



Spirit of '76



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Laura Barteld, Assistant Editor
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Tina Valentine
Robert Morrison, Advisor

WILDCAT '76

Mayville High School
6250 Fulton Street
Mayville, MI 48744



Graduates

Class Of

'76



Class Motto: "Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow. Don't walk behind me, I may not lead. Walk beside me and just be my friend."

Class Colors: Silver and Blue

Class Flowers: White Roses and Blue Carnations



Deb
Adkins
Regina
DeAzevedo

Deb Adkins: Outstanding Senior, Filing and Shorthand Awards.

Regina DeAzevedo: Newspaper 12; Exchange Student from Brazil.

Jody Bader: F.F.A. 9-12.

Judy Barber: Cheerleading 9-12; N.H.S. 10-12; Pep Club 11; W.S.C. 9-11; F.E.C. 10-11; Sr. Band 9-12; Pep Band 9&11; French Club 9-10; G.A.A. 9; Jr. & Sr. Plays; Madrigal Choir 11-12; Musical 11; National High School Award for Excellence.

Tim Barteld: Football 10-12 (Capt. 12); Basketball 9-10; Baseball 9-12 (Capt. 10); N.H.S. 11-12; Sr. Play.

Gary Barton: Basketball 9-12; Track 10-12; Student Council 9.

Kathy Beebe: Pep Club 11; Sr. Band 10-12; Pep Band 10-12; Varsity Choir 10-12.

Peggy Blackmer

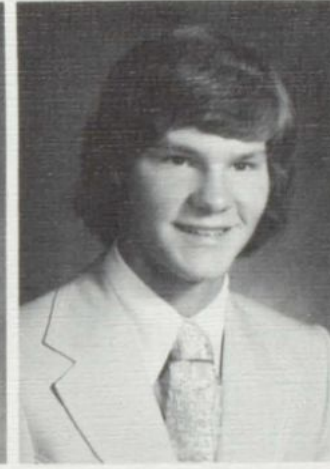
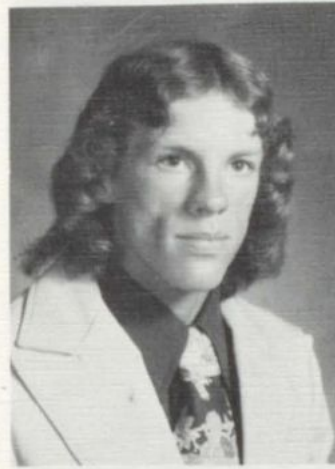
Mike Blackmer

Jody
Bader
Judy
Barber

George Blackwell: Football 9-12 (All Conf. Honorable Mention 12); Basketball 9-11; Baseball 9-12 (All Conf. 2nd Team 11, All Conf. 1st Team 12); N.H.S. 10-12; Sr. Play; Ecology Club 12; Judiciary Board 12; Outstanding Senior.

Cindy Blonde: Track 10-11 (Mgr.); Pep Club 11; F.E.C. 9-11; Sr. Play.

Alan Bodeis: Basketball 9; Track 9; Cross Country 9-10; Varsity Club 10; Golf 11-12.



Tim
Barteld
Gary
Barton
Kathy
Beebe
Peggy
Blackmer



Mike
Blackmer
George
Blackwell
Cindy
Blonde
Alan
Bodeis

Steve Buchanan: Basketball 9-12; Football 12; Baseball 9-12; Golf 9-11 (M.V.P. 10-11); N.H.S. 10-12; Pep Club 11; Annual Staff 10; Sr. Play.

Janet Carr: Softball 10-11; Track 11; Cheerleader 11-12 (M.V.P. 11); Varsity Club; Volleyball 10-12 (M.V.P. 11, All Conf. 2nd team 12); Student Council 11; N.H.S. 10-12; Pep Club 11; Ecology Club 12 (Pres.); Outstanding Senior; National High School Award for Excellence; Homecoming Queen's Court

Scott Childs: N.H.S. 10-12; Sr. Band 9-12.

Bill Craig: Football 9-10.

Bev Crampton: Basketball 10-12 (M.V.P. 10); Volleyball 10-12 (All Conf. Honorable Mention 12); Softball 10-12; Track 12; N.H.S. 10-12; Sr. Play; Ecology Club 12; Jr. Class Queen; Outstanding Senior; National High School Award for Excellence; Class Sec. 11-12; Student Council 12 (Sec.)

Karen Crowl: F.H.A. 9-12 (Chairman 10, Vice Pres. 11, Pres. 12); W.S.C. 10-12 (Treas. 12); Sr. Band 9-12; Pep Band 9-10; Exchange Student to Sweden; Valedictorian.

Delwin Currell: Football 9-11; Track 9-11; W.S.C. 10; Musical 11-12.

Wren Dow: Football 9&11; F.F.A. 9-12.

Wilda Dowling: Basketball 10-12 (All Conf. Honorable Mention 12, M.V.P. 12); Track 11; Volleyball 9-12; Softball 10-11; Varsity Club 11-12 (Pres. 12); N.H.S. 11-12; W.S.C. 9-10; Sr. Play; Ecology Club 12 (Treas.).

Vicky DuFresne

Marge Duncanson: F.H.A. 10-12 (Parliamentarian 11, Vice Pres. 12); N.H.S. 11-12; W.S.C. 9,11,12; F.E.C. 9-12; Sr. Band 9-12; Pep Band 10-11; French Club 9-10 (Pres. 10) G.A.A. 9; Ecology Club 12; Sr. Play.

Darril Easlick: Football 12; Basketball 10; Cross Country 9; Pep Club 12; Sr. Play; Musical 12.

Steve
Buchanan
Janet
Carr



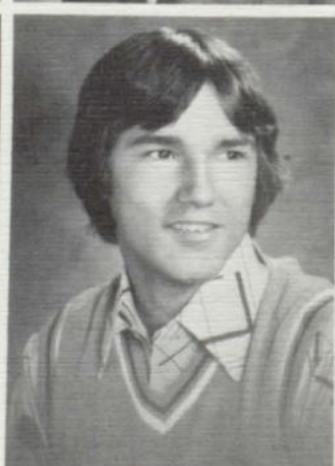
Scott
Childs
Bill
Craig



Bev
Crampton
Karen
Crowl
Delwin
Currell
Wren
Dow



Wilda
Dowling
Vicky
DuFresne
Marge
Duncanson
Darril
Easlick





Andy
Eremic
Tom
Ferrell

Andy Eremic: Football 9-12; Student Council 11; Pep Club 11-12; W.S.C. 11-12; F.E.C. 11-12 (Pres. 12); Sr. Band 10-12; Pep Band 11-12; Jr. & Sr. Plays; Musical; Ecology Club 12 (Vice Pres. 12); Class Vice Pres. 11; Class Pres. 12.

