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Laura Young
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Divas Tribute to the Troops – July 3

The Monticello Opera House has booked The Divas Trio for a dynamic concert that honors the sacrifice and celebrates the heroism of those in our military. The group delivers soulful harmonies and heartfelt renditions of beloved military anthems and patriotic favorites that are sure to leave the audience inspired and uplifted. The live show conveys a powerful message of gratitude and respect through songs like “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy,” “Don’t Sit Under the Apple Tree,” “Lullaby of Broadway,”

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Monticello's 250th

July 4th Celebration
Government officials, business owners, leaders of nonprofits and members of clubs from all around Jefferson County have planned a fabulous Fourth of July celebration in Monticello for America's 250th Independence Day. On Saturday, July 4, the grounds in and around Memorial Stadium on South Water Street will be filled with stage



entertainment, food vendors/concessions and live music.

- 5 p.m. - Gates open for vendors
- 6:30 p.m. - Welcome and Color Guard Presentation of the Colors
- 6:45 p.m. - Reading of The Declaration of Independence
- 7 p.m. - Music by the Billy Rigsby Band
- 8:15 p.m. - Music by Baby Gray
- 9:15 p.m. - Fireworks!

Supporters of the celebration include Duke Energy, American Legion Post #49, CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), City of Monticello, Duke Energy Foundation, ECB Publishing, Inc., Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners, Jefferson County Emergency Management, Jefferson County Historical Association, Jefferson County Lions Club, Jefferson County Republican Party, Jefferson County Schools, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Jefferson County Tourist Development Council, Keystone Federated Republican Women, Kiwanis Club of Monticello, Monticello Opera House, Monticello Police Department, Monticello Woman's Club, Monticello-Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club of Monticello, UF/IFAS Extension – Jefferson. Bring your lawn chairs and join the celebration!

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The Road to Independence

Christian Peterson
ECB Publishing, Inc.

The Road to Independence (from Museum of the American Revolution):

French and Indian War (1754):

Amidst ongoing tensions between Great Britain and France in their American colonies and abroad, 22-year-old Lieutenant Colonel George Washington, of Virginia, accidentally sparks the French and Indian War, leading to the global conflict known as the Seven Years' War.

Treaty of Paris (Feb. 1, 1763):

The Treaty of Paris between Great Britain, France, Spain and Portugal ends the Seven Years' War, leaving Great Britain with titles to French and Spanish territories in North America.

Proclamation Line of 1763:

Hoping to prevent a renewal of violence with the French and Native Americans, Great Britain establishes a line of forts along the Appalachian Mountains and prohibits new British-American settlement west of the line. The substantial cost of the troops to staff these forts puts pressure on the British government to raise money by taxing British-American colonists.

Sugar Act (1764):

Parliament adopts a Sugar Act to regulate trade and raise revenue within its expanded empire. Colonists who depend on trade protest that their duties on sugar violate their right to consent to their own taxation. Others are concerned because accused smugglers will be tried without a jury. Some protest that the act supports slavery on Caribbean sugar plantations.

Stamp Act (1765):

As a way for Britain to support its North American regiments after the Seven Years' War, a tax was enforced on stamps and other items.

Declaratory Act (1766):

Immediately after repealing the Stamp Act in response to American protests, Parliament adopts the Declaratory Act, asserting its right to make laws for American colonists "in all cases whatsoever." In other words, Parliament may have repealed the Stamp Act, but it still had the right to impose taxes on the colonists.

Townshend Acts (1767):

The Townshend Acts, a series of laws enacted by the British Parliament to assert and exercise its right to raise revenue in the colonies and strengthen enforcement of trade regulations, spark renewed protests in many American communities.

British Troops in Boston (1768):

The landing of British troops in Boston, Mass., energizes anti-British political sentiment. Street protests and confrontations lead to the March 5, 1770, Boston Massacre.

Boston Massacre (March 5, 1770):

After years of rising tension between Bostonians and British soldiers in the city, violence erupts on the night of March 5, 1770. A crowd attacks a British guard. Five soldiers and an officer come to relieve him. Someone yells "fire." Their gunfire kills three people, mortally wounds two and injures six others.

Boston Tea Party (Dec. 16, 1773):

A crowd disguised as Mohawk Indians dump more than 300 crates of British East India Company tea into Boston Harbor. Outrage in Britain leads to passage of the Coercive Acts, while in the American colonies, other tea parties follow. In January and December 1774, crowds in Princeton and Greenwich, N.J., burn

piles of



INDEPENDENCE DAY UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

tea. ★★★★★

Coercive Acts (1774):

Adopted by Parliament between March 31 and June 2, 1774, the four Coercive Acts punish Massachusetts for the Boston Tea Party and make an example of it for other colonists. The acts close the Port of Boston to trade, suspend its colonial legislature and town meetings, establish a military governorship and require all colonies to house British soldiers.

First Continental Congress (1774):

The First Continental Congress, a convention of 56 delegates from 12 British-American colonies, convenes in Philadelphia to consider a coordinated response to the Intolerable Acts (Coercive Acts).

Lexington and Concord (April 19, 1775):

A British force from the Boston garrison attempts to seize military supplies of the Massachusetts militia, sparking the first military engagement of the American Revolution: the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

Second Continental Congress (1775):

Colonial delegates reconvene in Philadelphia, now faced with bloodshed in Massachusetts and divisions over whether to seek reconciliation with the British Crown. Congress votes to create a Continental Army from the New England forces surrounding Boston and appoints George Washington commander.

Battle of Bunker Hill (June 17, 1775):

British troops dislodge an entrenched New England force from the heights overlooking Charleston and Boston Harbor, but suffer more than 1,000 casualties. The engagement boosts confidence in the American army and persuades British leaders that they must avoid direct assaults on entrenched American positions in the future.

Washington assumes command (June 19, 1775):

George Washington issues his first orders as commander-in-chief of the "Troops of the United Provinces of North America" from his headquarters in Cambridge, Mass.

