

★ **Janine Turner** ★
Founder & Co-Chair

★ **Cathy Gillespie** ★
Co-Chair

Janine Turner, motion picture and television actress, author, singer, inspirational speaker and founder of Constituting America, is leading a school and community effort designed to provide students with opportunities to learn historical content and develop personal and educational awareness through the study of the U.S. Constitution, its principles set forth by our Founding Fathers, its relevancy in our lives, and to provide educators with resources and training materials to enhance classroom teaching. To this end, Ms. Turner has called for Constituting America to sponsor a special project titled "**We the People 9.17**" designed to commemorate the U.S. Constitution at schools throughout the nation each September 17, Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.

Constitution Day was first established by the U.S. Congress in 1940 as "I am an American Day," held the third Sunday in May. It was re-established in 1952 as "Citizenship Day," moving the date to September 17 to commemorate the September 17, 1787 signing of the U.S. Constitution at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, but retaining its original purpose of recognizing new citizens. In 2004 the U.S. Congress passed, and President George W. Bush signed into law, a provision changing the designation of September 17 to "Constitution Day and Citizenship Day." **The bill also requires that each educational institution receiving federal funds hold an educational program on the Constitution for students on September 17 of each year.**

"**We the People 9*17**" conducts several activities at schools across America to engage and energize students in celebrating the history of the U.S. Constitution and its relevance in Americans' lives today. Activities include:

* Invitation to elementary, middle, high school and college students to enter the **We the People 9.17 Constitution Day Contest** with scholarships and prizes awarded~

~The Contest categories include best poem and holiday card for elementary students; best essay and song for middle school students, best essay, song, PSA and short film for high school students and **new for 2011 Constituting America has added a College Category, inviting undergraduate college students and law school students to submit a PSA, short film, song or speech!** All entries must be submitted by July 4, 2012 to **We the People 9*17 Constitution Day Contest**, P.O. Box 1988, Colleyville, Texas 76034. See contest rules for more details.

~The Contest winners in each category will be notified prior to September 17, 2012, National Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. Prizes will be awarded in each category. See accompanying material for more details.

* Friday, September 16, 2011, Monday, September 17, 2012, and all future Constitution Days, schools are encouraged to conduct student assemblies or designate an appropriate time during school hours to recognize the importance of Constitution Day. To assist schools in their programming, Constituting America has produced an exciting and fun DVD showcasing the **We the People 9*17 Constitution Day Contest** winners and educational information about the U.S. Constitution and three branches of government. The DVD may be viewed from the website, or downloaded at this link: <http://www.constitutingamerica.org/film> !

* Friday, September 16, 2011, Monday, September 17, 2012 and all future Constitution Days, schools are encouraged to invite their students to participate in a Dress Out Day by wearing red, the color of the flag symbolizing hardiness and valor, in celebration and appreciation of the United States Constitution.

We the People 9*17 is rekindling and instilling passion and enthusiasm for learning about our United States Constitution and our country's founding principles. A patriot's desire to understand its meaning and its context begins with its accessibility. For each generation the contents and values of the Constitution and of the nation's Founders must be taught so that we may meet and overcome the challenges before us. The Constitution outlines the importance of our nation, a republic, and the meaning it provides for the hope of all mankind.

Join Janine Turner in celebrating Constitution Day and Citizenship Day with "We the People 9.17" activities on September 17, 2012!

For more information about "**We the People 9*17**" please contact Cathy Gillespie, Constituting America Co-Chair, at 1-888-YES-0917 or at constitutingamerica1787@yahoo.com.

ConstitutingAmerica.org PO Box 1988 Colleyville, Texas 76034

Constituting America is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c) (3) organization. As a public charity under Section 501 (c) (3), contributions are tax deductible.