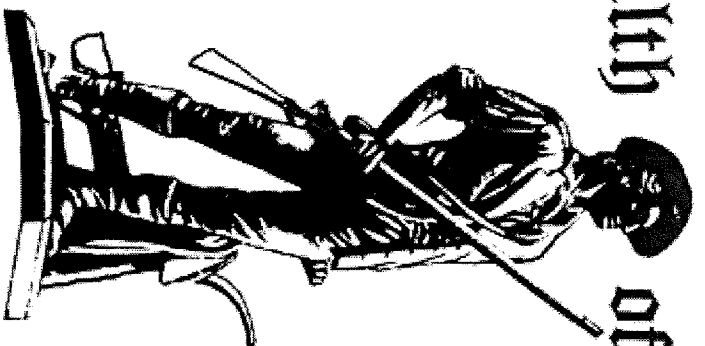


# Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

**Whereas** Our Founding Fathers, in order to secure the blessings of liberty did ordain and adopt a Constitution for the United States of America on September 17, 1787 establishing the world's first government of the people, by the people, and for the people; and

**Whereas** The United States Constitution is the oldest written national constitution in the world still in continuous use; and

**Whereas** The Massachusetts Constitution, written by John Adams, and similarly divided into chapters, sections, and articles, served as the model for the United States Constitution; and

**Whereas** The Constitution has served as a model for the constitutions of many nations, including Germany, Japan, India, and South Africa, and international agreements such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

**Whereas** "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, 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" is the preamble to the Constitution of the United States; and

**Whereas** These hallowed words should be embraced by all citizens, so as to fully understand the value and importance of the Constitution and in order to support, preserve and defend it against encroachment; and

**Whereas** September 17, 2011 marks the two hundred and twenty-fourth anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution, providing a historic opportunity for all Americans to remember the achievements of our Founding Fathers and to reflect on the rights and privileges of citizenship, as well as its responsibilities,

**Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to be,**

## CONSTITUTION DAY

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this fourteenth day of September, in the year two thousand and eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN

SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

