

Q88 – James Madison is famous for many things. Name one .

DOUGLAS GINSBURG, Federal Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit:

When we speak of the Founders of the republic, James Madison ranks right alongside Washington. To start, Madison is the Father of the Constitution. More than any other Founder, he designed our form of government – a republic that guarantees the liberties we enjoy.

Before the Constitutional Convention, Madison did his homework. He absorbed two thousand years of history and philosophy, then distilled his learning into a blueprint for the new nation – when he was just 36 years old. Madison went on to be elected the fourth president of the United States, and he lead the nation through

the War of 1812 with Great Britain. One cause of the war was impressment – British warships stopping American merchant ships, kidnapping sailors, and pressing them into service. The British humiliated the young nation by marching into Washington, D.C., and torching the Capitol and the White House – though the president's wife – Dolley Madison – did manage to save this cherished portrait of the Father of our Country. The war ended in 1815 with the Battle of New Orleans, a stunning victory for America and for Madison.