

Camp Constitution Journal

Vol. 9 – No. 1

Sunday, July 2, 2017

★★★★★

Welcome: Camp Constitution 2017

Camp Constitution Supporters

★★★

Ronald Chapman, Chapman Industries
3-D MRC Leadership Dev. Consulting
Conservative Chic Chat WSMN 1590AM
The Bible Museum
Yankee Barbershop
Hope Chapel
EnforceOurConstitution.com
A.G. Russel KNIVES
Gimpel Software
JBS New Capital Region Chapter
AMSOIL Dealer Bill McNally
Socha Signs
Naturemost Laboratories
SEND OUT CARDS
Ozark Candies & Nuts
Owens Law Office
All 3 Web
Girard at Large
The Wake Up Mission
American Opinion Bookstore, Ruth Harper
Ingbretson Studio
Alpine Environmental
Osgood-Bradley Building Corporation
Well of Living Water Christian Fellowship
Lechners Automotive
Christian Citizenship Ministries
New England Copy Specialists
Ernie Ley
Sabbey's Arch
Roofer's Union Local 33
YardWorks Ltd
Greg Butko
Custom Design Prosperity Planning
WBCQ Planet Worldwide Shortwave
Agency One Insurance, LLC
Knives Lipstick And Liberty
Applied-Iconology.com
Captain Bob's Rentals
Bender & Bender
Abington General Store
American Weapon Systems
FederalExpressionMedia

★★★

INSIDE THE JOURNAL TODAY

Welcome Camp Constitution 2017	1
Staff Biographies Continued	2
Staff Biographies Continued	3
Staff Biographies Continued	4
More Biographies. / Pizza Party Contest	5
TOMORROW'S CAMP SCHEDULE	6
TOMORROW'S JR. CAMP SCHEDULE	7
The Lee Resolution by Mark Affleck	8

Welcome to all our new campers as well as our returning campers. Mr. Hal Shurtleff has assembled one of the best panels of instructors ever! We have the great fortune of being able to celebrate Independence Day during the camp this year, and we have plenty of extra-curricular activities designed for that occasion. ★



Pennsylvania Evening Post July 2, 1776

July 2. This day the Hon. Continental Congress declared the UNITED COLONIES FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES.

See The Lee Resolution (Page 8).

Welcome to Camp Constitution's 9th Annual Family Camp. Much has happened since our last camp. Camp Constitution has regular year-round events, a speakers bureau, and plans to add other camps. We will discuss this in more detail during the week.

We have an incredible line-up of instructors including three here for the first time, Mr. Larry Pratt of Gun Owners of America, Professor Willie Soon, one of the world's top climate realists, and Mr. Alex Newman, writer for "World Net Daily" and "The New American." We are blessed with a number of new campers and families. Please make them feel welcomed. **Senior campers:** I expect that you will take leadership roles helping out the counselors. **New campers:** In order to have a great camp experience, you should take advantage of what the Camp has to offer. Write an article for the camp paper. Go on the morning run or swim. Ask questions in class. Take in an afternoon workshop. Participate in the chess tournament. Go on the optional field trip and hike. Make friendships that will last a lifetime.

This week is the highlight of my family's year. If it isn't already, we hope it will be yours. ★ -- Mr. Harold Shurtleff, Camp Director

Camp Constitution Director



Mr. Hal Shurtleff

Mr. Charles Everett



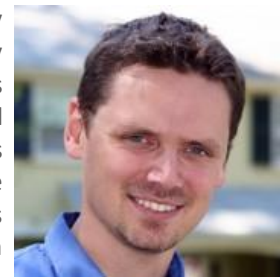
submarine. In 1974, he left the electronics field and assumed the role of National Director of Field Activities for the John Birch Society. In that capacity, Mr. Everett was instrumental in enticing Major League Baseball pitchers Eric Show, Dave Dravecky and Mark Thurmond to membership in the JBS.

Mr. Everett is Camp Constitution Administrator and Co-Founder. Charlie graduated High School in Athens, Greece. His Father served in World War II.