Black troops petition to remain in the army (December 1775):

When news reaches Black troops around Boston that an act of Congress prohibits the enlistment of African American in the Continental Army for the coming campaign, they successfully petition George Washington to allow them to reenlist.

Continued on page 3B

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Evacuation of Boston (March 17, 1776):

After American troops fortify hills outside of British-occupied Boston with cannons obtained from New York's Fort Ticonderoga, British General William Howe chooses to evacuate Boston rather than risk the destruction or capture of his army.

Virginia Declaration of Rights and Constitution (June 1776):

The American Continental Congress calls on the colonies to create new state governments to replace British royal authority. In response, Virginia adopts a state Constitution and Declaration of Rights, which asserts that "all men are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights."

American Independence (July 2, 1776):
In Philadelphia, delegates to the Second Continental Congress vote to sever political ties with Great Britain. Public announcement and publication of the final draft of the Declaration of Independence on July 4 establishes the birth date of the United States of America.

Declaration read to Washington's troops (July 9, 1776):

General George Washington orders the Declaration of Independence to be read to Continental Army forces in and around New York City. A group of soldiers, sailors and civilians tears down a statue of King George III in a part of the city called Bowling Green.

Battle of Long Island (Aug. 27, 1776):

British land and naval forces attack the Continental Army on Long Island, leading to a series of American defeats around New York and across New Jersey. British forces occupy New York until November 1783.

Washington crosses the Delaware (Dec. 25, 1776):

Following a demoralizing retreat from New York, and with the enlistment terms of many troops about to expire, General George Washington gambles on a surprise attack on the Hessian garrison of Trenton, N.J. Washington's Christmas night crossing of the Delaware River leads to the battles of Trenton and Princeton during "10 Crucial Days" that revive the struggle to secure American independence.

British surrender at Saratoga (Oct. 17, 1777):

After a series of actions in the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys, the British strategy of cutting New England off from the rest of the rebelling colonies ends in failure at Saratoga. British General John Burgoyne's surrender provides welcome news after the fall of Philadelphia and influences France's decision to declare war on Great Britain.

Valley Forge Encampment (Dec. 19, 1777):

Washington's bedraggled forces to arrive at Valley Forge, about 20 miles northwest of British-occupied Philadelphia, where they remain in winter quarters for six months.

Franco-American Alliance (February 1778):

Representatives of the Continental Congress and the French government sign a treaty of alliance that facilitates commercial exchange, provides French recognition of the United States, and pledges mutual support in the struggle against Great Britain. French volunteer the Marquis de Lafayette has already been serving under Washington since the previous summer.

Battle of Monmouth (June 28, 1778):

British and American forces clash in central New Jersey in the last large-scale military engagement before major operations shift to the south. The Continental Army's performance in this hard-fought battle reflects the reforms in training and discipline instituted during the Valley Forge encampment.

Clark captures Kaskaskia (July 4, 1778):

Virginian George Rogers Clark leads an expedition of militia from Kentucky and western Virginia against the British-held village of Kaskaskia in the Illinois County. Native Americans and French-

speaking inhabitants find themselves caught up in the Anglo-American struggle for control of the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys.

Pennsylvania Gradual Abolition Act (March 1, 1780):

Pennsylvania becomes the first state to adopt an abolition law. This act prohibits the importation of enslaved people into the state, provides for the emancipation of enslaved people born after the passage of the act once they reach 28 years of age, and requires non-residents to free any enslaved person kept in the state longer than six months.

British capture Charleston (May 1780):

With the war in the north stalled, the British turn their attention to the south. Charleston, S.C., had repelled a powerful British naval assault in 1776, but the Americans surrender the city in 1780. The loss cripples the state's government and leads to a devastating war across much of the south.

Battle of King's Mountain (Oct. 7, 1780):

Vicious fighting between Loyalist and backcountry militia ends in the death, wounding or capture of an entire Loyalist force. This action halts the British invasion of North Carolina.

Britain declares war on the Netherlands (December 1780):

In response to the financial and military support that the Dutch had covertly or informally provided the American Congress and its allies, the British declare war on the Netherlands. The British government has no allies in Europe for the first time in a century.

Battle of Guilford Courthouse (March 15, 1781):

British forces defeat Americans under Nathanael Greene, but their control in the south begins to erode as British general Cornwallis invades Virginia.

Mum Bett and Quok Walker cases (August 1781):

Under the Massachusetts Constitution of 1780, all "inhabitants" are guaranteed "natural rights." In 1781, two enslaved people, Elizabeth Freeman (sometimes referred to as "Mum Bett") and Quok Walker, win their freedom in Massachusetts courts by asserting that, as inhabitants with natural rights, they cannot be legally enslaved.

Cornwallis surrenders (Oct. 19, 1781):

British General Charles Cornwallis surrendered to General George Washington at the Battle of Yorktown in 1781.

Treaty of Paris (Sep. 3, 1783):

Peace takes two years of careful diplomacy to finalize. Preliminary articles of peace adopted on Nov. 30, 1782, recognize American independence and give the United States a vast stretch of territory from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River. Ratified by the American Congress and King George III in 1784, this treaty ends the American War of Independence.

British forces leave New York City (Nov. 25, 1783):

The final ships carrying British troops and tens of thousands of white and Black Loyalists leave New York Harbor for destinations in Canada, Britain and the West Indies.

General Washington resigns (Dec. 23, 1783):

In the supreme act affirming civilian control of the American military, General George Washington resigns his commission in a moving ceremony at the Maryland State House in Annapolis.

Constitutional Convention (1787):

Presided over by George Washington, delegates convene in Philadelphia's State House (now known as Independence Hall) to revise the Articles of Confederation. Over the course of the summer, this body frames the United States Constitution.

Washington's Inauguration (April 30, 1789):

At a ceremony on the balcony of New York's City Hall, George Washington is sworn in as the first President of the United States of America under its new Constitution.

Bill of Rights (Dec. 15, 1791):

The first Federal Congress adopts 10 amendments to the Federal Constitution, written in 1787. This "Bill of Rights" states and protects fundamental freedoms of speech, religion, defense and jurisprudence.