Tom Ferrell

Scott Fox

Joe Freeman: Football 9-12; Track 9-12 (State 12).

Brad Frenzel: Basketball 9-11 (M.V.P. 9); Track 12; Cross Country 9-12 (M.I.P. 10); Varsity Club 9-12; Annual Staff 11; Newspaper 11.

Julie Fritz: F.H.A. 9-10; Sr. Band 10-12; Pep Band 11-12; Volleyball 12; Ecology Club 12; Newspaper 11-12.

Sue Giddings: F.H.A. 9; Pep Club 11.

Deb Graham: Pom Pom Girl 10.

Bob Harp

Terri Harris: Cheerleader 9-12; Student Council 9; N.H.S. 10-12 (Sec. 11); Pep Club 11; W.S.C. 10-12 (Vice Pres. 12); F.E.C. 9 & 12; Sr. Band 9-12; Pep Band 9-12; Majorette 11-12; Stage Band 11-12; Tri-County Honors Band 11-12; Musical 12; Annual Staff 11-12; Class Treas. 10; National High School Award for Excellence; Homecoming Queen; Salutatorian.

Scott
Fox
Joe
Freeman

Nan Haver: Cheerleading 9-12 (Capt. 12); Varsity Club 12; Student Council 11-12; N.H.S. 10-12; Pep Club 9-12 (Pres. 12); W.S.C. 9-12; Musical 12; Outstanding Senior; Sr. Band 9-12; Pep Band 9-12; Majorette 10-11; Stage Band 11-12; Class Treas. 9; Exchange Student to Germany.

Bob Hiiter



Brad
Frenzel
Julie
Fritz
Sue
Giddings
Deb
Graham



Bob
Harp
Terri
Harris
Nan
Haver
Bob
Hiiter

Judy Hildebrant: Basketball 10; Pep Club 11-12; W.S.C. 10; Musical 11; Volleyball 11; Softball 11.

Mary Hawe: Softball 10-11; Basketball 10-11; Choir 11-12; Musical 11-12; Madrigal Choir 11-12; Tri-County Honors Choir 12.

Denise Heller: F.F.A. 10-11; Choir 11-12; Musical 11-12; Madrigal Choir 11-12; Tri-County Honors Choir.

Dan Herington

Dave Higgins: Football 9-12 (All Conf. 12); Basketball 9-11; N.H.S. 10-12 (Treas. 12); Pep Club 11; Sr. Play.

Donna Hool: Varsity Club 11-12; F.H.A. 11-12; Pep Club 11; Volleyball 9-12 (M.I.P. 10).

Aven Ide: Pep Club 10-11.

Dan Ihrke: Track 9-10; Annual Staff 11-12; W.S.C. 11; Newspaper 10-12; Jr. & Sr. Plays; Sr. Play '75.

Deb Ihrke: Basketball 10-12; Volleyball 9-11; Softball 11; F.H.A. 11-12 (Sec. 12); Pep Club 11; Sr. Play.

Joni Jordon: Basketball 10; Softball 10; Varsity Club 11-12; F.H.A. 9-12 (Treas. 11); N.H.S. 10-12; Pep Club 11-12; F.E.C. 11; Sr. Band 9-12; Pep Band 9-12; Stage Band 11-12; Musical 12; Drama Club 11; Sr. Play.

Leroy Keipinger: Football 11; Track 9-11; Cross Country 9-10; Varsity Club 9-12; F.E.C. 11; Sr. Play; Newspaper 12.

Kathy Knoer: F.H.A. 9; N.H.S. 12; Pep Club 11; Sr. Band 9; Pep-Band 9; Harmonic Mood 10.

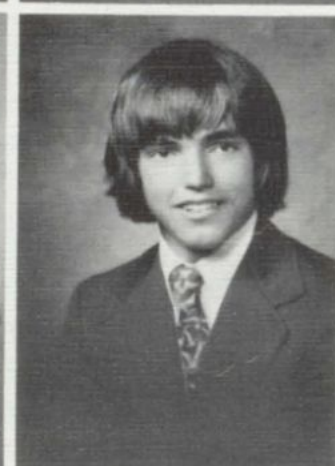
Judy
Hildebrant
Mary
Hawe



Denise
Heller
Dan
Herington



Dave
Higgins
Donna
Hool
Aven
Ide
Dan
Ihrke



Deb
Ihrke
Joni
Jordon
Leroy
Keipinger
Kathy
Knoer





Mitch
LaBair
Louise
Latimer



Mitch LaBair: Football 9-10, 12; Basketball 9-10; Track 11-12; Cross Country 11-12; F.F.A. 9-12 (Pres. 12, High Seed Seller 9-11); N.H.S. 10-12; National High School Award for Excellence.

Louise Latimer: F.H.A. 9-12; W.S.C. 10-11; F.E.C. 10; Choir 10-11; Musical 11; Jr. Play.

Mike Linder

David Losey

Wendi Lumley: F.H.A. 9; Student Council 11-12 (Vice Pres. 12); N.H.S. 11-12; Pep Club 11 (Sec.); W.S.C. 9-10; Sr. Play 9-12; Pep Band 9-11; Volleyball 10; Drama Club 11; Jr. & Sr. Plays.

LuAnn Lyon: W.S.C. 9; N.H.S. 12; F.H.A. 9; Pep Club 10.

Valerie Maciag: Volleyball 10-11; Pep Club 11; Musical 11.

Marie Mardlin: Basketball 10-12; Track 10; F.F.A. 9-12; W.S.C. 9; Volleyball 10-11; Softball 10-11.

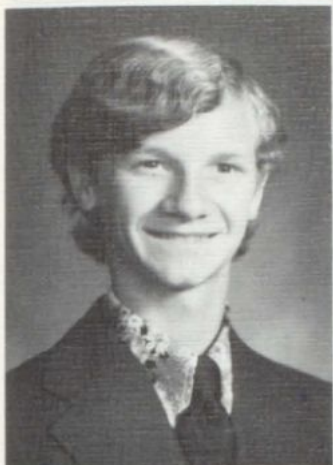
Mike
Linder
David
Losey

Mike McCardle: N.H.S. 11-12.

Jackie McEldowney: Basketball 10-11; G.A.A. 9; W.S.C. 10; Sr. Band 10-12; Pep Band 10-12; Volleyball 10; Newspaper 11.

Amy McGhee

Karen McKellar: Basketball 10-11 (Capt. 10); G.A.A. 9; W.S.C. 10; Sr. Band 9-10; Pep Band 9; Track 9-10; Cheerleader 9-10; Varsity Club 10.



