

Bill of Rights Day

December 15, 2003

212 years ago today, our nation's founding fathers acted to protect our essential liberties by passing The Bill of Rights.

On the anniversary of that event, we honor and celebrate this vital document, and the freedoms which it is designed to guard.

Amendment I - Freedom of Religion, Press, Expression

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II - Right to bear arms

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment III - Quartering of soldiers

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV - Search and seizure

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V - Trial and Punishment, Compensation for Takings

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI - Right to speedy trial, confrontation of witnesses

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Amendment VII - Trial by jury in civil cases

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII - Cruel and Unusual punishment

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX - Enumeration of Rights

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X - Powers not Delegated

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

**Please see the reverse side to read how the above rights
are being threatened by our federal government.**

NEVADA COUNTY BILL OF RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE

Here are some of the threats to civil liberties that have risen in the past two years, in the name of the “war on terror”:

- “Sneak and Peek” searches
- Roving wiretaps
- Detentions without filing charges
- The “Carnivore” Internet wiretapping tool
- Spying on meetings of lawful organizations
- Detentions without access to a lawyer
- Spying on churches
- Spying at anti-war rallies
- Spying on attorney-client conversations
- Warrantless searches
- Easier access to your personal records and files: financial, medical, library, student, business, etc.

One man, Jose Padilla — an American citizen, who was arrested in Chicago — has been held since May of 2002 without having any charges filed against him. He has not had access to a lawyer, or been accorded any of the rights specified in Amendments 5 and 6 on the other side of this flyer. This is an American citizen, in prison for over a year and a half, with none of the normal due process. **If his rights can be done away with, then what’s to keep the government from doing away with yours?**

DEFEND YOUR FREEDOMS

Almost every right and freedom listed on the reverse side of this flyer is being betrayed in one way or the other, in pursuit of the “war on terror”.

Liberty has not been so threatened in this country since before the Bill of Rights was passed two hundred and twelve years ago today.

Ben Franklin once said, “They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.”

**Liberty and security go hand in hand.
What is the value of being secure if you are not free?**

Please visit www.ncrights.org and download our petition or call 274-2474 to join us in making Nevada County a “Civil Liberties Safe Zone”.

Visit these web sites for more information about increasing threats to the Bill of Rights and our essential liberties:

Nevada County Bill of Rights
Defense Committee
www.ncrights.org

National Bill of Rights
Defense Committee
www.bordc.org

The ACLU’s
“Safe and Free” Zone
www.aclu.org/SafeandFree/

Electronic Privacy
Information Center
www.epic.org