
Military Industrial Complex
Dick Bennett, The Military Industrial Complex at 50. Ed. by David Swanson. (economic militarization of US during and after WWII)

So long as the fear-mongering myths continue of enemies who “hate us for our freedoms” and “US invasions and bombings protect those freedoms,” US imperial interventions will continue, innocent people will be killed, our troops will futilely die, our treasury wasted, and our Constitution subverted. People around the world hate our imperial practices. But you and I are not helpless; we are not powerless. We can contribute to an end of illegal US wars of conquest or repression by refuting lies and fears and by advocating nonviolence, empathy, knowledge, reason, evidence, diplomacy, and
adherence to constitutional standards. Let us therefore be informed and not be silent.

This Forum reports on a few of the hundreds of books which our good scholars and publishers provide for our understanding of US imperialism, the constitutionally disastrous “War on Terror.” Chalmers Johnson’s “Blowback” tetralogy critically examines hundreds of aspects of the development of the US empire. Nicholas Davies’ Blood on our Hands identifies many of the specific violations of Geneva Conventions and Nuremberg principles committed in the invasion and occupation of Iraq. But the consequences of empire are not limited to its foreign wars. Empire also results in war against its own people—McCarthyism abroad, McCarthyism at home. Dick Bennett reviews one of many books on what Pres. Eisenhower called the “military-industrial [congressional] complex”: The Military Industrial Complex at 50, ed. by David Swanson. Susan Herman in Taking Liberties: The War on Terror and the Erosion of American Democracy examines case after case of unconstitutional violations of domestic liberties. Other books will be cited. For a list of 46 books on these topics, contact Dick Bennett at jbennet@uark.edu