

# ARTICLE VII

The Ratification of the Conventions of **nine States**, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

Done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the **Seventeenth Day of September** in the Year of our Lord **one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven** and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth In Witness whereof We have hereunto subscribed our names...

Congress enacted a law in May of 2005 requiring a celebration of sorts of the United States Constitution. It states: “Each educational institution that receives Federal funds for a fiscal year shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17 of such year for the students served by the educational institution.” Exceptions are made to alter the date if the 17<sup>th</sup> falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday.

So, now you know that Congress chose September 17<sup>th</sup> because, per Article VII, that is the day the handiwork of the Framers was signed. Although a bit awkward, “Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth” refers to the fact that September 17, 1787, fell within the twelfth year since Independence Day, July 4, 1776.

NOTE: Although welcome and a start, the danger of this “celebration” for one day (more likely fifteen minutes of that one day) is that it will make Americans feel as though they have met their Jeffersonian obligation to stay educated about our Government if that is all they do. Do you believe that reading the preamble or watching a one hour film once per year cuts the mustard? We must educate America if we are going to survive.