



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**GARY HEBL**  
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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**CELEBRATING THE FREEDOMS GIVEN TO US BY THE CONSTITUTION**  
*By Representative Gary Hebl*

Two hundred and twenty-nine years ago, 39 of the delegates that had gathered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania signed a document that would fundamentally alter the course of United States history. Today, we recognize September 17 as Constitution Day.

Originally called I Am An American Day and later Citizenship Day, Constitution Day dates back to 1940 when it was established by Congress, although state celebrations date as far back as 1911 in Iowa. While initially held in May, it is now generally celebrated on September 17. However, if that date falls on the weekend the observed holiday is moved to Friday or Monday.

In the Preamble to the Constitution, the Founding Fathers laid out their goals:

“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.”

The Constitution and the Amendments that accompany it protect our freedoms as citizens of this country. Constitution Day serves as a reminder of the trials and tribulations our Founding Fathers went through to create our government and truly begin our nation.

Downtown Madison is surrounded by reminders of the Constitution. From the State Capitol to Tenney Park, street names such as Washington, Gorham, Pinckney, Mifflin and more serve as reminders of the Founding Fathers that signed the document. Indeed, our capital city itself is named after the “Father of the Constitution,” James Madison.

Constitution Day doesn’t get the fanfare that Independence Day does, but it marks a moment in our history equally as important. July 4 marks the date we separated from England; September 17 marks the date the nation as we now know it was born. So while you may not get the day off of work or school, or gather to watch fireworks, make sure to take a moment to recognize the brilliance of the document that provides us the freedoms that we know and enjoy today.

*Rep. Gary Hebl represents the 46th Assembly District, which includes the cities of Sun Prairie and Stoughton, the village of Cottage Grove, and the townships of Cottage Grove, Dunkirk, Pleasant Springs, and Sun Prairie.*

*Contact Rep. Hebl with any questions or concerns you may have at (608) 266-7678 or via email at [Rep.Hebl@legis.wi.gov](mailto:Rep.Hebl@legis.wi.gov).*

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