

Excerpt from Washington's Farewell Address

Washington's Farewell Address was printed by David C. Claypoole's *American Daily Advertiser* (Philadelphia), on September 19, 1796.

United States 19th September 1796
Friends, & Fellow—Citizens.

The period for a new election of a Citizen, to Administer the Executive government of the United States, being not far distant, and the time actually arrived, when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person, who is to be cloathed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those, out of whom a choice is to be made.

I beg you, at the sametime, to do me the justice to be assured, that this resolution has not been taken, without a strict regard to all the considerations appertaining to the relation, which binds a dutiful Citizen to his country—and that, in withdrawing the tender of service which silence in my Situation might imply, I am influenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interest, no deficiency of grateful respect for your past kindness; but am supported by a full conviction that the step is compatible with both.

The acceptance of, & continuance hitherto in, the Office to which your Suffrages have twice called me, have been a uniform sacrifice of inclination to the opinion of duty, and to a deference for what appeared to be your desire. I constantly hoped, that it would have been much earlier in my power, consistently with motives, which I was not at liberty to disregard, to return to that retirement, from which I had been reluctantly drawn. The strength of my inclination to do this, previous to the last Election, had even led to the preparation of an address to declare it to you; but mature reflection on the then perplexed & critical posture of our Affairs with foreign nations, and the unanimous advice of persons entitled to my confidence, impelled me to abandon the idea.

For the full Farewell Address go to <http://gwpapers.virginia.edu/farewell/transcript.html>

Excerpt from Henry Lee's Eulogy for Washington

Henry Lee was selected by Congress to deliver a eulogy on behalf of the nation. Lee delivered the entire speech on December 26, 1799.

First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen, he was second to none in the humble and endearing scenes of private life. Pious, just, humane, temperate and sincere—uniform, dignified and commanding—his example was as edifying to all around him as were the effects of that example lasting....Correct throughout, vice shuddered in his presence and virtue always felt his fostering hand. The purity of his private character gave effulgence to his public virtues....Such was the man for whom our nation mourns.

This excerpt can be found at <http://gwpaers.virginia.edu/exhibits/mourning/response.html>

The entire address is located at <http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llsp&fileName=037/llsp037.db&recNum=199>

Excerpt from Thomas Jefferson's Letter to Dr. Walter Jones
January 2, 1814

This excerpt was found in The World Book Encyclopedia Vol. 21, 1993

The entire letter is found in The Writings of Thomas Jefferson Vol. IX

His mind was great and powerful...as far as he saw, no judgment was ever sounder. It was slow in operation, being aided by invention or imagination, but sure in conclusion....

Perhaps the strongest feature in his character was prudence, never acting until every circumstance, every consideration, was maturely weighed; refraining if he saw a doubt, but, when once decided, going through with his purpose, whatever obstacles opposed.

His integrity was most pure, his justice the most inflexible I have ever known....

He was, indeed, in every sense of the words, a wise, a good and a great man....On the whole, his character was, in its mass, perfect....it may truly be said, that never did nature and fortune combine more perfectly to make a man great....

His temper was naturally high toned; but reflection and resolution had obtained a sound and habitual ascendancy over it.

Song Written for George Washington

Sang to Washington by women and girls in Trenton, New Jersey, on his inaugural trip to New York.

Welcome, mighty Chief once more!
Welcome to this grateful shore
Now no more mercenary foe
Aims again the fatal blow;
Aims at thee, the fatal blow.

Virgins fair & Matrons grave,
These thy conquering arm did save
Build for thee triumphal bowers
Strew ye fair his way with flowers
Strew your hero's way with flowers.

Note to General William Howe

October 6, 1777

Note to Sir William Howe

General Washington's compliments to General Howe. He does himself the pleasure to return him a dog, which accidentally fell into his hands, and by the inscription on the Collar appears to belong to General Howe.

October 6, 1777

George Washington Crossing the Delaware
Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze, American, 1816-1868



George Washington
Gilbert Stuart



Teacher Background on George Washington:

Washington had two traits that must be examined to understand his humanity. He was profoundly ambitious with an eagerness for fame, and he was a man of intense passions. Mistakes made during his youth, largely in part to these traits, were the catalyst for the gradual cultivation of the dignity and self-control seen in the older mature leader that emerges at the Revolutionary War. Washington was born into an upper but not top-level Virginia family who had half brothers who were educated in England. This would surely have been the path for George if not for the untimely death of his father at age eleven. This event sharply changed the direction his life would take. He received little formal education after this time and would always be somewhat insecure because of this lack. There is evidence that he had a strained relationship with his mother. He therefore relied on other family mem

bers, namely half brother Lawrence who became a substitute father, and the powerful Fairfax family for his social upbringing. Although often ill at ease socially his circumstances seem to have sharpened his ambitions. Through connections with the Fairfax family he launched his first career as a surveyor. In this position his energy and reliability afforded him the opportunity to obtain land claims in the Shenandoah Valley. With Lawrence's death there opened a militia adjutancy, George applied and received it. He also was to inherit the Mount Vernon property upon the death of Lawrence's sole heir. At this point Washington embarked on military life and the wilderness battles of the French and Indian war became his training grounds. Eager to prove himself he made many mistakes and at times showed poor judgment, he argued with superiors, and threatened to quit. In this period of his life he aggressively pursued promotion and his faults were very evident. His patience was honed during the trials of this period.