In the 1960's, Charles served in the US Navy as an electronics tech on a nuclear

Mr. Everett has been in all fifty states, nine foreign countries, and lived in Germany and Greece for a short time. He has also crossed the Atlantic Ocean six times - four times on the water, once under the water and once over the water. ★

Mr. Michael King



Michael serves as Director of Community Alliances with the Massachusetts Family Institute. He served as Family Ministries Director at a local church and as Principal of a K – 12th Christian school. Michael has his Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Messiah College and Master's degree in Christian Leadership from Liberty University.

Michael looks forward to continue to network with local pastors and leaders in the church to educate and motivate people to stand up for righteousness in the public square. A leading tool he promotes is MFI's groundbreaking book, Engage the Bay State, which clearly defines the culture war we find ourselves in today between the precepts of the Bible and secular human thinking. Michael and the team at MFI hope to inspire Christians to engage with their local government leaders and inspire Biblical decisions to be made in regard to such foundational cultural institutions like marriage, life and religious liberty. During his free time, Michael enjoys spending time with his family, a competitive game of basketball and fishing. ★ <http://www.mafamily.org/engage/>

Mr. John F. McManus



Mr. McManus was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1935. At graduation from Holy Cross College in Worcester, MA, he received a bachelor's degree in physics and a commission in the United States Marine Corps. After serving three years of active duty, he entered the field of electronics engineering, where he won an award from the U.S. Air Force for designing a component used in fighter aircraft. Jack left the engineering field in 1966 to accept a full-time position with The John Birch Society. Working closely with its Founder Robert Welch for many

years, he was named the Society's Public Relations Director and its official spokesman. In this post, he became the Society's chief media representative throughout the nation and appeared on hundreds of radio and television programs. Mr. McManus has written and produced numerous audio-visual programs. His books include: Financial Terrorism (1993), Changing Commands: The Betrayal of America's Military (1995), William F. Buckley, Jr.: Pied Piper for the Establishment (2002), and The Insiders 5th Edition (2004). He is in wide demand as a speaker. Jack was appointed JBS President in 1991. ★

REVEREND STEVEN L. CRAFT

The Reverend Steven Louis Craft holds a Master of Divinity Degree from Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, MA. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Bible and Pastoral Counseling from Central Bible College in Springfield, Missouri. He has completed Clinical Pastoral Education at Boone Hospital Center, Columbia, Missouri. Rev. Craft is a member of the American Correctional Chaplains Association and is ordained as a Correctional

Chaplain with the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A. He formerly served as Correctional Chaplain at the Pine Prairie Correctional Center, the Missouri State Penitentiary and the Moshannon Valley Correctional Center in Central Pennsylvania. Reverend Craft is the Executive Director of Christian Citizenship Ministries, Inc. He is co-author of "Virtue and Vice": A Fascinating Journey into

Spiritual Transformation. He is also the author of "Morality and Freedom": America's Dynamic Duo. He is also a motivational and inspirational speaker on issues involving race, religion, politics, and culture from a Christian, Black American, Conservative perspective. As a flexible, multi-faceted speaker, Reverend Craft can compose his message to meet a variety of



audiences, always promising an insightful and power-packed presentation. ★

<http://christiancitizenshipministries.org/>

Earl C. Wallace, Author, Consultant, & Trainer



seek the rights and freedoms expressed through the Ten Commandments, which America's Founding Fathers realized are God's way of saying we each have a right to do as commanded in 1-4 & 5, and we each have a right not to have Commandments 6-10 perpetrated against us. This application of Christianity to civic life made America a peaceful and stable society, ripe for the Great Awakening, and saw Christianity spread throughout our land.

Earl is the pastor of Liberty Christian Fellowship Church, which developed from evangelism after God showed him that America is making the same mistakes Israel made as stated in Judges 2:10 "And there arose another generation after them (Joshua and his generation) who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel." God showed Earl the history of how He divinely inspired men to

Earl began teaching "The Biblical Basis of the Bill of Rights" (3-BR), in firehouses and libraries. People came to Christ, and others rededicated themselves to the Lord. These became the nucleus of Liberty Christian Fellowship Church. Mr. Wallace wrote The Three-Dimensional Leader: Negotiating

Your Mission, Resources and Context, which has been endorsed by three other world-renowned "leadership gurus." Earl has taught 3-D MRC Leadership throughout America, and in Asia, Europe, and the Middle East.★

Dr. Eugene M. Long

Born in Augusta, Georgia, his father was a WWII veteran, having participated in the Normandy Invasion on D-Day and seeing continual combat for the remainder of the war.

