**AzFRW Americanism: Fall Meeting, September, 2016**

Yesterday was the end of Constitution Week, and many of us enjoyed hearing Dr. McElroy’s informative presentation on the U.S. Constitution. I’m going to stick with that subject this morning, because it’s one that, I think, is dear to the hearts of Republican Women.

Ronald Reagan can be considered a “Constitutional President”. According to Dr. Lee Edwards of the Heritage Foundation’s Center for Principles and Politics, President Reagan referred to the Constitution in his annual State of the Union messages more than any other President had in the previous 50 years, and his presidential papers from his 8 years in office, contained 1,270 references to the Constitution.

In his September, 1981, Constitution Week Proclamation, President Reagan reminded Americans: *“It is by choice, not by imposition, that the Constitution is the supreme law of our land…Each of us has a personal obligation to acquaint ourselves with it and its central role in guiding our Nation. While a constitution may set forth rights and liberties, only citizens can maintain and guarantee those freedoms. Active and informed citizenship is not just a right; it is a duty.”*

Reagan was a president who took this duty seriously, and it is a duty that Republican Women and all patriotic Americans know we still need to take seriously if our Constitution is to remain the supreme law of our land.

 The Founders who wrote and adopted the Constitution in 1787, gave us a gift that has kept on giving – and, as Ronald Reagan once observed*, “…America is strongest and freest and happiest when it is truest to the wisdom of its founders.”*