Wendi
Lumley
LuAnn
Lyon
Valerie
Maciag
Marie
Mardlin



Mike
McCardle
Jackie
McEldowney
Amy
McGhee
Karen
McKellar

Deb McMullen: F.H.A. 9-12 (Treas. 11); N.H.S. 10-12; Student Council 10; Pep Club 10-12; W.S.C. 9; F.E.C. 9&11; Sr. Band 9-12; Pep Band 11; Sr. Play, Musical 12; Class Vice Pres. 10.

Shirley McMullen: F.H.A. 9-10; Sr. Band 9-12; Pep Band 9-12; Musical 12.

Linda Menzel: Basketball 10; Sr. Play.

Keith Mercer: Musical 12; Varsity Choir 11-12.

Sue Middleton: F.H.A. 9-12 (Pianist 10); N.H.S. 10-12 (Vice Pres. 11, Pres. 12); W.S.C. 9; F.E.C. 11-12 (Vice Pres. 12); Sr. Band 9-12; Pep Band 9-11; Stage Band 11-12; Musical 12; Tri-County Honors Band 11-12; Class Pres. 11-12; D.A.R. Good Citizen; Outstanding Senior; National High School Award for Excellence.

Tim Mihora: Football 9-11; Baseball 9-11; N.H.S. 10-12 (Treas. 11); Sr. Band 9-12; Pep Band 9-10; Class Treas. 11-12.

Carol Milner: F.H.A. 9-10; Drama Club 10; Sr. Play.

Kate Mitchell: Basketball 10-11; Track 10; Volleyball 9-10; Pom-Pom Girl 9; Sr. Band 10-12; Pep Band 10-11; W.S.C. 9-11; F.E.C. 9; Jr. & Sr. Plays.

Vicky Muntz: Basketball 9-10; Pep Club 10-12; W.S.C. 9; Sr. Band 9-11; Pep Band 9-11; Musical 11-12; Varsity Choir 11-12; Madrigal Choir 11-12; Tri-County Honors Choir 12; Drama Club 10.

Brent Oberle: Football 9-12 (All Conf. 11-12, M.I.P. 10); Basketball 10; Baseball 9-11 (All Conf. 11); Track 9&11-12; Varsity Club 10-12 (Sec. 10); Student Council 9&12; N.H.S. 10-12; Pep Club 11; W.S.C. 9-10; Sr. Band 9-12; Pep Band 9-12; Sr. Play; Varsity Choir 12; Musical 12; Tri-County Honors Choir 12; Class Vice Pres. 9&12; Homecoming King; National High School Award for Excellence.

Dave O'Brien: Student Council 11-12 (Vice Pres. 11, Pres. 12); Sr. Band 9-12; Basketball 9-11.

Pam Osowski: Student Council 10; N.H.S. 10-12; W.S.C. 9; F.E.C. 9; Sr. Band 9-12; Pep Band 9-12; Volleyball 11-12 (M.I.P. 12); G.A.A. 9.



Deb
McMullen
Shirley
McMullen



Linda
Menzel
Keith
Mercer

Sue
Middleton
Tim
Mihora
Carol
Milner
Kate
Mitchell



Vicky
Muntz
Brent
Oberle
Dave
O'Brien
Pam
Osowski





Linda
Patterson
Paul
Pezo

Linda Patterson: Track 9-12 (All Conf. 11-12, State 11-12, M.V.P. 11-12); Basketball 10-12 (M.I.P. 11); Cheerleader 9; G.A.A. 9; Volleyball 10-11; N.H.S. 11-12 (Sec. 12); F.E.C. 12; Newspaper 12; Annual Staff 10-12 (Asst. Editor 11, Editor 12); Sr. Band 10-12; Pep Band 10-12; Tri-County Honors Band 12; Musical 12; Class Secretary 10; Outstanding Senior.

Paul Pezo

Mike Phelps

Cindy Poole: Pep Club 11.

Nathan Quertermous

Jim Rowe: Football 9; Baseball 9-10; Cross Country 10; Varsity Club 10.

Mike Scigel: Football 9-11

Barry Sholes

Sally Shuster: Sr. Play; Pep Club 11; In other school-Basketball 9-10; Art Club 10.

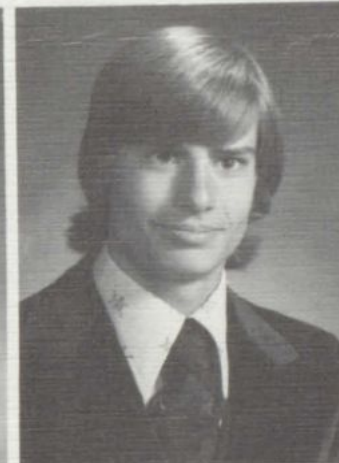
Bill Spencer: F.F.A. 9-12 (Sec. 12).

Marie Stout: F.H.A. 9; W.S.C. 9-10; Pep Club 11; Jr. & Sr. Plays; Varsity Choir 10-12; Madrigal Singer 12.

Ron Stout: Football 10; Baseball 9-12; F.F.A. 9-12 (Parli-Pro 9-11, Vice Pres. 11-12); Musical 11; Golf 12.



Mike
Phelps
Cindy
Poole



Nathan
Quertermous
Jim
Rowe
Mike
Scigel
Barry
Sholes



Sally
Shuster
Bill
Spencer
Marie
Stout
Ron
Stout

Ken Sweet: Football 9-12; Baseball 9-10; Track 9; Varsity Club 12; Student Council 9-10; Pep Club 9-10; W.S.C. 9-10; Drama Club 10; Jr. Play.

Cheryl Swotter

Janice Tait: Newspaper 12.

Pam Taylor

Marty TerBush: Football 10-11; Varsity Club 11; Pep Club 9-11.

Helen Thienes: Basketball 10; Sr. Band 10-12; Pep Band 11-12; Homecoming Queen's Court.

Paul Valentine: Football 9-10; Baseball 9-12; F.F.A. 9-12 (Reporter 12).

Judy VanSickle: F.H.A. 9-10; W.S.C. 9-10.

Ray Vroman: Baseball 11; N.H.S. 11-12; Sr. Band 9.

John Walker: Football 9-11.

Lori Walker: Cheerleader 9-10 (Capt. 10); Student Council 9-10; W.S.C. 9-10; Pep Band 9-10, 12; F.E.C. 9-10; Sr. Band 9-12.

Anita Wallace: W.S.C. 9-10; Pom-Pom Girl 9; Sr. Play; Drama Club 10; Sr. Band 9-12; Stage Band 11-12; Musical 12; Majorette 12.