One of four boys, Dr. Long attended Georgetown Medical School and served a six-year residency at the University of Chicago and served two years as a physician to a jump school in the medical corp.

He currently lives a quiet and simple life in Eaton, NH. Dr. Long volunteers his medical services during disasters and weather emergencies.★

Mr. Vito



Vileniskis

Mr. V is a veteran counselor of the camp. He makes his home in Queens, NY. Among other tasks, Mr. V. will instruct our junior patriot campers about our Founders' faith.★

Fr. Michael Carl



Fr. Michael Carl is a lecturer in the History of Ideas, Western Civilization, and the impact of Islam on Western Culture. He has two Master's Degrees, a Bachelor's in History and Political Science, and is an avid reader. He also served six years in the United States Army and currently serves as priest at Christ the King Church in Wakefield, MA ★

Mrs. Catherine White

Instructor- A Massachusetts native - born in Worcester, raised in Quincy, Mrs. White is a graduate of MIT. Over five years ago, she started a book club to read W. Cleon Skousen's "The 5,000 Year Leap." Out of that grew a US Constitution study group that now sees attendance of about 40 people each month. She also coordinates a schedule of lectures, talks, study groups, and events - all centered on teaching the Constitution. You can contact her, read her articles and watch videos at her web site: www.constitutiondecoded.com.★



Mr. Chris Kalis

Recreational Director and Instructor- Mr. Kalis, a custodian by trade is a Martial Arts expert and father of 7 children. All 7 of the Kalis children have been through the camps. They call Michigan home.★



Mrs. Edith Craft

Mrs. Craft is the wife of Rev. Steven Craft. She is a retired public school teacher and **Program Director** for the Junior Patriot camp program. The Craft family resides in New Jersey ★

Mr. Norman Tregenza

A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Norman served on board USS Constitution ("Old Ironsides") for the 200th anniversary of the ship's launching, when she set sail near Marblehead, Massachusetts.

Mr. Tregenza has worked in the utility pole and the fuel oil delivery industries, and also as a coordinator for The John Birch Society. He has worked in the tourism industry in New Hampshire, and in the local schools.

A Sunday school teacher during the year, he has participated as a **counselor** and/or **instructor** every year at Camp Constitution, serving as **Assistant Academic Program Director** for the last two years. ★





Mr. "TriCorner" Tom Moor

& 2010). Tom is also Co-Host of "I've never met anyone who loves The Midnight Ride Podcast on America as much as I do. It American History and the probably isn't normal. Despite all Constitution. He has made two our challenges, I remain trips across the grand, majestic optimistic about our future as a reaches of The Union and has nation, especially when I teach travelled to five continents and the wonderful kids at Camp over fifty countries, including one Constitution. For one week each complete circumnavigation for summer. I have the honor of world peace & freedom.

A Direct descendant of Captain Daniel Moor, who was a friend and officer of General John Stark of The First New Hampshire Regiment: "Live Free or Die."

A Certified Toastmaster, Tom was Master of Ceremonies at Faneuil Hall for the first modern-day Tea Party in 2007 (also 2008

Areas of Interest: The meaning and importance of "A More Perfect Union."

Americana: Travel on the old U.S. Highway System, from sea to shining sea, especially the Lincoln Highway, Rt. 66, The Blue Ridge Parkway and U.S. 20!

Mr. Ron Peik



Counselor/Instructor & Campfire – A former camper, and long-time instructor. Several of the Peik children have attended camp. Ron is president of Alpine Environmental, a company specializing in lead and mold abatement and period restoration. ★

<http://www.alpine-environmental.com/>

Mr. Mark Affleck

Editor - An IT professional, a graduate of Drexel University with a BS in Information Systems, Mark is a husband and father of 4 children. In his youth, he and five brothers all attended Birch Camp. These days his eldest son and daughter are here at their 3rd Camp. Mark enjoys genealogy and numismatics and donates his skills in archiving and web development to CampConstitution.

