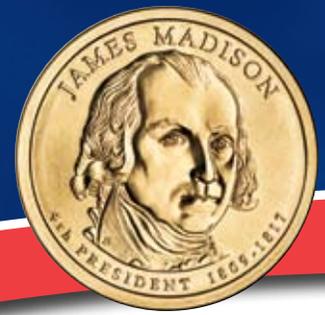


JAMES MADISON



Presidential Profile

- **James Madison, Fourth President of the United States:** Madison served from 1809-1817. Born on March 16, 1751, in Port Conway, Virginia, he lived most of his life at Montpelier, his family's 2,750-acre estate in Orange, Virginia. His wife Dolley, was a hospitable First Lady. She visited every new Member of Congress upon her arrival in Washington. Madison died at Montpelier on June 28, 1836.
- **The Constitution:** James Madison is often called the "Father of the Constitution" for his role in creating the document that provides the basic framework for how the United States government operates. Believing that the Articles of Confederation (1781-1789) did not provide for a strong enough central government, Madison played a key role in organizing the Constitutional Convention in 1787, where representatives of each state met to discuss drafting a new Constitution. Several issues concerned the delegates, including how much power to allow the central government, how to fairly allocate seats in the legislature and how to elect representatives. Madison's Virginia Plan addressed many of these concerns and his document became a large part of the Constitution. Madison also wrote some of the Federalist Papers, a series of political essays designed to convince Americans to support ratification of the Constitution. In the end, the Constitution, which entered into force on March 4, 1789, had many contributors, and it stands as a model of cooperative statesmanship and the art of compromise.
- **Bill of Rights:** After being elected to the first Congress of the United States as a representative from Virginia in 1789, Madison introduced the 10 amendments to the Constitution, known as the Bill of Rights. With the tyranny of King George III fresh on the minds of the Founding Fathers, the Bill of Rights was enacted to protect Americans' basic human rights to religious freedom, freedom of speech and the due process of law, and protects the people from

any government action that unreasonably denies these rights.

- **Road to the Presidency:** After serving as President Jefferson's Secretary of State (1801-1808), Madison was elected President in 1809, defeating Charles C. Pinckney by 122-47 electoral votes.
- **War of 1812:** During his Presidency, the United States continued to have trouble with the British. Great Britain seized United States ships, goods and sailors at sea; armed American Indians who were fighting American settlers; and blocked American trade abroad. This eventually led to the War of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain, which Madison considered a second War for Independence. The war ended in a stalemate in December 1814 when the Treaty of Ghent re-established the pre-war status quo. During this war, Francis Scott Key wrote what would one day become our national anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner," while watching a battle at Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland.

Monumental Moments

- James Madison University (located in Harrisonburg, Virginia), and James Madison College (at Michigan State University) are both named for the 4th President.
- Built in 1980, the James Madison Building at the Library of Congress is also named for him.
- As of 2007, there are 54 cities and towns and 20 counties in the United States that are named Madison.

The Coin Connection

- The James Madison \$1 Coin will be available beginning in November, 2007.



To learn more visit the United States Mint H.I.P. Pocket Change™ website at

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