Star-Spangled Banner (Sep. 14, 1814):

Watching the British bombardment of Fort McHenry outside of Washington, D.C., Francis Scott Key composes the words of a song celebrating the American defense. He calls it the Star-Spangled Banner. Set to a popular English tune, it will later be adopted as the American National Anthem in 1931.

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State Timeline

- Delaware – Dec. 7, 1787
- Pennsylvania – Dec. 12, 1787
- New Jersey – Dec. 18, 1787
- Georgia – Jan. 2, 1788
- Connecticut – Jan. 9, 1788
- Massachusetts – Feb. 6, 1788
- Maryland – April 28, 1788
- South Carolina – May 23, 1788
- New Hampshire – June 21, 1788
- Virginia – June 25, 1788
- New York – July 26, 1788
- North Carolina – Nov. 21, 1789
- Rhode Island – May 29, 1790
- Vermont – March 4, 1791
- Kentucky - June 1, 1792
- Tennessee – June 1, 1796
- Ohio – March 1, 1803
- Louisiana – April 30, 1812
- Indiana – Dec. 11, 1816
- Mississippi – Dec. 10, 1817
- Illinois – Dec. 3, 1818
- Alabama – Dec. 14, 1819
- Maine – March 15, 1820
- Missouri – Aug. 10, 1821
- Arkansas – June 15, 1836
- Michigan – Jan. 26, 1837
- Florida – March 3, 1845
- Texas – Dec. 29, 1845
- Iowa – Dec. 28, 1846
- Wisconsin – May 29, 1848
- California – Sep. 9, 1850
- Minnesota – May 11, 1858
- Oregon – Feb. 14, 1859
- Kansas – Jan. 29, 1861
- West Virginia – June 20, 1863
- Nevada – Oct. 31, 1864
- Nebraska – March 1, 1867
- Colorado – Aug. 1, 1876
- North Dakota – Nov. 2, 1889
- South Dakota – Nov. 2, 1889
- Montana – Nov. 8, 1889
- Washington – Nov. 11, 1889
- Idaho – July 3, 1890
- Wyoming – July 10, 1890
- Utah – Jan. 4, 1896
- Oklahoma – Nov. 16, 1907
- New Mexico – Jan. 6, 1912
- Arizona – Feb. 14, 1912
- Alaska – Jan. 3, 1959
- Hawaii – Aug. 21, 1959

Christian Peterson
ECB Publishing, Inc.

It took a total of 172 years for America to reach the number of 50 states known today. The over-a-century-long journey took a tremendous amount of work, money and even blood to get where the U.S.A is today. The first 13 states joined the Union between 1777 and 1781, as they ratified The Articles of Confederation (the predecessor of The United States Constitution) after the second Continental Congress. However, the list above shows the dates of when the original 13 colonies, and the following states, ratified the official United States Constitution.



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Constitution of the United States

Christian Peterson
ECB Publishing, Inc.

The Constitution is the defining document of the United States. Every law and operation that the government engages in must be interpreted in light of the Constitution. However, the creation of the Constitution was a long and arduous process, and it wasn't even the first constitution in the states.

During the Second Continental Congress, in June 1777, a committee was appointed to draft The Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union. It was adopted by Congress in full in November of the same year. It took over three years for all 13 colonies to ratify the document, which was accomplished on March 1, 1781.

While the articles were accepted by the original colonies, it came with limitations that needed to be dealt with. The document gave little power to the central government, lacking many decision-making abilities and enforcement powers. On top of this, most decisions required legislative approval by all 13 colonies. The biggest problem was that the country lacked money. It could print money, but it was worth nothing; it could even borrow money, but couldn't pay it back. While some states were contributing, it wasn't enough and in its infancy,

the United States was facing default on its debts.

Due to these and other problems the Confederation Congress called for a convention of state delegates. On May 25, 1787, deliberations began. While the meeting had been called to discuss amendments, the topic quickly changed to consider replacing the articles entirely. There were two plans eventually presented to Congress: the Virginia Plan and the New Jersey Plan. The New Jersey Plan was soundly rejected, which led to compromises on slavery and proportional representation.

In July, John Rutledge, Edmund Randolph, Nathaniel Gorham, Oliver Ellsworth and James Wilson were assigned as the Committee of Detail, drafting the detailed constitution, including the revisions that had been passed by the constitution. After that was presented and discussed, and even further compromises reached, on Sep. 8, 1787, a Committee of Style and Arrangement was put together. This group included Alexander Hamilton, William Samuel Johnson, Rufus King, James Madison and Gouverneur Morris. They worked together to present the final draft to Congress. Eventually, the original U.S. Constitution, which was handwritten on five pages by Jacob Shallus, was approved by Congress, though it was far from a unanimous decision. Benjamin Franklin, one of the 39 signers said, "There are several parts of this Constitution which I do not at present approve, but I am not sure I shall never approve them ... because I expect no better and because I am not sure that it is not the best."

The Constitution is split by section, starting with the preamble, which introduces and lays out the purpose of the new form of government. Famously, it reads, "We the people of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

The first article focuses on the legislature detailing how the legislative branch will be arranged, its members and roles, the limitations of its powers and what members will be subject to. Article II focuses on the executive branch, going into detail about the president of the United States and the vice president of the United States, their job, duties and regulations. The third article focuses on the judiciary, describing the court system and how it will operate, as well as its powers and regulations. Article IV

discusses the states and their powers, as well as border changes and admitting new states. The next article, Article V, outlines the amendment process for the constitution. Article VI discusses the powers of the federal government and what it is and isn't allowed to do, as well as its authority in relation with the states. Finally, the seventh article discusses and outlines the ratification process for the newly minted Constitution. The Constitution went into full effect on March 4, 1789.

