

# September 17<sup>th</sup> is Constitution Day & It Was Started by an Ohio Mom!



by Kimberly Fletcher

Olga Weber was an Ohio homemaker who, in 1951, became very concerned that American citizens were taking their freedoms too much for granted. After reflecting on the matter, Olga decided she needed to do something to remind the people of America just how important freedom is. She began distributing copies of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, flag booklets, and other patriotic leaflets to the local schools, churches, and libraries. Then, in 1952, Olga decided it would be a good idea to establish a Constitution Day to commemorate the signing of the Constitution of the United States. Olga met with Mayor Gerald Romary and members of the Louisville, Ohio city council and shared her idea with them.

On September 17, 1952, Mayor Romary declared the day as Constitution Day in the city of Louisville. It was such a success that Olga decided to approach members of the Ohio General Assembly and ask that Ohio make a statewide designation for Constitution Day. The General Assembly thought it a fine idea and Constitution Day was signed into law by Governor Frank J. Lausche. Olga's efforts didn't end there however, she had one more stop—the United States Congress.

In August of 1953, Olga urged the United States Senate to pass a resolution designating September 17-23 as Constitution Week. The Senate and House approved her request and it was signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Today, Constitution Week is nationally recognized and children all over America celebrate it in their classrooms. The city of Louisville is now known as Constitution Town and for over fifty years they have been faithfully celebrating Constitution Week in grand fair—and all because of an Ohio homemaker named Olga Weber.

I know we're all busy with our homes and families. I know how hard you work and the long hours you keep, but I also know how desperately you want to be heard. I know how deeply you ache for your country and mourn the loss of the society that once supported families, revered God and cherished freedom. I know you long to have those days back and I know that's why you feel such a need to get involved and yet you wonder what you can possibly do to make a difference. But the fact is, it is you that has the greatest influence on society simply by being who you are!

Don't ever sell yourself short. There is no greater place where we have profound influence on the future of our country than in our own homes and families. Nurturing a love of liberty and virtue in the hearts of our children and grandchildren is how we will return to a culture of liberty, civility and prosperity.

It is not extraordinary people that make this world better. It's ordinary people like you and me who stand up for what's right and do extraordinary things without even meaning to. And that is what makes you extraordinary!

### Discussion Questions

- ★ *What things can you do to celebrate Constitution Week with your children and/or grandchildren?*
- ★ *What helps you to keep going when you don't think you can anymore? Do you feel ordinary people can make the difference that this world needs? How does God fit into our ability to make a difference?*
- ★ *The article mentions that Olga began by simply sharing copies of important documents and educational materials with her friends and community. Do we have access to documents that we can share with our friends and community?*
- ★ *Would we like to make a plan as a group or set goals individually to distribute those materials?*
- ★ *What is something you thought was ordinary that you did that ended up having a greater impact than you originally thought?*
- ★ *How can we support each other as moms as we leave an extraordinary legacy by just doing our best day by day?*