



American Minuteman Pledge

*On my honor, as an American Minuteman, Venturer
/ Scout, I promise:*

To always follow the rules of safe firearm handling and shooting;

To seek to master those physical and mental factors essential to the firing of an accurate shot;

To treasure my American heritage, the Bill of Rights, and do all I can to protect and preserve the Unalienable Individual Right to Keep and Bear Arms as guaranteed by the Second Amendment;

To recognize such individual right as being justly considered as the palladium of the liberties of our republic and deterrent to, and defense against, government tyranny and oppression.

** Pledge adapted from the Lassen Sharpshooter's Pledge (Green Mountain Boys - Crew 40 / Troop 40)

***Your Unalienable Individual Right to Keep and Bear Arms
is the safeguard against government tyranny and oppression***

The Meaning of the American Minuteman Pledge

(Version: 8/14/2008)

Before you pledge yourself to any oath or promise, you must know what it means. The paragraphs that follow will help you understand the meaning of the American Minuteman Pledge.

On my honor, as an American Minuteman, Venturer / Scout, I promise:

By giving your word, you are promising to be guided by the ideals of the American Minuteman Pledge. You, as an American Citizen, are part of the militia as set forth in the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights (Note: 1).

To always follow the rules of safe firearm handling and shooting;

In your firearms safety course, you learned the rules of safe firearm handling and shooting. These rules must always be followed, and you should teach others to follow them both by your good example, and instruction.

To seek to master those physical and mental factors essential to the firing of an accurate shot;

Take care of your body so that it will serve you well for an entire lifetime. That means eating nutritious foods, getting enough sleep, and exercising regularly to build strength and endurance. To remain in good health, and be a good shot, you must avoid harmful drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and anything else that can harm your health.

Develop your mind, and your power of focused concentration. These attributes will not only assist you in becoming a good marksman, but will further help you in school, work, and during your entire lifetime.

To treasure my American heritage, the Bill of Rights, and do all I can to protect and preserve the Unalienable Individual Right to Keep and Bear Arms as guaranteed by the Second Amendment;

As an American Citizen we must learn about our American heritage and our rights. We recognize that those who are not educated about their rights and history, will not recognize when their rights and liberties are being threatened, or taken from them.

The Bill of rights sets forth human rights that predate the establishment of any government. These are your God given rights. As such, they were not given to you by any

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government, or public official. On the other hand, the Constitution grants limited powers to the government, for it is the government which is to be bound by the chains of the Constitution. The Individual Right to Keep and Bear Arms is fundamental, and is your God given right of self defense, whether exercised against a criminal about to take your life, or a government which has become tyrannical and oppressive.

To recognize such individual right as being justly considered as the palladium of the liberties of our republic and deterrent to, and defense against, government tyranny and oppression.

Our American forefathers rose up in armed rebellion against their own government which was tyrannical and oppressive. It was a last resort. It was out of that armed revolution that our Constitutional Republic was formed. It was armed citizens that had the courage to take a stand against their own government's tyranny and oppression. The American Revolution was ignited on April 19, 1775 when government troops marched on Lexington and Concord to confiscate firearms and ammunition of its citizens. The Individual Right to keep and Bear Arms is the palladium (i.e., providing protection, safety, safeguard) of the liberties of our republic (Note: 2). The people have the right to alter or abolish tyrannical government (Note: 3).

Notes:

(1) "I ask, sir, what is the militia? It is the whole people, except for a few public officials."
— George Mason, in Debates in Virginia Convention on Ratification of the Constitution.

"The militia, when properly formed, are in fact the people themselves, ... all men capable of bearing arms;..." — "Letters from the Federal Farmer to the Republic", 1788 (either Richard Henry Lee or Melancton Smith).

"Who are the militia? Are they not ourselves? Is it feared, then, that we shall turn our arms each man against his own bosom? Congress shall have no power to disarm the militia. Their swords, and every other terrible implement of the soldier, are the birth-right of an American ... The unlimited power of the sword is not in the hands of either the federal or state governments, but where I trust in God it will ever remain, in the hands of the People."— Tench Coxe, 1788.

(2) "The right of the citizens to keep and bear arms has justly been considered, as the palladium of the liberties of a republic; since it offers a strong moral check against the usurpation and arbitrary power of rulers; and will generally, even if these are successful in the first instance, enable the people to resist and triumph over them".[Quoted from Joseph Story Former Associate Justice of U.S. Supreme Court in, "Commentaries on the Constitution" (1833)].

