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United States Constitution promoted by Williston



Bobbie Smith (left) accepts the proclamation from Williston Mayor R. Gerald Hethcoat.



Bobbie Smith (left) holds the proclamation presented to her by Williston Mayor R. Gerald Hethcoat.

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Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © Sept. 7, 2016 @ 4:07 p.m.

WILLISTON – Bobbie Smith representing the Gainesville Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) as well as representing the GFWC Williston Woman's Club, brought awareness of the *United States Constitution* forward on Tuesday night (Sept. 6).

As a result of the efforts of the DAR, the Williston Woman's Club and Smith, Williston Mayor R. Gerald Hethcoat and the Williston City Council proclaimed Sept. 17-23 as Constitution Week in the city.

Smith is the wife of Eighth Judicial Circuit Court Senior Judge Joseph Smith.

This year marks the 229th anniversary of the signing of the *U.S. Constitution*, which on Sept. 17, 1787, was signed by 38 of the 41 delegates present at the conclusion of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. Supporters of the document waged a hard-won battle to win ratification by the necessary nine out of 13 states, which were the first 13 states of the now 50 states of the United States of America.

While speaking to the City Council, Smith mentioned an idea of having students compete in a writing contest for a prize next year. She found tacit agreement from the City Council to the idea about the writing contest.

Following is the proclamation the mayor made on Tuesday night:

WHEREAS, September 17, 2016 marks the two hundred and twenty ninth anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary, and to the patriotic celebration which will commemorate the occasion; and

WHEREAS, In remembrance of the signing of the Constitution and in recognition of the Americans who strived to uphold the duties and responsibilities of citizenship, the Congress, by joint resolution on February 29, 1952, designated September 17th as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day; and

WHEREAS, By joint resolution on August 2, 1956, the Congress requested that the President of the United States proclaim the week beginning September 17th and ending September 23rd, of each year, as Constitution Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the City Council of the City of Williston, in recognition of this significant event, hereby recognizes September 17 – 23 of 2016 as CONSTITUTION WEEK.

The Williston City Council encourages Williston citizens to reaffirm the ideals that the Framers of the Constitution held in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed through this guardian of liberties, **remembering that lost rights may never be regained.**

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City Leader Recognized



Williston City Council Vice President Nancy Winger accepts a certificate of completion from Mayor R. Gerald Hethcoat. Vice President Winger completed 18 hours of instruction at the Institute for Elected Municipal Officials in Jupiter, on June 10-12.



The mayor presented the certificate on behalf of the John Scott Dailey Florida Institute of Government and the Florida League of Cities.

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