There were a total of 39 signatures on the Constitution. Representatives from Delaware were: George Read, Gunning Bedford Jr., John Dickinson, Richard Bassett and Jacob Broom. Representatives from Maryland were: James McHenry, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer and Daniel Carroll. Representatives from Virginia were: John Blair and James Madison. Representatives from North Carolina were: William Blount, Richard Dobbs Spaight and Hugh Williamson. Representatives from South Carolina were: John Rutledge, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, Charles Pinckney and Pierce Butler. Representatives from Georgia were: William Few and Abarahm Baldwin. Representatives from New Hampshire were: John Langdon and Nicholas Gilman. Representatives from Massachusetts were: Nathaniel Gorham and Rufus King. Representatives from Connecticut were: William Samuel Johnson and Roger Sherman. Representing New York was Alexander Hamilton.

Representatives from New Jersey were: William Livingston, David Brearley, William Paterson and Jonathan Dayton. Representatives from Pennsylvania were: Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Mifflin, Robert Morris, George Clymer, Thomas Fitzsimons, Jared Ingersoll, James Wilson and Gouverneur Morris.

The Bill of Rights:

The Constitution was written, but not everyone was happy with the result. A large faction, known as the Anti-Federalists, found themselves opposing the document for a litany of reasons. The opposition was not misplaced in many considerations, including James Madison, the primary author of The Bill of Rights.

Madison was originally opposed to the idea of the Bill of Rights. He had two primary reasons for it. His first argument was that there was no right for the federal government to take away people's rights. Its powers were "few and defined." Thus, anything not listed in the Constitution resides within the state or the people themselves. His second argument was that creating a list of rights would mean that anything not on the list wouldn't be protected. However, he and the framers believed that the natural rights of man were too numerous to list. Therefore writing a list would be antithetical.

Yet, opposition to ratification of the Constitution was a big issue, specifically because it included no Bill of Rights. Madison saw that his only chance to get the Constitution ratified was to add a Bill of Rights.

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 to peaceably 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 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 searched and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probably 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 serving 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 re-examined 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 imposes, 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." Madison added this amendment to allay the fears he and other Framers had that unlisted rights would be violated.

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."

These amendments were sufficient for the large majority of people, and led to the ratification of the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights. It was also the beginning of the amending process, and the first amendments to the document. The Constitution would later be amended multiple times throughout its existence.



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AMERICAN ICONS

Christian Peterson
 ECB Publishing, Inc.

America has produced more than just freedom, a unique government and a plethora of life changing inventions. The states have also created some of the most enduring icons. Whether they are symbols, statues, music stars, activists or athletes, these are known around the world as American icons. Once again, this is not an exhaustive list of American icons, but a few of the many that the country has.



The United States Flag: The flag, also known as "The Stars and Stripes," "Old Glory," "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "The Red, White and Blue," is iconic. The 50 stars represent the 50 states, while the 13 stripes represent the original 13 colonies. The color white signifies purity and innocence, red represents hardiness and valor, and blue represents vigilance, perseverance and justice.



National Motto: "In God we trust" is the national motto of the United States. Its first recorded usage was in Benjamin Franklin's Pennsylvania militia's colors. While it has been used on an off for all of American history, and is even referenced in the national anthem, it wasn't until 1956 that Congress officially adopted the saying as the national motto.

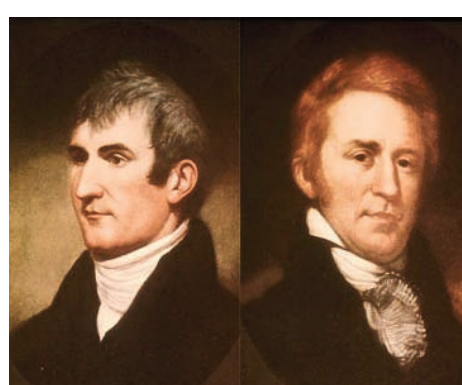


The Bald Eagle: The national symbol of the United States is a bald eagle. It was officially adopted as the national emblem in 1782. For a long time, it was considered the national bird, though this wasn't official until 2024. The eagle was chosen for several reasons. It is the largest bird in North America, and the founders often compared their republic with the Roman Republic, which also used a lot of eagle imagery. At this point, the bald eagle and the U.S.A. are synonymous both in the states and abroad.



The American Bison: Though not as popular as it once was, the American bison is one of the most iconic piece of American fauna. In 2016, it was named the national mammal of the United

States, and has been a popular symbol throughout history, especially for the Great Plains states. It is so well known many major sports teams use it as a mascot. It has also been featured on currency across the country, and there are even entire cities named after the great creature of the plains.



Meriwether Lewis (left) and William Clark (right).
 When the United States was founded, much of the western portion of the North American continent was a complete and total mystery. After the Louisiana Purchase, Thomas Jefferson wanted to detail the western half of the country and lay claim before Europeans could. Thus, he sent an exploratory party led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. The party was able to successfully reach the Pacific Ocean and return, learning more about every aspect of what would become the United States.



Billy the Kid: The Old West is a period of American history that could never be forgotten. One of the most famous outlaws and gunslingers from that time was Henry McCarty, otherwise known as William H. Bonney or Billy the Kid. He was orphaned at 15, and spent the majority of his life on the run from the law. He was linked to nine murders and was involved in the New Mexico Lincoln County War. Rumors about him surviving his execution have been abundant, though it has never been confirmed that this western legend made it out alive.



Helen Keller: At just 19-months-old, Helen Keller lost both her sight and hearing after a bout of illness.

Despite this, through tremendous hard work, and with help of lifelong friend, Anne Sullivan, Keller learned to read and write. She became a prolific author, writing 14 books and hundreds of speeches. She stands as a true testament of American perseverance and grit, proving that the impossible is possible.



Walt Disney: Everyone knows about Walt Disney. The Disney organization still lives to this day as a multibillion-dollar company. Disney himself was a pioneer of the American animation industry. He built a company that created some of the most iconic films throughout history. Of course, more than that, he pioneered the theme park world as well, standing as a testament to the stalwartness of American industry.