Mark is online as FederalExpression. ★ <http://www.federalexpression.com/>



Mr. Larry Pratt

Larry Pratt is the Executive Director Emeritus of Gun Owners of America. GOA is a national grassroots organization representing more than 1.5 million Americans dedicated to promoting their Second Amendment freedom to keep and bear arms. He has appeared on numerous national radio and TV programs such as CNN's Piers Morgan, NBC's Today Show, CBS' Good Morning America, CNN's Crossfire and Larry King Live, Fox's Hannity and Colmes and many others. He has debated Congressmen: James Traficant, Jr. (D-OH), Charles Rangel (D-NY), Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY), Sen.

Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), and Vice President Al Gore, among others. His columns have appeared in newspapers across the country. His books include, Armed People Victorious (1990); On the Firing Line: Essays in the Defense of Liberty (2001). Mr. Pratt has held elective office in the state legislature of Virginia, serving in the House of Delegates. Larry Pratt directs a number of other public interest organizations and serves as the Vice-Chairman of the American Institute for Cancer Research. ★



<https://gunowners.org/>

Ruth Harper

Program Director/Instructor – Ruth is the first and only program director for our camp. She lives in Grand Rapids, MI where she runs an American Opinion Bookstore. ★



Mr. John Hoderny

Head Counselor/Instructor – Mr. Hoderny resides in Erie, Pennsylvania. He has been participating as an instructor & counselor in youth camps for over 35 years. ★



Theresa Mazzarella

Counselor – A former camper, Theresa will offer an optional dance class this year. Waltz, swing and contra dancing will be available during recreation time each day. Classes should last approximately 1 hour. ★



Camp Constitution Speakers Bureau

Contact Camp Constitution
For Your Next Event!

Are You A Constitutionalist?
Join the Bureau Today!

<http://campconstitution.net/>

CABIN ★ INSPECTIONS

Did I read that right?

Yes there are daily cabin inspections. Obviously, the inspectors are looking for clean and tidy quarters, however, the returning campers will show you how to really rack up the points. Traditionally, the campers who most creatively capture the spirit of our camp through theme based decorations, tasteful humor, and patriotism score **big** in the contest. Make it fun! **Hint:** The inspectors are not above the occasional bribery attempt. ☺ Points from 0-10 are awarded each day for your participation in this contest. At the end of the week the cabin with the most points will get **"FREE PIZZA"** during the pizza party.

Newspaper Participation

The newspaper is looking for lecture reviews, free-time fun stories, campfire tidbits, lake-front occurrences etc. Who, what, where, how, why and when are the concepts to keep in mind as you write your stories. Last year the newspaper was lacking in details on the following recurring events: Flag participants including Scripture reading and grace before meals. Also, don't forget polar bear and morning run as well as campfire participants. We also want to see direct quotes from our speakers.

Your cabin will earn 0-10 points for your submissions during the week. Your participation will require submissions from multiple campers on multiple topics. Quality, quantity, number of submitters and diversity of topics are the four criterion on which your bonus will be awarded. If multiple cabins cover the same topics, the Editor of the newspaper may combine the stories and weave the details but credit will be awarded whether the story is used or not. The bonus is 1/7 or 14% of your total points. Make sure all newspaper submissions have your name and cabin number on them so your team gets credit for the contribution.

Visit the news office for a list of story options or create your own.★

★ 2017 PIZZA PARTY RACE ★

Standings	M	T	W	Thu	F	S	News	Total
Hebron A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hebron B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel 7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel 10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

DAVE KOPACZ

Dave was born and raised in Western Mass. He has a degree in environmental sciences from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He serves as The Town of Ware's Environmental Officer where the protection of private property is his first priority. He has conducted numerous presentations exposing Agenda 21. He is the host of the radio show **"Red Pill Politics"**. He also served as President of the Massachusetts Republican Assembly (MARA) a member of the National Federation of Republican Assemblies (NFRA). ★



Alex Newman

Alex Newman is an international journalist, educator, author, and consultant. In addition to serving as president of the small media and information consulting firm Liberty Sentinel Media, Inc., he writes for a wide array of publications in the United States and abroad. He currently serves as a foreign correspondent for The New American magazine, a contributor to World Net Daily, and more. He has also written for numerous newspapers and magazines such as The Gainesville Sun, Liberty magazine, Crisis magazine, The Diplomat magazine, and many more. In addition, he has co-authored two books, including a major exposé of the plot to dumb down American children using government schools, published by WND Books.