Ken
Sweet
Cheryl
Swotter



Janice
Tait
Pam
Taylor



Marty
TerBush
Helen
Thienes
Paul
Valentine
Judy
VanSickle



Ray
Vroman
John
Walker
Lori
Walker
Anita
Wallace





Jeff
Werner
Randy
Werner



Patty
Wheaton
Neil
Wiley

Jeff Werner: F.F.A. 9-10.

Randy Werner: Track 12; Football 12; Basketball 9-10; Baseball 12.

Patty Wheaton

Neil Wiley: Basketball 9, 11-12 (Mgr.); Track 9; Cross Country 9; F.F.A. 9-12.

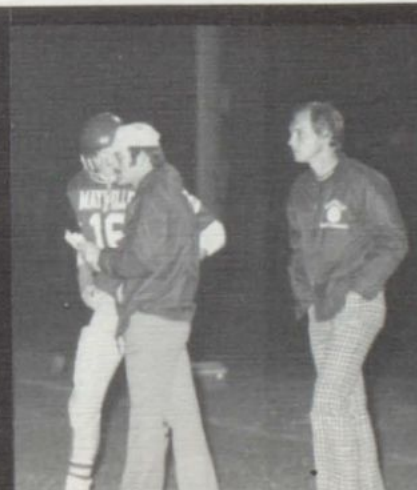
Sally Wilkinson: Sr. Band 9-10; In other school-Cheerleading 11.

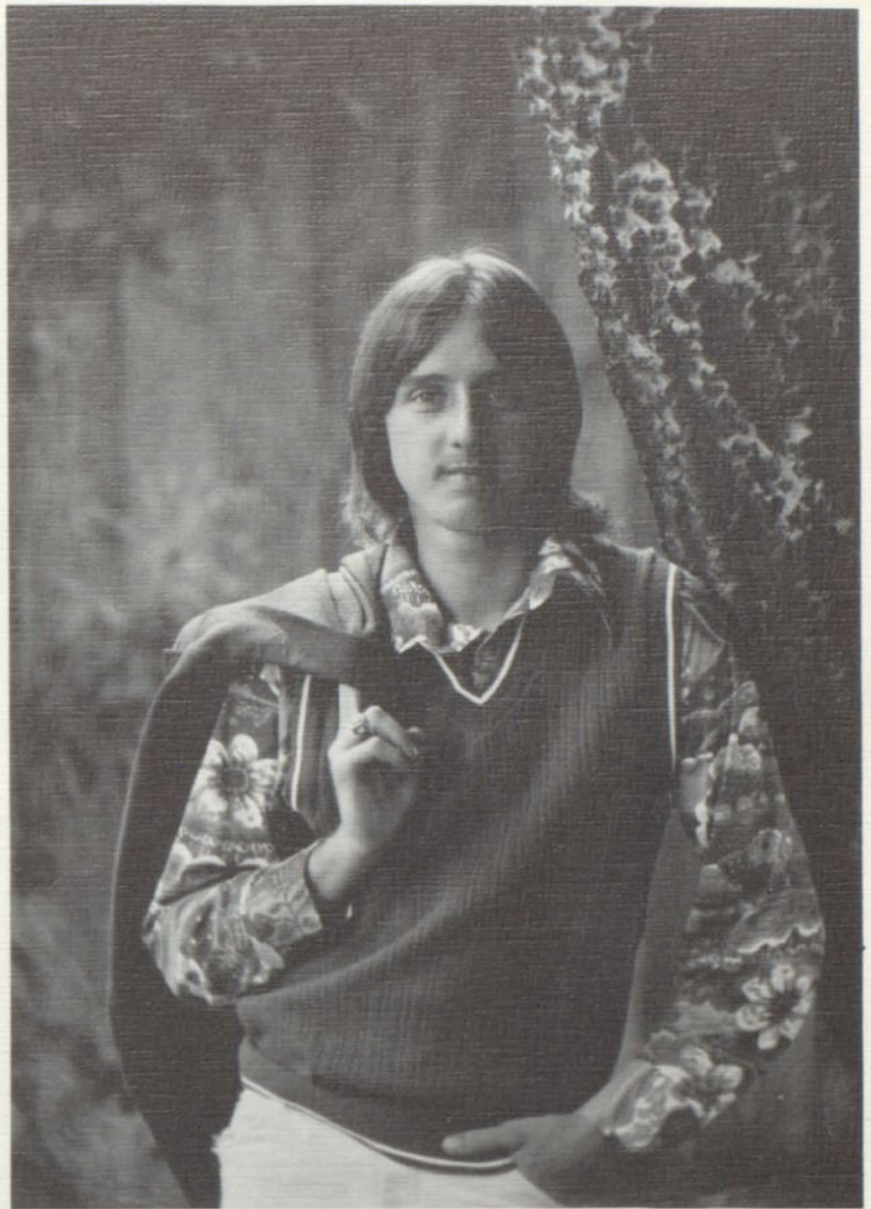
Duane Will: F.F.A. 9-12.

Tim Woern



Sally
Wilkinson
Duane
Will
Tim
Woern





Joseph Gordon Hilts
August 3, 1958 - February 27, 1976

"The best time of my life is when I spent the summer of '75 with my friends. The people of our time never got down to too much class but we had a good time living."

Quoted from Joe's Senior Memory Book

A Time To Cherish . . .

HONOR STUDENTS

Debra Adkins
Judeth Barber
Timothy Barteld
George Blackwell
Stephen Buchanan
Janet Carr
Scott Childs
Beverly Crampton
Karen Crowl
Wilda Dowling
Marjorie Duncanson
Andrew Eremic
Julie Fritz
Terri Harris
Nan Haver
Denise Heller
David Higgins
Steven Hobson
Joni Jordon
Kathleen Knoer
Mitchell LaBair
Louise (Dietz) Latimer
Wendi Lumley
LuAnn Lyon
Valerie Maciag
Marie (Tompkins) Mardlin
Michael McCardle
Karen (Klarich) McKellar
Debra McMullen
Susan Middleton
Timothy Mihora
Victoria Muntz
Brent Oberle
David O'Brien
Pamela Osowski
Linda Patterson
Mark Schneider
Michael Scigel
William Spencer
Helen Thienes
Ray Vroman
Lori (Wright) Walker
Anita Wallace
Sally Wilkinson
Duane Will



Karen is Valedictorian.



Terri is Salutatorian.



Steve wins the Skip Stumph Award.



Helen wins the merit award.



Mike receives his honor cord.

And Forever To Remember



We leave the past.



We pay attention to the present.



We look forward to the future.



Waiting and watching



Janet and Bev receive Duncan Memorial Award.



