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## Letter of the Day: Another September day with special place in history

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Editor, Daily News:

Most Americans know that July 4 is our nation's birthday, but what is the birthday of our government?

The birthday is Sept. 17, and the year in which the delegates to the Philadelphia convention signed the U.S. Constitution was 1787.

Constitution Day also celebrates the ideas that make our government unique. America was founded on commitment to the rule of law and limited government. The American ideals of liberty, equality and justice are embodied in the Constitution.

The U.S. Constitution is also the oldest written constitution of any nation. We Americans have good reason to be proud of the men who met in 1787 and their historic accomplishment.

Constitution Day was started in 1997 — a long-standing goal of Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va.

To commemorate the day, schools and federal agencies are required to hold educational programs on the Constitution.

Excellent sources for educational materials can be obtained from The League of Women Voters ([www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)), The National Constitution Center ([www.constitutionday.us](http://www.constitutionday.us)), and The Center for Civic Education ([www.civiced.org](http://www.civiced.org)).

All three nonprofit, nonpartisan organizations are dedicated to fostering the development of informed, responsible participation by citizens who are committed to the values and principles fundamental to American constitutional democracy.

This year Constitution Day will be celebrated on Monday, Sept. 18, because Sept. 17 is a Sunday.

On Sept. 18 let's celebrate and begin a study of our great Constitution by reading the Bill of Rights.

*Chris Straton, Naples, President, League of Women Voters of Collier County*

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