For the last several years, Alex has been teaching advanced economics to high-school seniors through FreedomProject Education, an accredited K-12 school offering a classical education. Prior, he worked for the Leadership Institute and also worked in marketing and branding. Alex has a B.S. degree in journalism from the University of Florida with an emphasis on economics and international relations, as well as an A.A. degree in foreign languages from Miami-Dade College. Alex has lived in seven countries (US, Mexico, Brazil, Switzerland, France, South Africa and Sweden) on four continents and speaks multiple languages fluently.★



Mrs. Bonnie Wilder

Mrs. Bonnie Wilder spends her summers in Wayne, Maine and her winters in Beverly Hills Florida. She taught music in the Chelmsford, MA public schools for 30 years before she retired in 2004. In her retirement, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) appointed her the Constitution Week Chair of the State of Maine. As such, she created child-friendly materials and lessons to teach young children about the Constitution. Mrs. Wilder is now the Educational Resource Chair for Maine DAR, a position created by the National Society of the DAR to assist teachers and youth leaders. The new resources allow anyone to use lessons submitted by and for teachers, which feature American history, civics and patriotism, in addition to materials for September 17-23 Constitution Week studies.★



Dr. Willie Soon

Dr. Soon earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in science and his Ph.D. in aerospace engineering from the University of Southern California. He was a speaker at the Heartland Institute's 9th International Conference on Climate Change, a gathering of many of the world's top climate scientists and researchers who challenge the IPCC's increasingly discredited claim that human activity is causing a global crisis that demands draconian global regulations under an increasingly powerful United Nations.

Born in Malaysia, Dr. Soon immigrated to the US in 1980. In 2004, he received the Petr Beckmann Award for outstanding contributions to the defense of scientific truth.★



★ Camp Constitution Schedule ★

When	Required *	What	Where/Notes
4:00PM		Registration - Mr. Everett (Volunteers Needed)	Cafeteria
5:30PM	×	Dinner	Hebron: Porch for Grace
6:30PM	×	(ALL 11 & up) Placement - Mrs Ruth Harper, Mr Norman Tregenza & Staff	
7:20PM	×	Flag Lowering	Flag Pole
7:45PM	×	Orientation -- Mr. Shurtleff, Mr. John Hoderny, Mr Chris Kalis	
8:35PM		Break (Long Sleeves, Mosquito Repellant, Song Book, Flashlight)	
9:00PM	×	Campfire (Flashlight & Songbook)- Ron Peik	Fire Pit
10:00PM		Break: Snacks & Camp Newspaper (hopefully)	
10:30PM	×	Report to Cabin	Assigned Cabin
11:00PM	×	Lights Out	Good Night
★Sunday, July 2, 2017★			

Tomorrow's Schedule

★ Camp Constitution Schedule ★

When	Required *	What	Where/Notes
6:30AM		Polar Bear Swim / Morning Run	Lake Front / Trail
7:00AM	×	Wake Up !!! Last Call	
7:50AM	×	Flag Raising: Devotions & Announcements	Flag Pole
8:00AM	×	Breakfast	Hebron: Porch for Grace
8:30AM		Staff Meeting (Students Cabin Prep)	Hebron II
9:00AM	×	Class 1: Know The Constitution - Mr. Shurtleff	
		Short-Break	
10:00AM	×	Class 2: Crimes of the Educators - Alex Newman	
		Short-Break	
11:00AM	×	Class 3: The New World Order - Mr. John F. McManus	
		Short-Break	
12:00PM	×	Lunch	Hebron: Porch for Grace
1:00PM		Group Picture 1PM	LAKEFRONT USE REQUIRES LIFEGUARD
		Recreation Time - Mr. Kalis	
5:30PM	×	Dinner	Hebron: Porch for Grace
6:30PM	×	Class 4: The Climate-Change Hoax by Professor Willie Soon	
7:20PM	×	Flag Lowering	Flag Pole
7:45PM	×	Class 5: Target of A Smear: Senator Joseph McCarthy - Mr. John F. McManus	
8:35PM		Break (Long Sleeves, Mosquito Repellant, Song Book, Flashlight)	
9:00PM	×	Campfire(Flashlight & Songbook)- Ron Peik	Fire Pit
10:00PM		Break: Snacks & Camp Newspaper (hopefully)	
10:30PM	×	Report to Cabin	Cabin
11:00PM	×	Lights Out	Good Night
★Monday, July 3, 2017★			