Didn't think we'd make it, huh?

SCHOLARSHIPS

Order of the Eastern Star Scholarship
Terri Harris

Maurice C. Eveland Memorial Scholarship
Karen Crowl

Future Homemakers of America Scholarship
Karen Crowl

University of Michigan Regents - Alumni Scholarship
Judy Barber

National Honor Society Scholarship
Scott Childs, Pam Osowski, Sue Middleton

Future Education Club Scholarship
Marge Duncanson

State of Michigan Competitive Scholarship Award
Judy Barber Wendi Lumley
George Blackwell Mike McCardle
Dave Higgins Sue Middleton

Duncan Memorial Award
Janet Carr, Bev Crampton

The Skip Stumph Memorial Award
Steve Buchanan

SENIOR AWARDS

Activities: Janet Carr

Citizenship: Marge Duncanson, Karen Crowl

Service: Nan Haver

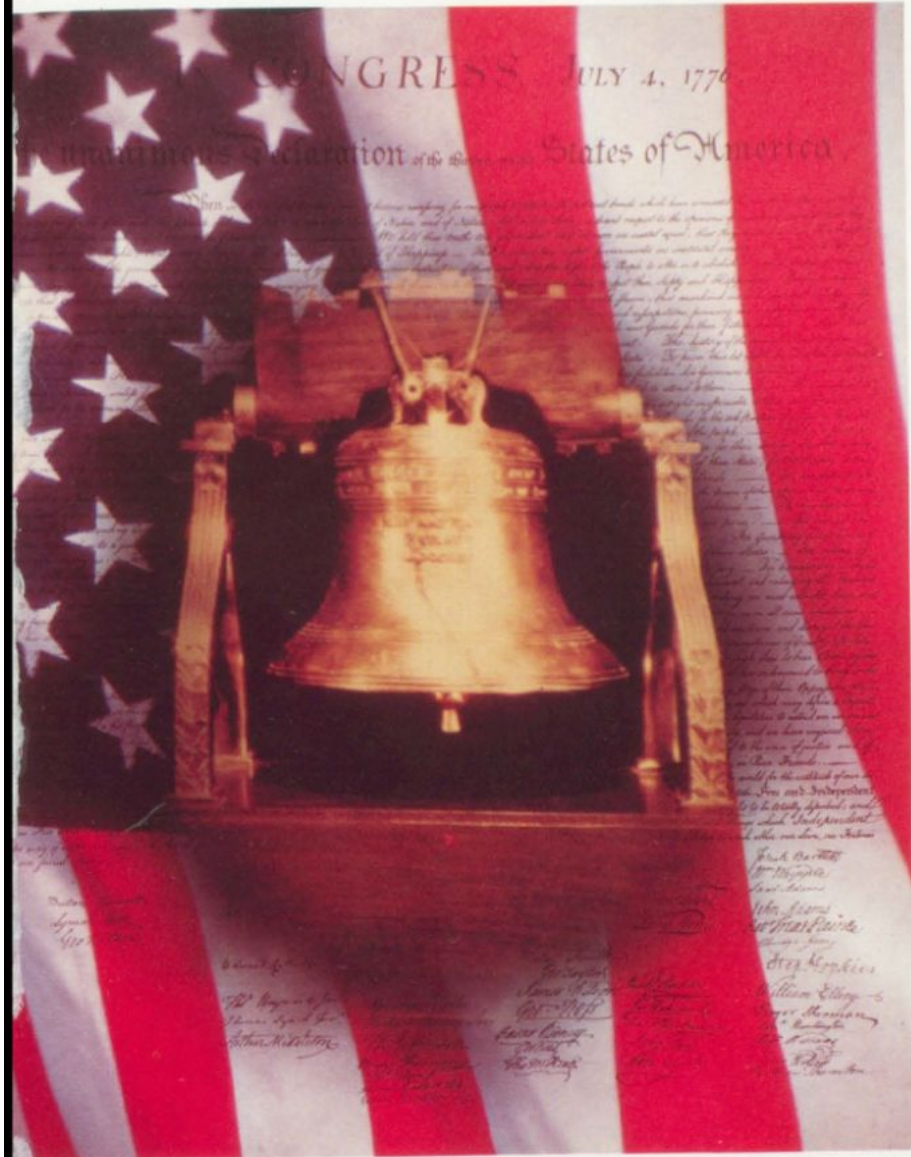
Leadership: Sue Middleton

Achievement: Joni Jordon

Merit: Helen Thienes

All Around: Terri Harris

"I Am the Nation . . ."



I was born on July 4, 1776, and the Declaration of Independence is my birth certificate. The bloodline of the world runs in my veins, because I offered freedom to the oppressed. I am many things, and many people. I am the Nation.

I am 200 million people, living souls and the ghosts of millions who have lived and died for me.

I am Nathan Hale and Paul Revere. I stood at Lexington and fired the shot heard around the world. I am Washington, Jefferson and Patrick Henry. I am John Paul Jones, the Green Mountain Boys and Davy Crockett. I am Lee and Grant, and Abe Lincoln.

I remember the Alamo, the Maine and Pearl Harbor. When Freedom called, I answered and stayed until it was over, over there. I left my heroic dead in Flanders Fields, on the Rock of Corregidor, and the Black steppes of Korea.

I am the Brooklyn Bridge, the wheat lands of Kansas, the granite hills of Vermont, the potato fields of Wisconsin. I am the coalfields of the Virginias and Pennsylvania, the fertile lands of the Mid-west, The Golden Gate and the Grand Canyon. I am Independence Hall, the Monitor and the Merrimac.

I am big! I sprawl from the Atlantic to the Pacific, three million square miles throbbing with industry. I am more than five million farms. I am forest, field, mountain, desert. I am quiet villages and cities that never sleep.

You can look at me and see Ben Franklin walking down the streets of Philadelphia with his breadloaf under his arm. You can see Betsy Ross with her needle. You can see the lights of Christmas, and hear the strains of Auld Lang Syne as the calendar turns.

I am Babe Ruth and the World Series. I am 169,000 schools and colleges, and 250,000 churches where my people worship God as they like best. I am a ballot dropping in a box, the roar of a crowd at the stadium, and the voice of a choir in a cathedral. I am an editorial in a newspaper and a letter to a congressman.

I am Eli Whitney and Stephen Foster. I am Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein and Billy Graham. I am Horace Greeley, Will Rogers and the Wright Brothers. I am George Washington Carver, Daniel Webster and Jonas Salk.

I am Longfellow, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Walt Whitman and Tom Paine. I am Phillip Brooks, Billy Sunday and Bishop Quayle.

Yes, I am the Nation, and these are the things I am. I was conceived in Freedom and, God willing, in Freedom I will spend the rest of my days.