After the French and Indian war he married the wealthiest widow in Virginia and secured his financial status. He became active in civic life, managed Mount Vernon and the Custis properties, cared for family and friends financially, and matured with his responsibilities. Washington's greatness lies in his growth as a man. He gained self-control over his strong passions and he strived to be the classical man of honor. He most certainly understood the reaction his dignified and honorable actions would evoke. A slaveholder all his life he struggled with the dichotomy of holding slaves in a republic founded on equality for all. In his will he not only made provisions to free his slaves on his death but provisions for their education also. He also made the necessary arrangements for the freeing of Martha's slaves at her death.

Representative Henry Lee addressing Congress after Washington's death stated that George Washington was, "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." Washington has earned the title, "Father of Our Country". From the hero status he earned as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army to the presidency Washington epitomized the classical leader. He selflessly led the patriots to victory over the British earning America her freedom. He was the trusted man to preside over the Constitutional Convention and when it came time to choose a president there was only one man who could be seriously considered. He became the model for all future

presidents and stepped down from a third term so as not to abuse his powers. In his farewell address he urged the people to support the new government. Washington's greatness lay in his character and his self-discipline to be a man of honor.

Timeline – Events in Washington’s life (in italics) and their historical context:

Nov. 6, 1752 – appointed major in the Virginia militia

1754 – French and Indian War began

March 20, 1754 – assumed command of forces sent to Fort Duquesne

July 4, 1754 – French attacked Fort Necessity, Washington surrendered

July 9, 1755 – Braddock defeated and killed; Washington praised for his courage in the retreat

July 24, 1758 – elected Burgess for Frederick County, Virginia

1763 – Proclamation of 1763

1765 – Stamp Act passed

1767 – colonists boycotted British goods

1773 – Boston Tea Party

1774 – First Continental Congress

April 19, 1775 – minuteman and British clashed at Lexington and Concord

June 15, 1775 – Congress appointed Washington commander in chief of the Continental Army

June 17, 1775 – British defeated Americans at Bunker Hill

July 4, 1776 – Declaration of Independence adopted

Aug. 27, 1776 – British defeated Americans on Long Island

Sept. 15, 1776 – British occupy New York City

Dec. 25-26, 1776 – crossed the Delaware River to defeat Hessians at Trenton, New Jersey

Oct. 17, 1777 – Burgoyne surrendered at Saratoga, New York

Dec. 1777 – Washington’s army retired to winter quarters at Valley Forge

Feb. 6, 1778 – United States and France signed alliance

Feb. 25, 1779 – British surrendered to George Rogers Clark at Vincennes

Sept. 23, 1779 – John Paul Jones's ship, Bonhomme Richard, captured British ship Serapis

May 12, 1780 – Charleston fell to British

Aug. 10, 1780 – British victory at Camden, N. J.

Jan. 17, 1781 – patriot victory at Cowpens

Oct. 19, 1781 – Cornwallis surrendered to Washington at Yorktown

March 15, 1783 – Washington thwarts a military coup at Newburgh, New York

Sept. 3, 1783 – United States and Great Britain signed peace treaty in Paris

Dec. 23, 1783 – resigns commission as commander in chief

May 25, 1787 – elected president of the Constitutional Convention

Sept. 17, 1787 – draft of the Constitution signed

Feb. 4, 1789 – elected President by unanimous vote

Dec. 15, 1791 – Bill of Rights became law

Dec. 5, 1792 – elected for second term; unanimous vote

1794 – suppressed Whiskey Rebellion

Sept. 19, 1796 – Farewell Address published in the Philadelphia paper *Daily American Advertiser*

Dec. 14, 1799 – death at Mount Vernon

Virginia's Role in the New American Nation



James Madison

James Madison believed in the importance of having a United States constitution. He kept detailed notes during the Constitutional Convention. His skills at compromise helped the delegates reach agreement during the difficult process of writing the Constitution of the United States of America. This earned him the title "Father of the Constitution."



George Washington

George Washington, a Virginian, was elected as the first President of the United States of America. He provided the strong leadership needed to help the young country and provided a model of leadership for future presidents. Thus, he is often called the "Father of Our Country."

Preamble of the U.S. Constitution

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

http://www.jmu.edu/madison/center/main_pages/madison_archives/constit_confed/constitution/document/document.htm

The text of the Constitution was downloaded from a site of the National Archives. Linked amendments also downloaded from that site.

Excerpt of Letter written by James Madison to Thomas J. Wharton, August 1827
(**Madison** 1865, III, pages 586-587)

Madison writing about the need for a Constitutional Convention.