Can't wait for camp each year?
Contact Hal about making regular
contributions to the Camp Constitution Blog!
<http://campconstitution.net/camp-blog/>

Word of the Day: 4C1W14L2
Find and sort all the words of the day
to decipher a message. The lead digit
is page number and the remaining
letters/numbers are coordinates. One
word per day. Solve it on Sat.



Dr. Punyamurtula S. Kishore

Dr. Punyamurtula S. Kishore is the founder of Preventive Medicine Associates, Addiction Medicine Associates, and National Library of Addiction and has been a practicing public health scientist for over 30 years. He began his medical career as a primary care / family practice physician and then moved into a position as the Medical Director of the Washingtonian Center for Addictions, the first organization in the U.S. to recognize addiction as a disease.

Their philosophy was an early precursor to the AA or 12-step program. Kishore has been a member of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) since 1986 and has helped treat more than 200,000 addicts. In 2010 Dr. Kishore earned the Prestigious Distinction as a Distinguished Fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine, a title that is only granted every other year to select ASAM physician members for their significant contributions to the Society and to the field of addiction medicine.

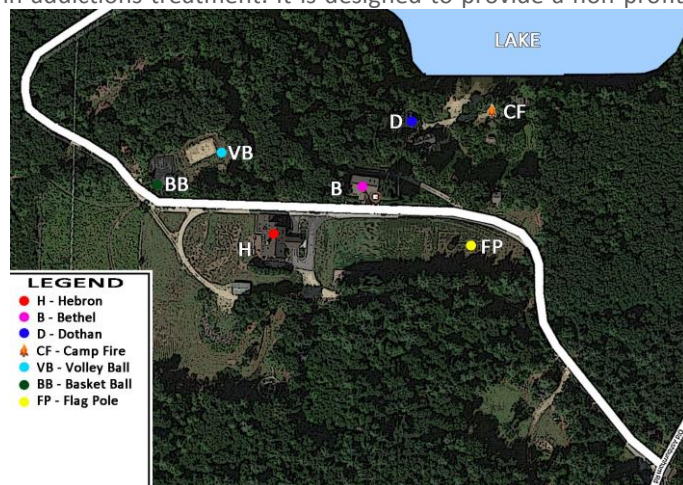
Dr. Kishore treats addicts with his 'sobriety maintenance' method. This unique health model stresses the prescription of non-toxic substances and provision of coping skills patients need to remain sober.

Kishore also administers "de-addiction" treatment, a process that treats emotional addiction as well as the physical addiction. Patients have access to home detoxification, an inexpensive and more effective option to in-patient care which allows them to maintain their dignity while learning how to cope with the temptations found in their own environments.

In 1993, Kishore founded National Library of Addictions to support work in addictions treatment. It is designed to provide a non-profit structure for addiction professionals to exchange ideas and further the development of treatment methodologies.

Dr. Kishore was honored by the Boston Celtics with a "Heroes Among Us" award, given to those who make a significant impact on the lives of others. Kishore is also the recipient of a national Compassionate Caregiver Award, Honorable Mention, from the Schwartz Foundation.

Kishore served as a faculty member of Harvard and as an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Massachusetts. Currently, he serves as the Assistant Professor of Business Administration at Fitchburg State University. He holds his Master's Degree in Public Health from Harvard School of Public Health, in addition to Certificates in Forensic Psychology from Bridgewater State University. Dr. Kishore currently serves as the Minister of Health and Healing for various organizations.★