Elvis Presley: The King of Rock and Roll set a new standard for music and was one of the most culturally significant figures of the 20th century. Elvis Presley introduced rock and roll to the world and helped race relations across the United States, as he incorporated music from both Black and white cultures. He was one of the best selling music artists in history and successful across multiple genres, starting off what would be the golden age of the American music industry.



Michael Jackson: Continuing the music trend came the King of Pop, Michael Jackson. Possibly the most famous person in the world to date,

Jackson set a new standard for musical achievement. He popularized many famous dances, set world records and is hailed as the King of Pop music still to this day. In fact, he is often deemed the greatest entertainer in the world. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Dance Hall of Fame.



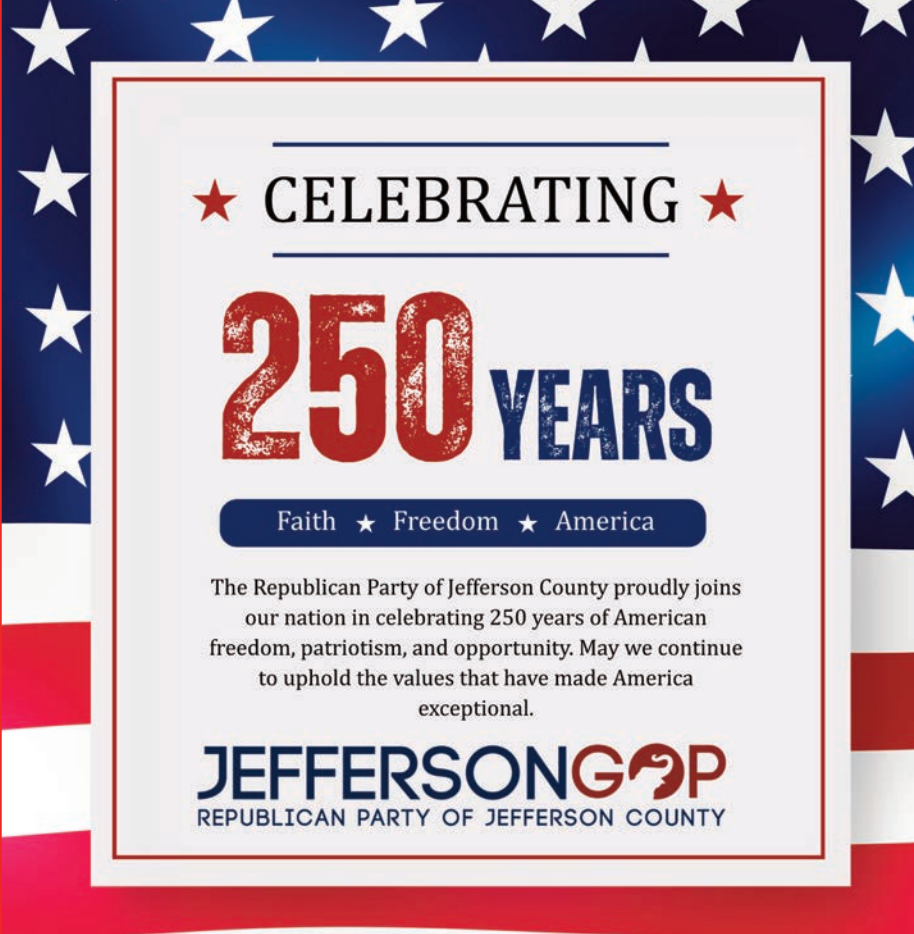
Babe Ruth: George Herman "Babe" Ruth is synonymous with America iconism. He was a Major League Baseball Player who played from 1914 until 1935. Nicknamed "the Bambino" and "the Sultan of Swat," he was an all-time baseball star, as well as one of the first five members of the Baseball Hall of Fame.



Jackie Robinson: Another baseball legend who stands the test of time is all famous Jackie Robinson. He was the first African American player to play in Major League Baseball. He started at first base for the Brooklyn Dodgers, ending racial segregation in professional baseball. He had a 10-year career and contributed to the Dodgers' 1955 World Series championship.



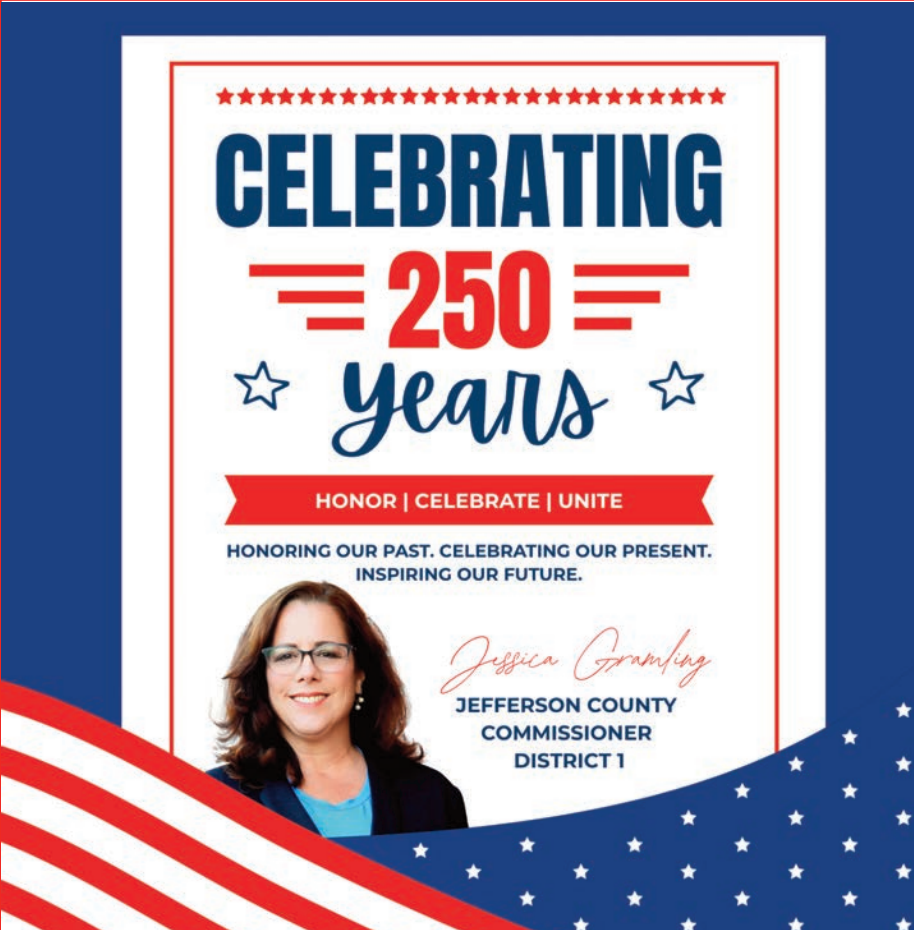
Michael Jordan: Possibly the greatest, and most famous basketball player of all time is Michael Jordan. He played 15 seasons in the National Basketball Association (NBA) and won six NBA championships with the Chicago Bulls. Jordan is the wealthiest athlete of all time and is, of course, famous for his Air Jordan shoes. He starred in multiple movies and was even awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.