May I possess always the integrity, the courage, and the strength to keep myself unshackled, to remain a citadel of freedom and a beacon of hope to the world. This is my wish, my goal, and my prayer on this my birthday, two-hundred years after I was born.

Author Unknown

(Reprinted from the "Wisconsin Veteran")



Spirit of '76

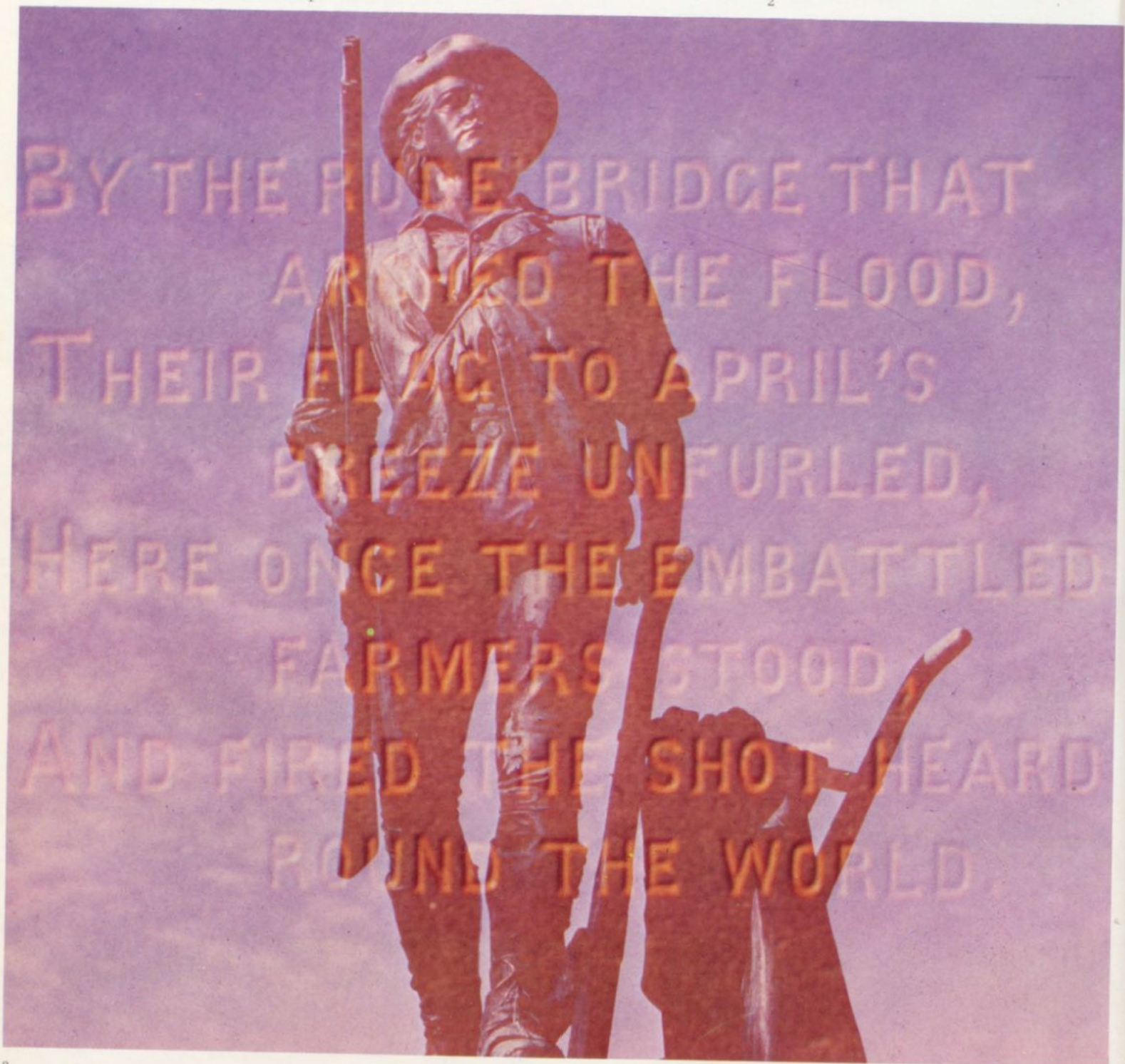
Supplemental color pages prepared to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the United States of America in this bi-centennial year—1976.



1



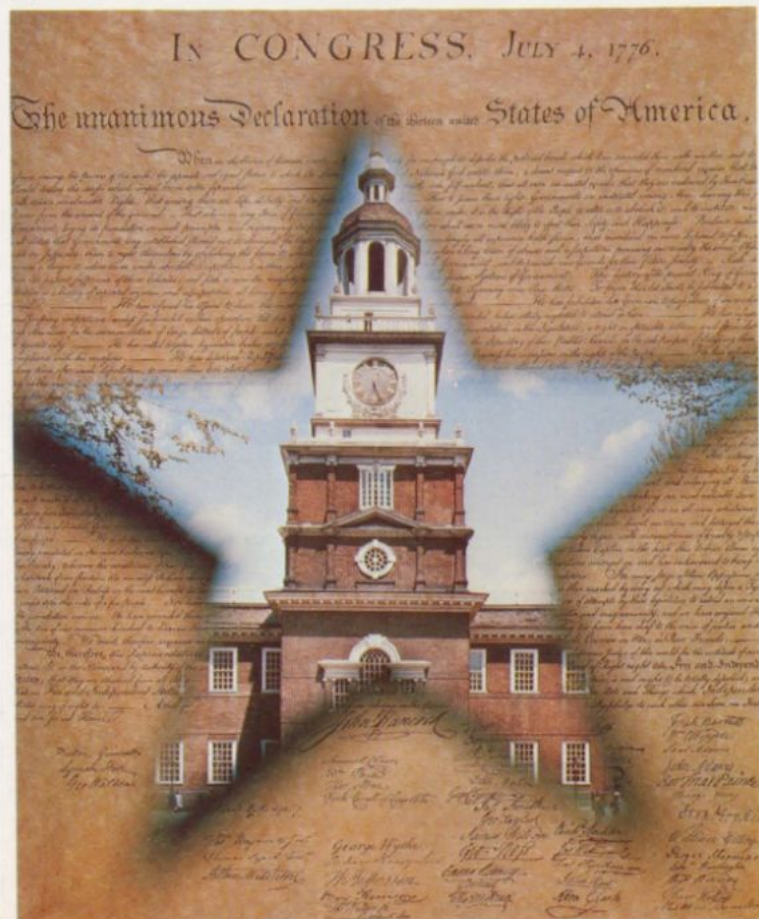
2



3



4



5



6

- 1/ Call of the Minutemen prior to the historic Battle of Lexington.
- 2/ The Battle of Concord Bridge was the first battle of the war.
- 3/ Monument to the Minutemen which stands on the site of the Battle of Lexington, where "the shot heard round the world" was fired April 19, 1775.
- 4/ The signing of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776.
- 5/ Independence Hall, Philadelphia, where the Continental Congress convened to decide a course of action.
- 6/ Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson working to revise Jefferson's draft of the Declaration of Independence.



