

“Our lives, our fortunes, our sacred honor.”

With these words, fifty-six men pledged their names and destinies to establish liberty for their time and ours. They had no way of realizing that the courage they demonstrated in 1776 would form the backbone for political and economic revolution that would eventually extend far beyond our borders.

What thanks do our Founders get from us, the beneficiaries of their deliberate and reasoned courage?

Today, almost one-quarter of American adults cannot name a single First Amendment right. The government our Founders worked so hard to limit now reaches far beyond its intended scope. And it's expensive! Half or more of the average citizen's annual income is taken by government to pay for regulatory and tax policies.

Our Founders knew they could not secure

- Educate your own children in the principles of liberty.
- Call “middle-of-road” radio talk shows and participate in reasoned, persuasive debate.
- Write letters to the editor and an occasional background piece for the paper's editors.
- Host a Q & A coffee with your legislator, be polite and prepared, and make sure your neighbors are prepped as well.
- Become a dependable expert on one issue and become indispensable to your legislator on that topic.
- If you are working on a degree, swallow your fear and speak up when controversy arises and you are able to provide an alternative point of view.
- Write notes of appreciation to elected officials when they do a good job. Hold them accountable when they do not.

TEN-MINUTE CITIZEN

By Lynn Harsh & Karen Helland

liberty permanently, and they warned us to be vigilant. We see Thomas Jefferson's warning played out in front of our eyes: “The natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and government to gain ground.”

In response, Evergreen Freedom Foundation staff created the Ten-Minute Citizen project for the purpose of regaining and maintaining liberty's lost ground. We are asking 100,000 people in our state this year to invest in citizenship for the equivalent of ten minutes each day, six days a week. That works out to an hour each week, or four hours a month, or forty-eight hours this year.

Imagine what 4,800,000 hours of responsible citizenship could accomplish in one year!

If someone needs ideas for filling that time, we have some. First, we recommend everyone read Bastiat's *The Law* and Russell Kirk's *The American Cause*. They are short, powerful books that make the case for political and economic freedom. The following is a short list of possible investments.

- Research candidates (accurately), including judicial nominees, and publish your research for the benefit of others.
- Run for office.
- Attend public forums and speak up.
- Give money and time to organizations on the front lines.
- Provide scholarships for young leaders to get extra education or training in the principles of liberty.

We issue the Ten-Minute Citizen challenge in public forums, on-line and in our newsletter. Anyone who accepts our challenge is invited to sign a pledge, and we provide special “insider” information and updates to every signatory.

British journalist G.K. Chesterton remarked, “A despotism may almost be defined as a tired democracy. As fatigue falls on a community, the citizens are less inclined for that eternal vigilance which has truly been called the price of liberty; and they prefer to arm only one

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single sentinel to watch the city while they sleep.”

Through our Ten-Minute Citizen program, we are attempting to persuade others to become proper stewards of our time in history—to put an army in place of the single sentinel.

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SAMPLE PETITION FROM THE EVERGREEN FREEDOM FOUNDATION WEBSITE



I'll Be a Ten Minute Citizen!

Yes! I want to accept the challenge of becoming a Ten Minute Citizen, and will hereby uphold the responsibilities of membership by investing an average of ten minutes each day in government through education or active involvement, in order to further the cause of individual liberty, free enterprise, and responsible government

Name (first & last):*

Email:*

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

*Required

Our promise to you: As a Ten Minute Citizen your personal information will not be shared with anyone. We'll simply encourage you through periodic newsletters and email updates.

Submit

<http://www.effwa.org/10min/pledge.php>