

Constitution Day at Circle Theatre

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves, and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

By BILL ROGERS

Correspondent

SEBRING — J. Nuno Norberto didn't have a dramatic story about how he got to America like, as he said, swimming across the ocean or escaping a war zone.

But the path to becoming a U.S. citizen wasn't without some challenges.

Norbert talked about that during "A Celebration of the Constitution of the United States of America," presented by the Highlands Chapter of the Florida Sons of the American Revolution last Friday at the Circle Theatre. Constitution Week was Sept. 17-23.

A native of Brazil, Norberto said he wanted to come to the United States for quite some time. He always wanted to see Mickey Mouse and visit Disney World.

One challenge when he arrived was learning English, which he said he did at age 20. Another was attending college in a setting much different than he was accustomed to.

Norberto was at an event at his high school in Brazil when he heard about Campbellsville University in Kentucky. A few weeks later, he was in the Bluegrass State with a backpack full of clothes and, he said, "no English." He also didn't know anybody.

He said he went from a city of about 3 million people to a town of about 10,000 people "in the middle of nowhere." He had to adapt. "From different types of food and to have to figure out how to speak English...", he said.

Norberto, who became a U.S. citizen in 2010, is the pastor of music and senior adults at First Baptist Church of Sebring.

"I'm thankful to God for fulfilling a lifelong dream," Norberto said.

The other speaker during the program was Rev. J. David Juliano of First United Methodist Church in Sebring. Juliano talked about the Magna Carta and how it shaped U.S. government, noting that the 800th anniversary of the signing of the document was last year.

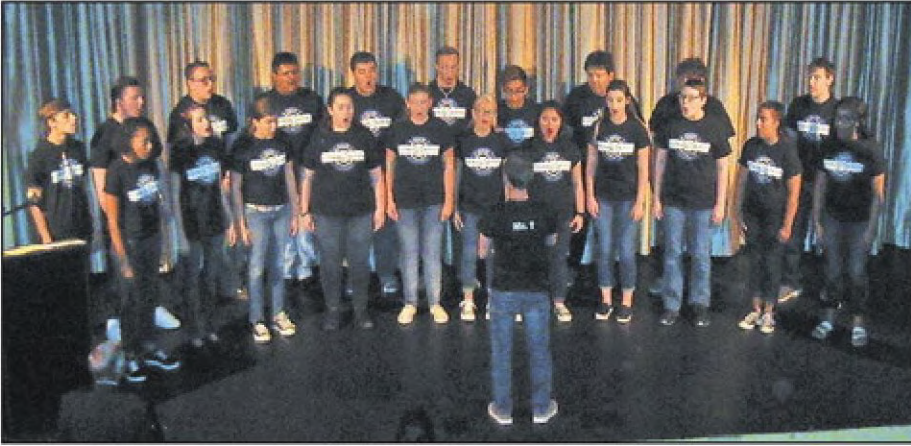
He explained that unlike the Declaration of Independence, Magna Carta was a peace treaty. Its immediate purpose was to end the civil war between King John and the English barons.

The intended effect of the agreement was to force King John to submit to the Rule of Law. "That is to agree to the principle that England was a nation under law," Juliano said. "And that the law empowered and limited the authority of the crown."

Juliano said the colonists brought the Magna Carta to America. They followed the Rule of Law, which he described as a "critical part" of the agreement.

Juliano said Americans should celebrate the Magna Carta as much as the Declaration of Independence.

Mike Flood, president of the SAR, was pleased with the turnout for the first time his organization has held the event. "More people than I thought came out," Flood said.

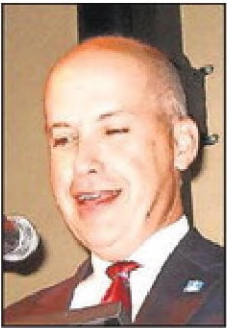


The Sebring High School Show Choir sings the national anthem during the program, "A Celebration of the Constitution of the United States of America."

Photos by Bill Rogers/Highlands Sun



J. Nuno Norberto leads the singing of "God Bless America." Norberto also spoke during last Friday's "A Celebration of the Constitution of the United States of America." event at the Circle Theatre in Sebring.



Rev. J. David Juliano speaks about the Magna Carta during "A Celebration of the Constitution of the United States of America."



Mike Flood is president of the Highlands Chapter of Sons of the American Revolution.

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