

WE THE PEOPLE

STATES RIGHTS

Where do we start, when love is in the air?

On the 14th (maybe) or as **early as the 3rd Century, St. Valentine** may have taken the lead in encouraging romantic relationships to form. Which St. Valentine gets the credit (there were three) we don't know, **legend has most stories ending in death for St. Valentine.** We do find that **Pope Gelasius** did declare **February 14, 496 A.D.**, to be St. Valentines Day.

On the 14th in 1912, Arizona (#48), is the **last of the contiguous states**, to join the union. 49 years in the making, they had a chance to enter earlier, if only they would combine with New Mexico. (Oh, the thought, just kidding.) Arizona's grit and determination showed itself as President Taft was hesitant to approve Arizona if they maintained the right to recall judges. Arizona did as they were asked, removed the right to recall judges from their constitution, which allowed for President Taft to then approve Statehood. Once Statehood was affirmed and in place, after the next election, the right to recall Judges was reinstated into their Constitution.

On the 14th in 1859, Oregon (#33) becomes a "Free" State. Earlier in 1844 Oregon had passed a **Black Exclusion Law**, prohibiting African Americans from entering the State. In 2018 both Oregon and Vermont were identified as being **two of the Least Religious States**, while **beautiful landscapes**, are in **stark contrast to ongoing riots of 2021. Yet this is their right.**



Finally, how can we talk about Love and new States if we do not discuss our 2nd Amendment Rights and how we can protect both (Love for our families as well as our communities). The **2nd Amendment** is clear the Federal Government has no right in

managing our 2nd Amendment until such time that a Constitutional Amendment is passed that provides for such restriction. For within the 2nd, it states that we as a people, individually have "the right ... to keep and bear Arms **shall not be infringed.**" Vermont is such a State that allows for both open and concealed carry without a permit. The irony of this "**Vermont Carry**" is that **Bernie Sanders has been an advocate for Gun Rights.** Perhaps the question is, as a **Democratic Socialist, for how much longer?**

Constitutional Carry is a right that has its origins in our Bill of Rights, which by default being one of the first 10 Bill of Rights, was inherently understood by all of the Founding Fathers and Ratifying States at the time the Constitution was agreed to. **In fact, Ohio is looking to recognize their rights for Conceal Carry, within the 2nd.**

