



What Constitution Day Means to Me – By Michaelanthony C. Arberry Jr.



The United States Constitution means a great deal to me.

I come from a family of Marines. My father served 27 years, my brother served 4 years, and I served for 6 years. My great grandfather fought in WWII and was listed as Missing in Action (MIA), he was never found. Before we are shipped off to basic training we swear an allegiance (military oath). One part of the oath is; "I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

The United States Constitution is the foundation of our country. It established the national government, it established fundamental laws, and it gave certain basic rights to our citizens. The constitution is the

pillar of our country. Though our country is not perfect the constitution allows us to make changes.

With the end of the civil war the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments were introduced to the U.S. constitution. Collectively these amendments were known as the Civil War Amendments which ensured equality for recently emancipated slaves. As our country continues to grow and change we will encounter problems. The great part about this country is we can change the constitution (add amendments) as our country changes. I am proud and blessed to be a citizen of the United States.

I know the sacrifices that were made by family to get to where I am at. My great grandfather though he fought for the United States during WWII he was not a citizen. He was from the Philippines and the United States offered Filipinos to fight alongside them with the promise of streamlining their U.S. citizenship.

That is the power and allure of becoming a U.S. citizen; my grandfather was willing to die for the chance to become a U.S. citizen. His sacrifice has shaped me into a man I am today.