

**FIRST
DRAFT**

Synopsis Page

(written in July, 2026)

IN CONGRESS, STATE BY STATE

Statement of Purpose - Beginning with the laws within the British *Magna Carta*, to the admission of Hawai'i as our last state in 1959; this exhibit will illustrate how our nation, *The United States of America*, expanded through the centuries, both politically and geographically.

Historical Background - After the colonies declared their independence from Great Britain in 1776, they adopted a new set of laws, the *Articles of Confederation*, the following year. Proving themselves to be ineffective, these laws were overturned in 1787 in favor of our present-day *Constitution*.

One-by-one, our original thirteen colonies along the Atlantic seaboard began to demonstrate their support for our new *Constitution* as they began to ratify it, beginning with Delaware in 1787 and concluding with Rhode Island in 1790. As time progressed, other territories became states and joined the Union.

Although our nation kept expanding, political hostilities over tariffs and land grants began developing between the northern and the southern states. Also, the "slavery question" was becoming the hot political issue of the day. Finally, in 1861, 11 southern states seceded from the Union and formed the *Confederate States of America*. Following the Civil War's end in 1865, these 11 states were re-admitted into the Union.

After the United States had recovered from the war, it began expanding itself beyond its shores, beginning with our acquisition of Alaska from Russia in 1867. As time went on, our nation began acquiring colonies from other nations, (usually following a war) which were called "possessions". This was true following the Spanish-American War (1898), and later following World War I (1918), and World War II (1945). In time, some of these possessions became independent domains and claimed their own sovereignty; while others still remain with the United States today.

Treatment – There is one page for each state and possession. Additional pages are included to illustrate a specific point.

Knowledge, Study and Research – information taken from various internet resources.

Presentation – Material for this exhibit is as follows:

This collection contains one page for each state and possession with:

- The most recent statehood anniversary issue and its First Day Cover;
- 2008 Flags of our nation issue;
- 1982 State Bird and Flower issue;
- 2002 "Greetings" issue;
- A stamp relating to an event, person, or activity associated with that state;
- The United States Capitol Building.

Our states are identified in **ALGERIAN** type to distinguish them from our possessions which are identified in **CASTELLAR** type.

Final Comments – Although this exhibit was intended to be more of a "fun in philately" exhibit, it does contain some rather illusive material worthy of note.

IN CONGRESS, STATE BY STATE

Statement of Purpose: This exhibit will illustrate how our nation, the *United States of America*, expanded through the centuries, both **politically** and **geographically**; - beginning with the continuation of the laws of the *Magna Carta*, which were carried over from Great Britain, to the admission of *Hawai'i as our last state in 1959*.

This collection contains one page for each state and possessions with:

- The most recent statehood anniversary issue and its First Day Cover;
- 2008 Flags of our nation issue;
- 1982 State Bird and Flower issue;
- 2002 "Greetings" issue;
- A stamp relating to an event, person, or activity associated with that state
- The United States Capitol Building.

The states are presented in the order they joined the Union, and the possessions appear in the order they were acquired from various foreign nations.

Also explored in this exhibit are:

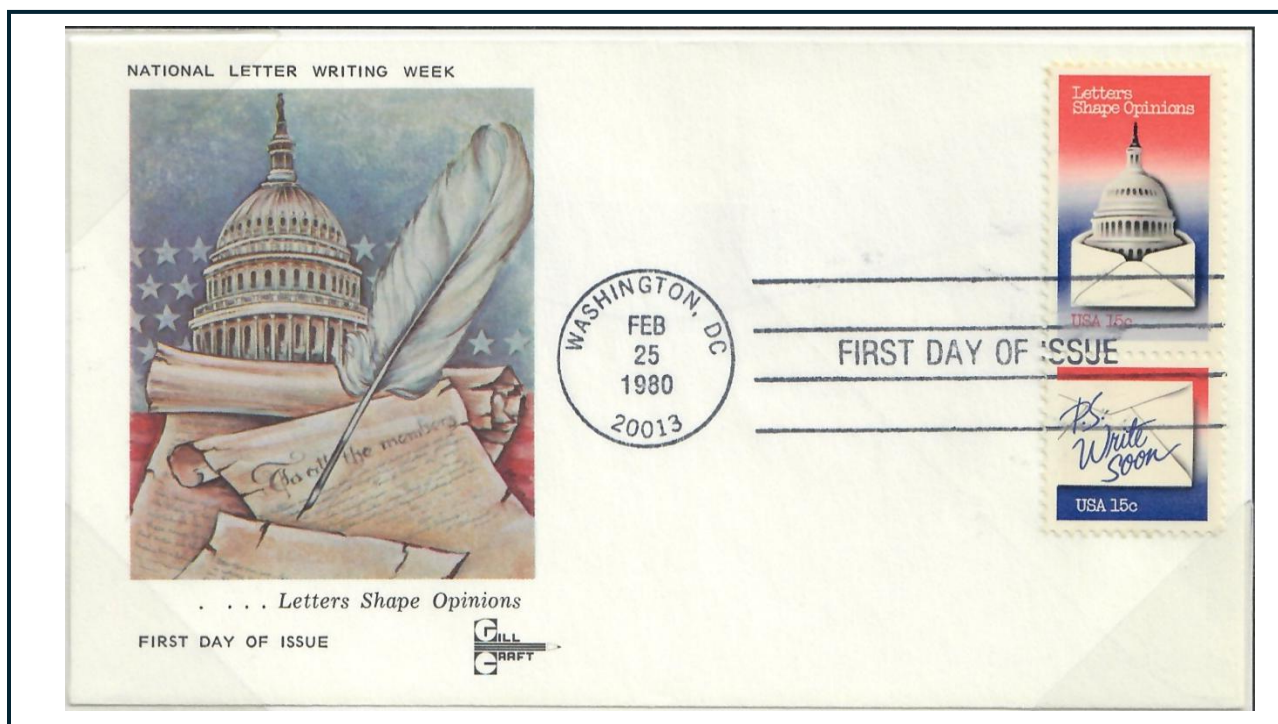
- A review of previously constitutional written laws;
- The establishment of our national capital, Washington, DC;
- The succession and re-admission of the 11 southern states following the Civil War, 1865);
- The islands which we acquired following the Spanish-American War, 1898);
- and the islands we obtained following World Wars I, 1918; and II, 1945.

Color Key:

STATES

POSSESSIONS

KEY ITEMS



Gillcraft First Day Cover.