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National Landmarks

Christian Peterson
ECB Publishing, Inc.

The United States of America is a very large country. Across this vast and multifaceted landscape are some of the most famous, unique and interesting natural and man-made wonders in the world. From the beautiful Rocky Mountains to the thousands of gorgeous lakes spread across the land, there is a lot of beauty to behold in the U.S.A.

Independence Hall: Originally called the Pennsylvania State House and completed in 1733, Independence Hall is the home of freedom. Located in Philadelphia, Penn., the hall is where both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States were debated and eventually adopted by the Founding Fathers of the United States.

Fort Sumter: The American Civil War is one of the most famous wars in American history, costing the most American lives of any war in history. Fort Sumter, located in South Carolina, was built after the War of 1812. The fort was never finished; however,

it was the site of a major historical moment. In 1861, the first shots of the Civil War were fired there.

Hoover Dam: Located in the Black Canyon of the Colorado River, on the boundary of Nevada and Arizona, the Hoover Dam stands as one of the greatest feats of engineering in human history. It stands at 726 feet high and 1,244 feet in length. It was built by over 1,000 workers and cost over 100 lives. It was the largest concrete structure ever built at the time, and used new and unproven techniques to accomplish the structural feat.

Liberty Bell: Otherwise known as the State House Bell or Old State House Bell, the Liberty Bell is one of the most iconic symbols of American Independence. It is located across from Independence Hall today, though it was originally placed in the steeple of Independence Hall. It was cast with the lettering “Proclaim LIBERTY” and was likely one of the bells rung when the Declaration of Independence was first read to the public.

The Lincoln Memorial: Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States. He was famous for ending slavery in the United States and winning the Civil War. A monument to his legacy stands on the western end of the National Mall. It features a large statue of Lincoln and painted interior murals, all contained within a classical temple-style building.

Statue of Liberty: Out on Liberty Island, in New York, N.Y., stands a copper clad statue, a gift to the United States from the people of France. The Statue of Liberty is inspired by the Roman goddess of liberty, Libertas, holding a torch over her head, and holding a tablet inscribed with “July IV MDCCLXXVI.” Her left foot stands on top of a broken chain and shackle. The green statue has been an insignia representing the freedom the United States stands for since 1886.

The Grand Canyon: The Colorado River carved what may be one of the most impressive natural wonders in the world: the Grand Canyon. It is 277 miles long, 18 miles wide at points, and has depths over a mile. President Theodore Roosevelt had a special love for the Grand Canyon and visited it many times. He also fought hard to preserve its natural wonder. Many cite the experience of seeing the Grand Canyon as one of a lifetime, explaining that it is a trip that cannot be described, only experienced.

Yellowstone National Park: In the northwest corner of Wyoming is another of the most famous natural wonders in the United States of America. It was the first national park in the United States and is considered the first national park in the world. It covers 3,468 square miles of a myriad of biomes, wildlife and natural wonders, including the most famous Old Faithful geyser.

Niagara Falls: A group of three waterfalls standing at the border between New York and the Canadian province of Ontario, formed by the Niagara River, houses another of the most famous natural landmarks in the country: Niagara Falls. It has the highest flow rate of any waterfall in North America, and the seventh largest in the world. During its peak hours, over 5.9 million feet of water go over the crest every minute.

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Military Branches

Christian Peterson
ECB Publishing, Inc.

The American military is the premier military force across the entire world. The army established during the American Revolutionary War has grown into the ultimate fighting force the world has ever seen. There are a total of six armed forces within the entirety of the American Military, each with its own unique history.

The United States Army:

The United States Army serves as the oldest branch of the United States military, as it began in

June 1775 as the Continental Army. However, after the war, this army was disbanded in favor of state militias, and republican distrust of standing armies. However, as the United States of America grew, its need for a military did too. After various conflicts, the United States Army grew to be the largest military branch that exists today. It is the land service branch and is run by the civilian secretary of the Army and military chief of staff. The Army has fought in the American Indian Wars, the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the American Civil War, the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, the Cold War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, the War in Afghanistan

and the Iran War. The Army's motto is "This we'll defend," and its colors are black, gold and white. Its march is "The Army Goes Rolling Along," and its mascot is the mules.

The United States Marine Corps:

The United States Marine Corps is the naval infantry service branch of the United States military. The branch was founded in June 1834. The main responsibility of the United States Marine Corps is expeditionary and amphibious warfare. That ability to fight at both land and sea has been of incredible value throughout American history, especially in the Pacific theater of World War II, where the island-to-island advancement put the Marines in the best position to lead. The Marine's motto is "Semper fidelis (Always Faithful)," and its colors are scarlet and gold. Its march is "Semper Fidelis," and its mascot is the English bulldog.

