

## **Constitution Day Live 2023**

### **Reflection, Choice, and Self-Government**

#### **Video Viewing Guide**


#### **American Exceptionalism in the Civil War Era with BRI's Tony Williams and Andrew Lang, professor of history at Mississippi State University**

Questions:

1. Who does Dr. Lang cite to define American exceptionalism?
2. What does Dr. Lang say is the central contradiction that has to be grappled with when discussing American Exceptionalism?
3. What fear does Dr. Lang argue was widely held by many Americans in the mid-nineteenth century related to disunion?
4. What did the vice-president of the Confederacy say was the principle his new country was built upon?
5. Does Dr. Lang believe emancipation was an inevitable result of the Civil War? Why or why not?
6. What does Dr. Lang say the Gettysburg address explained?
7. What idea does Dr. Lang think was being tested in the Civil War?
8. Why do you think it is important to reflect and deliberate on the idea of American exceptionalism?

#### **An Example of Reflection & Choice with Medal of Honor Recipient Flo Groberg**


Questions:

1. Where was Flo born?
  2. Name one of the observations Flo noticed upon moving to the United States.
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3. What civic virtue does Flo cite his father encouraged in him?
4. When did Flo become naturalized as a U.S. citizen?
5. What does Flo say helped him build discipline?
6. What does Flo say having respect for your enemy provides?
7. Which historical figure does Flo cite as an inspiration?
8. When does Flo claim Americans are unstoppable?
9. What does Flo say we can all do to improve society?
10. Which part of Flo's story helped you reflect on your own story as an American? Explain.

### **Civil Discourse: A Book Discussion with authors Michelle Pinkney and Joe Schmidt**

#### Questions:

1. Why do Nichelle and Joe think civil discourse is important?
  2. How does Nichelle define civil discourse?
  3. Do the speakers think civil discourse is about winning? Explain their reasoning.
  4. What feature does Joe say is built into the Constitution?
  5. How does Nichelle think civil discourse was part of the Founding of the United States?
  6. Reflect on ways you can support civil discourse in your own life. What are a few actions you can take to encourage open and honest deliberation and conversation?
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## **The Importance of Polling a Democracy with pollster John Zogby and Lucca Ruggieri**

Questions:

1. What does John claim the role of polling is?
2. Do you think polling has a role in how races turn out? Why or why not?
3. How did Lucca pull together the questions he asked?
4. Does Lucca think polling is a perfect reflection of how the electorate thinks? Why or why not?
5. Name one of the ways John says polling has changed since the 1980's.
6. How do John and Lucca think polling supports self-government?
7. Does John think polls predict results?
8. How does polling encourage reflection and deliberation in the United States?