

THE CONSTITUTION

“STATES ARE RISING”

On the 19th in 1796, George Washington says his final farewell from office “...**It seems highly necessary that something should be done to maintain the liberty which we have derived from our Ancestors.**”¹

On the 21st in 1777, “**Remember Paoli**” became our nation’s first rally cry and helped turn the tide of the Revolutionary War. ...On the evening of September 21st, 1777, Major General Charles Grey of the British Army led a surprise attack on Brigadier General Anthony Wayne’s forces of the Continental Army. British forces achieved complete surprise on the encamped colonials. General Grey had ordered that only bayonets and swords be used to achieve surprise, the results were a gruesome victory for the British.



There were many newspaper accounts that the British took no prisoners, burning men alive in their tents under bayonet point. The sensational stories of the battle helped solidify public opinion against the British, painting them as cruel and barbaric. It quickly became known as the **Paoli Massacre**,² named after a tavern near the battle.³

On the 24th, in 1789, **Congress, under the authority of the Constitution organizes the Supreme Court.** Article VI of the Constitution establishes the Constitution as the Supreme law of the land. The result, an Act of Congress or even State laws that are found to be in violation of the Constitution, cannot stand or be enforced.⁴

On the 25th in 1789, **Congress approves 12 Amendments to the Bill of Rights.** While this is just the beginning, it validates that the process the founding fathers envisioned. While House and Senate were to be the place where ideas could be deliberated on a national stage, and eventually cleared for action to be taken, no action at the federal level can be taken without the full approval of 2/3 of the States. Recognizing the ratification of the Constitution over the prior 2 years, and the discussions that occurred regarding the promise of a Bill of Rights, Congress takes action by considering an initial 20 amendments, whittles this down to 17, passes this to the Senate which modified this to 12. Then out to the States for approval, however **only 10 return approved.**⁵ **How much time can it take for the States to ratify an amendment?** Well, the original second amendment that was not ratified when it was sent out, was revived and passed by the States and becoming the 27th Amendment, in 1992, nearly 203 years later.⁶

¹www.gwhistory.org

²<https://pbpfinc.org/>, <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/revolutionary-war/battles/paoli>, <https://www.theleadermaker.com/what-was-the-paoli-massacre/> also Remember Paoli! | Lower Merion Historical Society, lowermerionhistory.org

³Special Contribution by *The Pamphlet*, Nov 1, 2020, Page 8, Wade John Taylor

⁴<https://www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/educational-resources/about-educational-outreach/activity-resources/about>

⁵<https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/when-congress-passed-the-original-12-amendments-in-the-bill-of-rights/>

⁶27th Amendment - Congressional Compensation | The National Constitution Center