The United States Navy:

The United States Navy is the maritime service branch of the United States military. It was originally formed in 1775 as the Continental Navy, though the form that we know today was established in 1794. It is the world's second largest navy, and the largest by displacement. It contains the world's largest aircraft carrier fleet. It has been a major player in the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, the Yugoslav Wars and the War on Terror. On top of that, there are large deployments in the Western Pacific, Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean. The Navy's motto is "Non sibi sed patriae (Not for self but for country)," and its colors are blue and gold. Its march is "Anchors Aweigh."

The United States Air Force:

The United States Air Force is the air service branch of the United States military and the second youngest branch of the armed forces. It was founded in 1947, though its roots trace back to 1907 as part of the United States Army Signal Corps. Its main missions are air supremacy, global integrated intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, rapid global mobility, global strike and command and control. The Air Force is run by the civilian secretary of the Air Force, who is appointed by the President with Senate confirmation, and reports to the Secretary of Defense. It is the world's largest air force. The Air Force's motto is "Aim high ... Fly-Fight-Win." Its colors are ultramarine blue and golden yellow, and its march is "The U.S. Air Force."

The United States Coast Guard:

The United States Coast Guard is the maritime security, search and rescue, and law enforcement service branch of the United States military. It is the largest coast guard in the world. It has a unique role as a law enforcement branch with jurisdiction both in domestic and international waters. Its job is to protect the United States' border and security interests abroad. It is a globally present branch of the military. It also operates as a humanitarian service, providing emergency responses for both natural and man-made disasters. The Coast Guard's motto is "Semper Paratus (Always ready)," and its colors are Coast Guard Red, Coast Guard Blue and Coast Guard White. Its march is "Semper Paratus."

The United States Space Force:

The United States Space Force is the newest military branch in U.S. history. It was founded in December 2019. Its origins trace back to the beginning of the Cold War, and while not an official branch of the military, U.S. space forces participated in the Vietnam War, and have participated in every military operation since. The Space Force currently falls under the Department of the Air Force, however, this is in an interim capacity while the United States government works towards a fully independent Department of the Space Force. It has three main responsibilities: provide freedom of operation for the United States in, from and to space; conduct space operations; and protect the interests of the United States in space. The Space Force's motto is "Semper Supra (Always above)," and its march is "Semper Supra."

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And the winners are ...

Laura Young
ECB Publishing, Inc.

Oohs, aahs and fireworks for all the students from across Jefferson County who entered the Independence Day Writing and Art Contests sponsored by the Monticello News! There was good

participation, especially from a large number of very thoughtful high school writers. Every piece of artwork showed inspiration. Every written composition coherently conveyed important ideas with an authentic voice. It was hard to choose winners!

So we're especially pleased to recognize the following entries that stood out in a very competitive field:



Elementary Art Contest
Bike/Trike Decoration
Design for the Fourth of July

Winner:
"Stars and Stripes Race" by Ella Baker



Middle School Art Contest
Mosaic of the American Flag

Winner:
"One Nation Under God" by Stephen Williams

Honorable Mention:
Josiah Burrell
Gideon Burrell



High School Art Contest
A Fourth of July Celebration Scene

Tied Winner:
"Summer in the South" by Annaliese Williams



Tied Winner:
"American Exploration" by Abigail Kuhl

Honorable Mention:
Erica Mobley
Lily Mason
Shawna Stalling

Writing Contest Winners

The Great Animal Race

By Ella Baker

Elementary Winner

Once there was an animal race at the Watermelon Festival. Whoever won the race got to be the national animal. The racers were a dog named Stripes and an eagle named Stars. The racetrack was a long tunnel and then at the end was a huge splash pad. The

race was about to begin. The announcer said, "On your mark. Get set. Go!" The racers took off down the long tunnel. Stars was so confident that he went as fast as he could. Stripes had a strategy. Stars would eventually slow down and lose

his energy. Then, Stripes could pass him and win. That's exactly what happened. Stripes was announced to be the national animal, and he got to live in the white house. As for Stars, he was adopted by a little boy.

My Perspective On Freedom

By Mariana Preza

9th Grade Winner

For me, when I think of the word freedom, I think of me running through a field and yelling at the top of my lungs, without a care in the world or being able to use my voice that I was born with and speak my truth.

The word freedom could be different for anyone, but I believe freedom is a way to not care what others think and just live your life without being afraid of the outcomes.

Not everyone has the right that they should be born with to choose today. For example, girls in Afghanistan don't have the freedom to go to school or have a voice in

their society. They must always have a male with them when out in public or they will face abuse and force. To this day, people are still fighting for basic human rights all around the world, not just in Afghanistan or the USA.

Some people ask, does freedom have its limits? My answer is yes, it does. Freedom I believe is that people must follow the laws in order to protect our society because without them, everything would erupt into chaos. Freedom is the choices you make, don't let those choices affect another innocent person's freedom.

For example, on days when

people are just constantly being in my space. It can be exhausting, but I then come to realize why did I let that happen? I don't have to listen to their negativity and let them talk down on me. I can just not care and move on with my life rather than stay stuck on what destroys my freedom. The power of freedom is always within your reach, you just have to reach for it.

The next time someone wants to banish the idea of freedom from your mind, remember that you have the freedom that many people don't have, to choose how you want to live, speak, and act freely.

Freedom to Me

By Briana Ingram

10th Grade Winner

Freedom, to me, is soft. It lives in your heart and in the moments you share with others, such as the laughter of family at the dinner table, the hum and chatter of a happy crowd, the beat of music that surrounds you, and the traditions you carry. I am shaped by where I've come from, where I am, and the people I meet throughout my life.

Being able to express who I am and who I am becoming is what freedom is to me.

I can joyfully and responsibly exercise my freedom in many ways. First through my words. I can use them to express my thoughts and share my culture, building connections and understandings instead of staying silent. Words hold

more power than many believe, and supporting people with my words is a way to grow my community.

Second, through my actions. I believe it's important to understand that everyone experiences freedom differently. I respect other's freedoms and recognize that everyone's experiences shape who they are. Because of this, I choose kindness and respect, even when beliefs differ. We should all respect the beliefs and point of views of others, as people experience life differently.

