

When Are We US?

Becoming American



OUR NATION'S AND STATE'S FOUNDING DOCUMENTS

promote values of equality, justice, general welfare, and liberty. Guaranteed freedoms motivate some to take courageous stands and encourage citizens to embrace opportunities. These ideals shape American identity and instill pride.

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common Defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Section 1. The equality and rights of persons. That we hold it to be self-evident that all persons are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the enjoyment of the fruits of their own labor, and the pursuit of happiness.



Our blood and our sweat and our tears and our memories are built into the country.

Pauli Murray, 1976
Writer, Activist, Attorney, Episcopal priest



Lumbee people have great pride in our homeland...one of the greatest forces for the survival of our people.

Ben Jacobs, 1983
staff member, Lumbee Regional Development Association



I am just as American as anyone else who was born and raised here... The American Dream, to me, is to be able to come from a country where there is corruption to be able to have a future.

Alma Islas, 2015
UNC student and Mexican immigrant

Source Notes

- Billy Austin, an eighth-grade student at the Waughton School in Winston-Salem, created this poster during World War II, WWII 12.P29, State Archives
- Constitution of the United States as approved by North Carolina, 1789; Revision of the North Carolina State Constitution, 1945, vault collection 47.5 & 48.15, State Archives
- The Cardinal Singers posed with an Uncle Sam character at a naturalization ceremony in Memorial Auditorium in Raleigh, 1992, News & Observer negative collection NO.94457.1, State Archives
- Visitors salute the flag at Chimney Rock, c. 1920; N.C. State Parks Collection, State Archives
- Elmer H. Gibson, son of military chaplain Elmer P. Gibson, poses with a flag c. 1943, Military Collection, MMP 9, State Archives
- Pauli Murray, Southern Oral History Program interview, 1976, UNC
- Ben Jacobs, Carolina Indian Voice, June 23, 2003, newspaper collection, UNC
- Alma Islas, Southern Oral History Program interview, 2015, UNC