★ Camp Constitution Jr. Patriot Schedule ★

Start	End	Program	Where/Notes
6:30AM	7:00AM	Polar Bear Swim / Morning Run	
7:00AM	7:50AM	Wake Up !!! Last Call	
7:50AM	8:00AM	Flag Raising: Devotions & Announcements	
8:00AM	9:00 AM	Breakfast	
9:00 AM	9:25 AM	Morning Prayer & Songs With Pastor Earl Wallace	
9:40 AM	10:15 AM	Let's Learn The Preamble - Mrs. Craft	
10:15 AM	10:30 AM	AM Snack	
10:30 PM	11:20 AM	Revolutionary War: Events Timeline - Mrs. Craft	
11:20 AM	11:40 AM	Prep for the Independence Day Party - Mrs. Craft	
11:40 AM	11:55 PM	Prep for the Independence Day Party Continued - Mrs. Craft	
11:55 AM	1:00 PM	Lunch	Hebron: Porch for Grace
1:00PM	5:30PM	(Picture) Recreation Time - Mr. Kalis	
6:30 PM	7:05 PM	Free Time	
9:00PM	10:00PM	Campfire(Flashlight & Songbook)- Ron Peik	Fire Pit
★Monday, July 3, 2017★			

THE ★ LEE ★ RESOLUTION

July 2, 1776 – It might surprise you to know that July 2nd was the actual day of Independence for the Colonists in America.

John Adams wrote his wife Abigail on July 3 about the resolution of independence:

The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.

Adams' prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Americans celebrated Independence Day on July 4, the date the much-publicized Declaration of Independence was approved, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was adopted.

In honor of the events of July 2nd some two hundred and forty-one years ago today, it is fitting that we review the events leading to the resolution and the declaration. It was, in fact, the resolution of Congress on July 2 that had the force of law. No doubt, the declaration was the instrument whereby the peoples of the world were informed of the plight of the colonists. The reasons for separation helped to garner support and recognition of the resolution. Its importance cannot be understated; however, its existence was reliant on the passage of Lee's Resolution. Without the force of law, the declaration would have never seen the light of day.

★★★

The Lee Resolution



When the American Revolutionary War began in 1775, few colonists in British North America openly advocated independence from Great Britain. The majority of colonists sought reconciliation with the British Empire.

Support for independence began to grow steadily in 1776, especially after the publication of Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense* in January of that year.

In the Second Continental Congress, the movement towards independence was guided principally by an informal alliance of delegates eventually known as the "Adams-Lee Junto", named after Samuel Adams and John Adams of Massachusetts and Richard Henry Lee of Virginia.

On May 15, 1776, the Fifth Virginia Convention, then meeting

in Williamsburg, passed a resolution instructing Virginia's delegates in the Continental Congress "to propose to that respectable body to declare the United Colonies free and independent States, absolved from all allegiance to, or dependence upon, the Crown or Parliament of Great Britain". In accordance with those instructions, on June 7, Richard Henry Lee proposed the resolution to Congress and it was seconded by John Adams.

Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.

That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances.

That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation.

Congress as a whole was not yet ready to declare independence at that moment, because the delegates from some of the colonies, including Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, and New York, had not yet been authorized to vote for independence. Voting on the first clause of Lee's Resolution was therefore postponed for three weeks while advocates of independence worked to build support in the colonial governments for the resolution. Meanwhile, a Committee of Five was appointed to prepare a formal declaration so that it would be ready when independence, which almost everyone recognized was now inevitable, was approved. The committee prepared a declaration of independence, written primarily by Thomas Jefferson, and presented it to Congress on June 28, 1776.

The vote on the independence section of the Lee Resolution had been postponed until Monday, July 1st, when it was taken up by the Committee of the Whole. At the request of South Carolina, the resolution was not acted upon until the following day in the hope of securing unanimity. A trial vote had been tested on the 1st where it was found that South Carolina and Pennsylvania were in the negative, with Delaware split in a tie between its two delegates. The vote was held on July 2nd, with critical changes happening between Monday and Tuesday. Edward Rutledge was able to persuade South Carolina delegates to vote yea; two Pennsylvania delegates were persuaded to be absent; and Caesar Rodney had been sent for during the night to break Delaware's tie. So Lee's Resolution of independence was approved by twelve of the thirteen colonies. Delegates from New York still lacked instructions to vote for independence, and so they abstained on this vote, although on July 9 the New York Provincial Congress would vote to "join with the other colonies in supporting" independence.★

--- Mark Affleck