(3) *Silveira v. Lockyer* - Dissent by Kozinski, states in part:

" ...a core value protected by the Second Amendment for "the people" was "the Right of the people to alter or abolish"48 tyrannical government, as they had done a decade before. ...

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As Blackstone describes the "natural right" of an Englishman to keep and bear arms, the arms are for personal defense as well as resistance to tyranny. The two are not always separable. After the Civil War, southern states began passing "Black Codes," designed to limit the freedom of blacks as much as possible . 50 The "Black Codes" often contained restrictions on firearm ownership and possession. 51 The codes sometimes made it a crime for whites even to loan guns to blacks. 52 A substantial part of the debate in Congress on the Fourteenth Amendment was its necessity to enable blacks to protect themselves from White terrorism and tyranny in the South. 53 Private terrorist organizations, such as the Ku Klux Klan, were abetted by southern state governments' refusal to protect black citizens, and the violence of such groups could only be realistically resisted with private firearms. When the state itself abets organized terrorism, the right of the people to keep and bear arms against a tyrant becomes inseparable from the right to self-defense....

the law establishes with the utmost clarity that the militia is precisely what the panel says it is not, an "amorphous body of the people as a whole."

Among the acts of the crown seen as oppressions to be prevented from ever happening again were the Militia Acts of 1757 through 1763 authorizing British officials "to seize and remove the arms" of colonial militias when they thought it necessary to the peace of the kingdom. 69 The American Revolution was triggered when General Gage ordered troops to march from Boston to Lexington and Concord to do just that. 70

...The one thing that is absolute is that the Second Amendment guarantees a personal and individual right to keep and bear arms, and prohibits government from disarming the people...."

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The Bill of Rights

(with explanation)

THE PREAMBLE TO THE BILL OF RIGHTS

Congress of the United States begun and held at the City of New York, on Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.

THE Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all, or any of which Articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution; viz.

ARTICLES in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.

Amendment I - 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.

Government can neither impose a state religion upon you nor punish you for exercising the religion of your choice. You may express your opinions, write and publish what you wish, gather peacefully with others, and formally ask government to correct injustices.

Amendment II - 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.

Individuals ("the people") have the right to own and use weapons without interference from the government.

Amendment III - No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house,

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without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

The government cannot force you to house its agents.

Amendment IV - 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.

You may not be arrested or "detained" arbitrarily. No agency of government may inspect or seize your property or possessions without first obtaining a warrant. To obtain a warrant, they must show specific cause for the search or seizure and swear under oath that they are telling the truth about these reasons. Furthermore, the warrant itself must state specifically and in detail the place, things, or people it covers. Warrants that are too general or vague are not valid; searches or seizures that exceed the terms of the warrant are not valid.

Amendment V - 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 offence 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.

No one outside the military may be tried for a serious crime without first being indicted by a grand jury (of citizens). Once found not guilty, a person may not be tried again for the same deed. You can't be forced to be a witness or provide evidence against yourself in a criminal case. You can't be sent to prison or have your assets seized without due process. The government can't take your property without paying market value for it.

Amendment VI - 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.

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Trials cannot be unreasonably postponed or held in secret. In any criminal case against you, you have a right to public trial by a jury of unbiased citizens (thus ensuring that the state can't use a "party-line" judge to railroad you). The trial must be held in the state or region where the crime was committed. You cannot be held without charges. You cannot be held on charges that are kept secret from you. You have a right to know who is making accusations against you and to confront those witnesses in court. You have the right to subpoena witnesses to testify in your favor and a right to the services of an attorney.

Amendment VII - 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 reexamined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

The right to trial by jury extends to civil, as well as criminal, cases. Once a jury has made its decision, no court can overturn or otherwise change that decision except via accepted legal processes (for instance, granting of a new trial when an appeals court determines that your rights were violated in the original proceeding).

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

Bail, fines, and punishments must all fit the crime and punishments must not be designed for cruelty.

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

You have more rights than are specifically listed in the Bill of Rights.

Amendment X - 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.

The U.S. federal government has only those specific powers granted to it by the Constitution. All other powers belong either to the states or to individuals.

The Ninth and Tenth Amendments, taken together, mean that the federal government has only the authority granted to it, while the people are presumed to have any right or power not specifically forbidden to them. The Bill of Rights as a

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whole is dedicated to describing certain key rights of the people that the government is categorically forbidden to remove, abridge, or infringe. The Bill of Rights clearly places the people in charge of their own lives, and the government within strict limits - the very opposite of the situation we have allowed to develop today.

Source of Bill or Rights and Explanation: JPFO

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