*“Don’t Strike
the Colors.
... We Have
Just Begun
to Fight.”*

Capt. John Paul Jones



"These Are the Times That Try Men's Souls . . ."

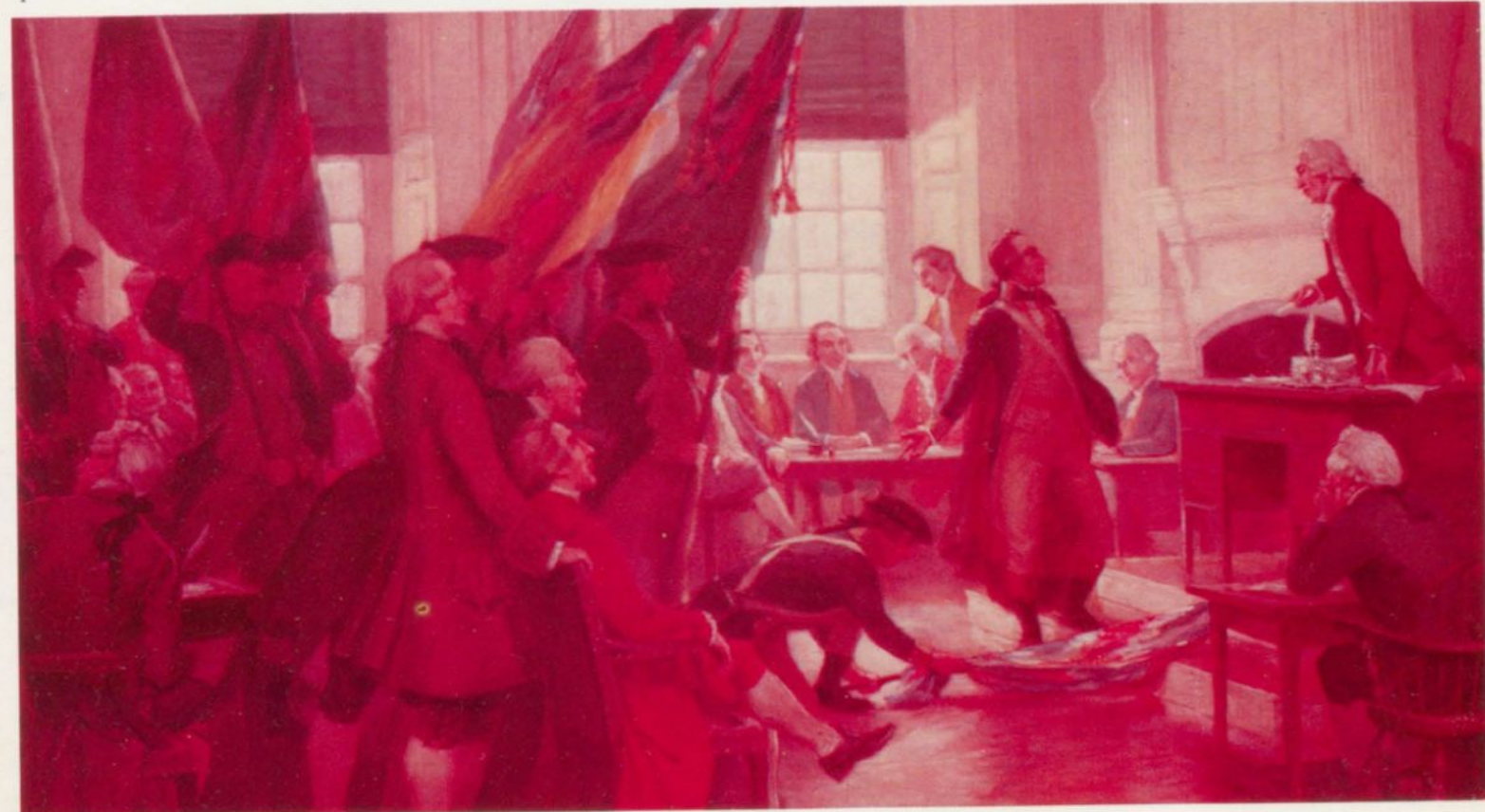
Thomas Paine



3



4



5

1/ Captain John Paul Jones unfurled the first *Stars and Stripes* over the ocean when the young nation's banner, containing thirteen stars and thirteen stripes, was hoisted aboard the *Ranger*.
2/ From the deck of the captured British vessel *Serapis*, Capt. Jones and his crew watched as the American man-of-war, *Bonhomme Richard*, sank in victory, September 23, 1779. With the aid of friendly powers—namely France and Holland—and the leadership of commanders like Jones, the American fleet was able to effectively combat Britain's naval supremacy in the colonies.

3/ General John Stark led the colonial forces to victory at Bennington on August 11, 1777. The victory, along with an American triumph at Saratoga on October 12 of that year brought France to the colonies' aid as an ally and was the turning point of the war.

4/ Outside of occupied Boston, colonial patriots organized themselves into a volunteer militia known as the *Minutemen*. On the eve of April 18, 1775, British troops numbering more than 800 were dispatched from Boston to seize colonial munitions stored at Concord. Forewarned, Paul Revere and others spread the alarm and the Redcoats were met by a determined band of Minutemen at Lexington. It was here that the famous "shot heard round the world" was fired. It is not known which side fired the first shot of that battle which marked the opening of outright hostilities and led to open war.

5/ The surrender of British troops under the command of General Charles Cornwallis at Yorktown on October 19, 1781, brought an end to all-out fighting. A few scattered skirmishes continued for over a year. However, complications of negotiation with England delayed the signing of a peace treaty for nearly two years. General George Washington, commander of colonial forces, accepted the British surrender at Yorktown and later presented the captured British flags to the Congress.

“Stand Your Ground . . .
If They Mean to Have a War,
Let It Begin Here.”

Capt. John Parker

1/ Capt. John Parker uttered those words as the colonial militia under his command prepared to meet the British troops at Lexington. Those words and the painting—*Spirit of '76*—exemplify the dedication and determination of the American patriots in their fight for independence. The colonies had organized to express their grievances in an effort to resolve the differences within the framework of the Empire. Several of the colonial legislatures had instructed their delegates to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia to oppose any move toward independence. The movement for independence was gaining strength and following the publication of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*, which argued for colonial sovereignty, a resolution was adopted and a committee of five appointed to draft a declaration of independence.