Third, through creativity. I express myself through writing, drawing, and art, sharing pieces of who I am and what I value.

Fourth, through learning. I grow by learning about my culture and

others, becoming more aware. I can learn more than just what I'm taught in school, I can learn by being around people, by exploring different cultures.

Finally, I exercise my freedom by being true to myself, staying true to who I am and who I want to be. I can be myself in many ways, like showing my likes, my taste, my culture, and how I got here.

Freedom isn't just one of these things, rather, it's all of them combined. It allows me to uplift myself and those around me. It reminds me that my voice and actions matter. In carrying my voice, my culture, and my choices with care, I shape my own freedom into something meaningful and whole.

My Definition of Freedom

By Mariana Duarte

11th Grade Winner

To understand the concept of freedom you need to understand what other people go through and why they yearn for freedom. Freedom for me is not just to be able to do whatever you want on a daily basis, for me freedom means you get to do whatever you are capable of doing without any limitations nor restrictions. For me freedom means you are able to express what you feel without the constant fear of being judged or threatened.

I can express my freedom by standing up against school bullying. Bullying can hurt people physically

and mentally preventing them from fully expressing themselves and speaking up from these kinds of injustices. It's important to stand up for people that can't stand up for themselves because this way you can show people how much you care, and encourage them to do the same.

Another way I can express my freedom is by speaking out against public discrimination. Just like school bullying, public discrimination can be just as bad. Racism is a way to put a limitation on peoples' voices.

Next, I can express my freedom by exercising my freedom of speech,

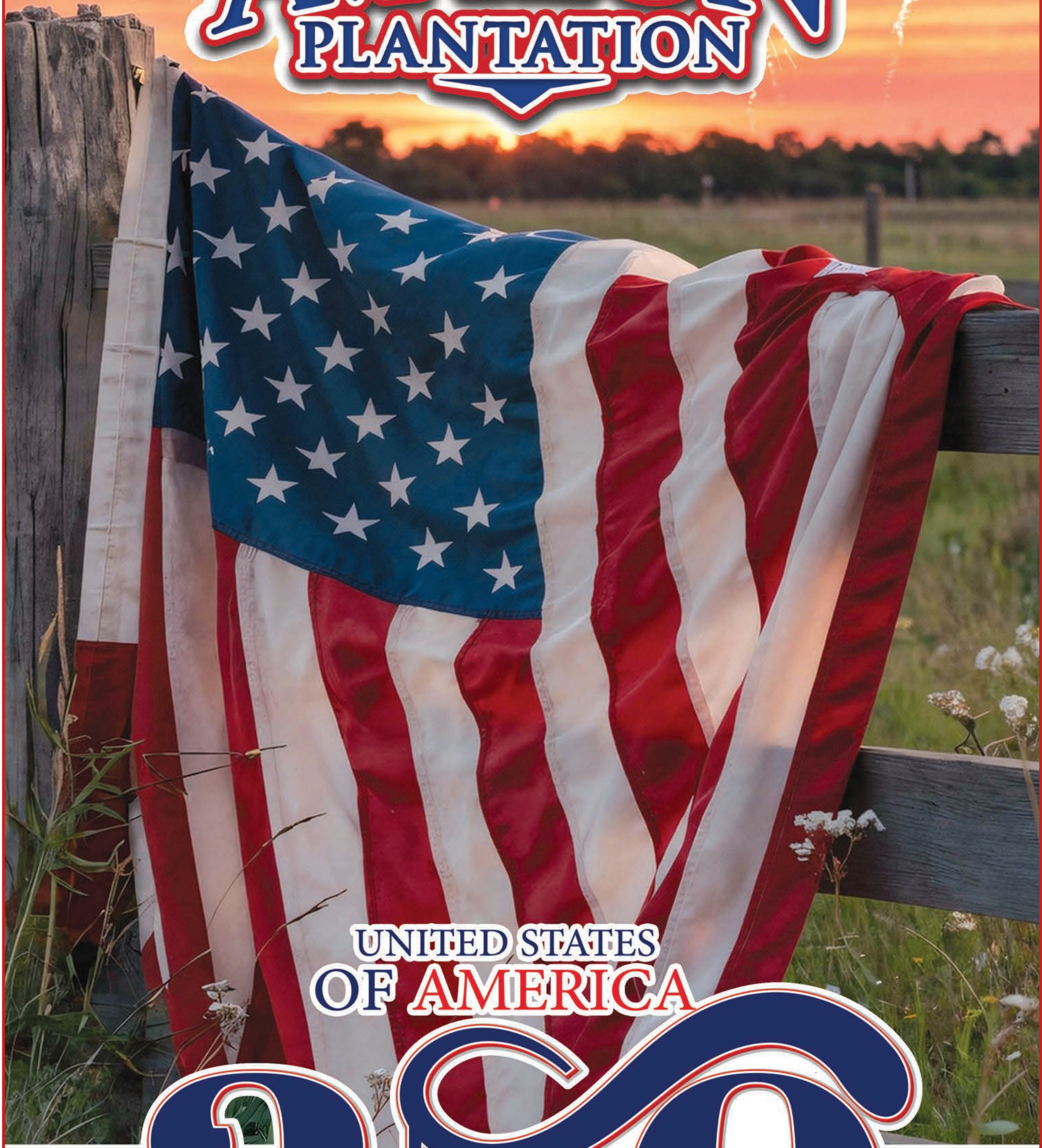
something simple like engaging in a public contest. Expressing my thoughts and beliefs so people can engage and relate.

I can also joyfully and responsibly exercise my freedom by exercising good citizenship, helping my neighbors and friends with anything they need help on, registering to vote, and speaking openly.

There is no limitation to one's choice in expressing freedom. We should be grateful for the opportunity of expressing our thoughts and feelings, in honor of those who can't.

Honorable Mention

Elementary: Abigail Burrell
9th Grade: Jeremiah Parrish
10th Grade: Tireyana Norton
11th Grade: Alesshia James



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