



## Founders

Founding Fathers. Founders. Fathers. Signers. Framers. Patriots.

The list of terms to describe the individuals who ‘founded’ the United States of America can go on and on.

Warren G. Harding popularized ‘Founding Father’ a little over a century ago, in his keynote address at the 1916 Republican National Convention.

Dictionaries don’t necessarily help in narrowing a list on who a Founding Father is.

Merriam-Webster - founding father (n): 1. an originator of an institution or movement; 2. often capitalized both Fs: a leading figure in the founding of the United States; ... member of the American Constitutional Convention of 1787

Oxford English Dictionary - founding (adj): Associated with or marking the establishment of (something specified); that originated or created. ... founding father (freq. with capital initials), an American statesman of the Revolutionary period, ...

Safire's Political Dictionary - Founding Fathers: A group of revolutionaries who took their changes on treason to pursue the course of independency, who are today viewed reverently as sage

signers of the documents of U.S. freedom.

Some say the term has been applied to the first English settlers in North America, to participants in the Continental Congresses and Constitutional Convention or the “founding generation” that led the United States from the Declaration of Independence onward.

To some, a Founding Father is, more specifically, a signer of the Declaration of Independence (there were 56 signers – who “mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”)

Some suggest the framers and/or signers of the US Constitution are the Founding Fathers.

An obvious omission in finding the ‘Founding Fathers’ is that it suggests only men helped found this country. That, of course, is simply not true.

We are reminded of Abigail Adams, wife of the 2nd President of the US, John Adams, and mother of the 6th President of the US, John Quincy Adams.

As she says, “Remember the Ladies.”

In addition, if one were to suggest Paul Revere is a ‘Founding Father’ because of his midnight ride with

the news that British soldiers were about to march into the countryside northwest of the town, then we would also need to include Sybil Ludington as a ‘Founder;’ she, too, rode a midnight ride to warn Patriots of the coming of the British soldiers.

A challenge of making a list is that lists invariably leave someone out.

And, who makes the list of Founders depends on who you talk to, or what criteria you suggest you use in making your own list.

And, unfortunately, views tend to change, as political or social views/issues of the present interfere with the context and commitment of nearly 250-years ago.

More broadly, it may be appropriate to suggest a Founder is anyone who helped bring on the American Revolution, win the war that secured independence, and helped establish the American Republic.

This broadsheet is dedicated to the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Declaration of Independence for more information visit the National Society Sons of the American Revolution website at: [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org)

**Presented by: The Hawaii Society Sons of the American Revolution**

<https://hawaii.sar.org/> For more: <https://tinyurl.com/359mzv5f>