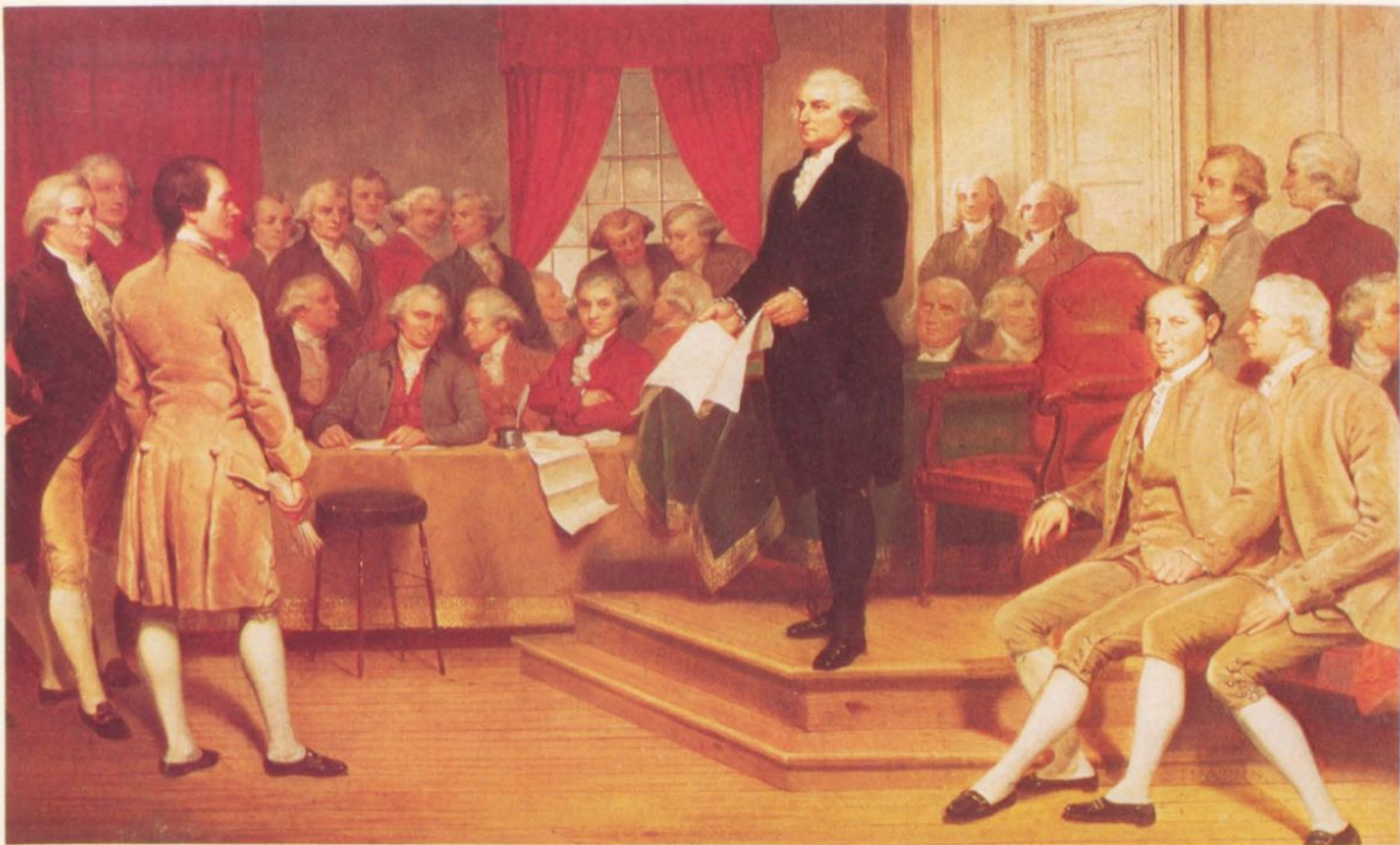
2/ General Washington, who had been appointed commander-in-chief of American forces by the Second Continental Congress, was a brilliant military strategist. It was his decision to take his Continentals across the Delaware River on Christmas night which resulted in the first major colonial victory. That victory at Trenton over Hessian mercenaries gave the ragged army renewed vigor. Supported chiefly through the printing of Continental currency, the colonial army also went through the personal fortunes of many American patriots—among them Washington, Jefferson, Richard Henry Lee and John Adams. These fortunes were donated to the cause of liberty—a cause supported by about one-third of the American population which was near 2,000,000. Another one-third remained loyal to the English crown and the remainder were apathetic. Despite many defeats, the colonies managed to keep an army in the field as a symbol of American resistance, to guarantee a negotiated rather than dictated peace.



1



2



3




“ . . . Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death!”

Patrick Henry

3/ Following the victory at Yorktown, Washington refused the offer of his troops to become king and returned to Philadelphia to aid with the establishment of a permanent government for the new republic—a loose alliance of sovereign states held together by the Articles of Confederation. An envoy composed of Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and John Jay was sent to negotiate with the British. It was not until 1783 that the peace agreement, known as the Treaty of Paris, was signed, guaranteeing the sovereignty of the United States of America. The Articles of Confederation, despite many weaknesses, served to unify the states until 1787 when a special convention was held at Independence Hall in Philadelphia to revise them. The meeting was attended by fifty-five of the most-prominent men of the day. Twenty-nine of the delegates representing a majority of the states met on May 25 and decided to draft an entirely new constitution rather than amend the Articles of Confederation. The meeting then became known as the Constitutional Convention.

4/ The men who assembled for the Constitutional Convention were an illustrious group with nearly every delegate a person of prominence in his home state. A large majority favored a strong central government. After four months of debate, on September 17, 1787, the new constitution was completed. In a little more than four months, six states had ratified the new constitution. Despite the good beginning, the fight for ratification was bitter and it was not until September 13, 1788, that the necessary two-thirds majority of the states had approved the document and Congress could call for states to choose their electors and congressmen. Several of the states had ratified the constitution with the provision that it would be amended. Thus, as one of its first official acts under the new constitution, the Congress added the first ten amendments known as the Bill of Rights. Washington was unanimously elected President and a new nation was launched on a course of democracy.



*“Give me your tired,
your poor,*

*Your huddled masses
yearning to breathe free,*

*The wretched refuse
of your teeming shore,*

*Send these, the homeless,
tempest-tossed to me,*

*I lift my lamp
beside the golden door.”*

Emma Lazarus

(From “The New Colossus”)



