AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL

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FOR

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Frank Lloyd Wright built what is probably considered his finest work, Fallingwater, just above a waterfall, mystifyingly jutting out from the bedrock and offering perspectives and vistas from all angles. Made of stone and glass and concrete, the building was considered, at the time of its construction, to be a modern masterpiece, one that incorporated nature and technology in such a way that it was truly a living, breathing structural tribute to the God given breathtaking surroundings. Although it appeared to defy gravity, not only for the way it was situated to be a part of the waterfall, the cantilevered living levels and platforms jut out from the bedrock and the hills and so appear to defy gravity. Since it was built in 1936 and still stands today, clearly the structure is a sound one and its foundation is solid. It took an architectural genius with vision and daring to attempt to successfully build such a structure. The building and its uniqueness help remind us of the beauty and endurance of an impeccably well thought out plan. When we look at buildings, the way they are conceived, built and used, we can parallel the process of construction and the end use of the building to the creation and implementation of the United States Constitution. The Constitution serves as the framework and foundation for our government, all of our laws and obligations as Americans lie within its structure, and all of our fellow citizens are committed to being responsible for following “the house rules.”

Obeying and honoring the laws set forth by the constitution is the “rent” we pay to have the privilege of living on American soil. Taxes are our capital assessments and elections serve the function to analyze the structure to see what improvements, revisions and updates need to be made in order to more effectively support the organic, breathing entity that is the US constitution.

The framers of our constitution have been compared to architects, and like Frank Lloyd Wright, they had to do surveys and analyses and draw detailed plans to guide all Americans. They had to do all their research to know just how to build a constitutional structure that was strong enough to hold the integrity of a new nation while allowing for future growth. It began with the preamble and then the Bill of Rights. As we got stronger, amendments were added to strengthen and broaden the foundation for the generations of Americans who would inherit this magnificent “edifice.”