

# The Daughters of the American Revolution

Paul M. Hebert

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①

Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_, distinguished  
guests, members of the  
Daughters of the Am. Revolu-  
tion -

It is entirely fitting and proper that a patriotic organization of women, such as the D.A.R., should take the leadership in focusing attention upon the sesqui-centennial celebration of the formation of the Constitution of the United States, and congratulations are certainly due today to the Baton Rouge chapter, because I believe that this Washington dinner and the ceremonies that you have planned to follow it will mark the first Baton Rouge program in a long calendar of events which will be held in recognition and observance of the historic fact of the formation of the Constitution.

② The Daughters of the American Revolution since its organization in 1890, have steadfastly and successfully carried out the high ideals and objects expressed in their charter - those ideals and objects, as you all know, are: to perpetuate the memory of the spirit of the men and women who achieved American independence; to promote institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge; to cherish, maintain, and extend the institution of American freedom; to foster true patriotism and love of country; and to aid in securing for mankind all of the blessings of liberty.

In these days of social, economic and political unrest, there is much comfort to Americans in thinking back over the 150 years through which our Constitution -

"the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man" has endured. Through previous turmoils, our Constitution has always been the bedrock upon which the principles of American freedom and American democracy have been anchored. With the enlightened support of the hundred million Americans who have faith in the American way of life - the principles expressed in that immortal document, purchased with the blood of American patriots and achieved under the leadership of Washington - that Constitution will continue through any future tempests that may beset our paths.

With the assistance of our genial and scholarly founder of "the Live Oak Society", Dr. Stephens, and

with the cooperation of (4)  
President Smith, you have  
planned to plant a memorial  
avenue of trees along Dalrym-  
ple Drive leading to the  
University. To me, there is  
something quite symbolic of  
the Constitution in the oak.  
Its broad spreading branches  
signify the adaptability of  
the Constitution to the needs  
of different times and  
different conditions. The  
strength and durability of the  
oak and its great longevity  
are characteristics which the  
Fathers sought to build within  
the framework of our Constitu-  
tion. And, just as the oak is  
peculiarly insusceptible to  
the decaying influence of  
moisture - so may our Constitu-  
tion with the united support  
of all Americans and with the  
support that it received from  
patriotic groups of women such

as are gathered here today -  
may that Constitution like  
a sturdy oak successfully  
resist all attacks and pernicious  
influences that might  
seek to undermine the basic  
principles of American  
liberty.

In conclusion, I wish to  
say that it is a particular  
pleasure to meet with you on  
this occasion and I wish to  
add my word to what Dr. Smith  
has already said in assuring  
you that the Louisiana State  
University is always anxious,  
willing and ready to  
cooperate with the Daughters  
of the American Revolution  
in their every endeavor.