Having witnessed, as a member of the Revolutionary Congress, the inadequacies of the powers conferred by the “**Articles of Confederation**,” and having become, after the expiration of my term of service there, a member of the Legislature of Virginia, I felt it to be my duty to spare no efforts to impress on that body the alarming condition of the U. States proceeding from that cause, and the evils threatened by delay, in applying a remedy. With this, propositions were made vesting Congress the necessary powers to regulate trade, ... and to draw from that source the convenient revenue it was capable of yielding. ... The proposition invited the other states to concur with Virginia in a convention of deputies commissioned to devise and report a uniform system of commercial regulations. ... The convention proposed took place in Annapolis, in August 1786. Being, however, very partially attended, and it appearing to the members that a rapid progress, aided by the experiment on foot, had made in ripening the public mind for a radical reform of the Federal polity, they determined to waive the object for which they were appointed, and recommended a convention, with enlarged powers, to be held the year following, in the city of Philadelphia. The Legislature of Virginia happened to be the first that acted in the recommendation, ...

Excerpt from letter written James Madison to John G. Jackson, December 27, 1821
(**Madison** 1865, III, page 244)

Letter about the need for a U. S. Constitution

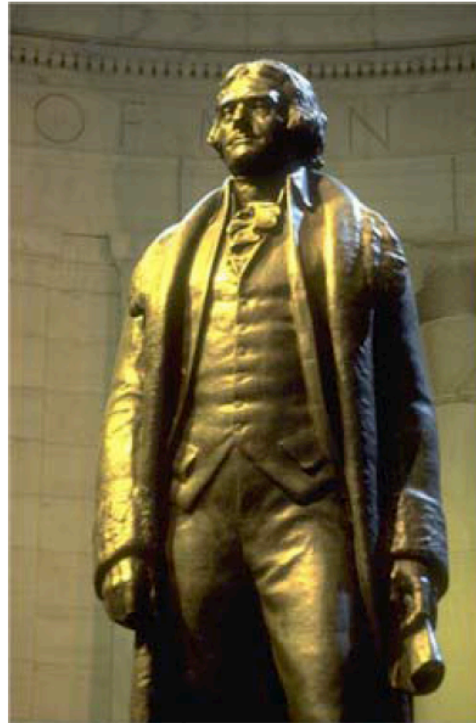
That most of us carried into the Convention a profound impression, produced by the experienced inadequacy of the old Confederation, and by the monitory examples of all similar ones, ancient and modern, as to the necessity of binding the States together by a strong Constitution, is certain.

Virginia's Role in the New American Nation



George Mason

The Virginia Declaration of Rights, written by George Mason, states that all Virginians should have certain rights, including freedom of religion and freedom of the press. The document became the basis for the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States of America.



Thomas Jefferson

The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, written by Thomas Jefferson, states that all people should be free to worship as they please. This document was the basis for the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, the amendment that protects religious freedom.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES & RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

The Bill of Rights: A Transcription

Note: The following text is a transcription of the first ten amendments to the Constitution in their original form. These amendments were ratified December 15, 1791, and form what is known as the "Bill of Rights."

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment III

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without

due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Amendment VII

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

[Amendments 11-27](#)

Note: The capitalization and punctuation in this version is from the enrolled original of the Joint Resolution of Congress proposing the [Bill of Rights](#), which is on [permanent display in the Rotunda of the National Archives Building](#), Washington, D.C.

The Virginia Declaration of Rights

Virginia's Declaration of Rights was drawn upon by Thomas Jefferson for the opening paragraphs of the Declaration of Independence. It was widely copied by the other colonies and became the basis of the Bill of Rights. Written by George Mason, it was adopted by the Virginia Constitutional Convention on June 12, 1776.

A DECLARATION OF RIGHTS made by the representatives of the good people of Virginia, assembled in full and free convention which rights do pertain to them and their posterity, as the basis and foundation of government .

Section 1. That all men are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights, of which, when they enter into a state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.

Section 2. That all power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people; that magistrates are their trustees and servants and at all times amenable to them.

Section 3. That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people, nation, or community; of all the various modes and forms of government, that is best which is capable of producing the greatest degree of happiness and safety and is most effectually secured against the danger of maladministration. And that, when any government shall be found inadequate or contrary to these purposes, a majority of the community has an indubitable, inalienable, and indefeasible right to reform, alter, or abolish it, in such manner as shall be judged most conducive to the public weal.

Section 4. That no man, or set of men, is entitled to exclusive or separate emoluments or privileges from the community, but in consideration of public services; which, nor being descendible, neither ought the offices of magistrate, legislator, or judge to be hereditary.

Section 5. That the legislative and executive powers of the state should be separate and distinct from the judiciary; and that the members of the two first may be restrained from oppression, by feeling and participating the burdens of the people, they should, at fixed periods, be reduced to a private station, return into that body from which they were originally taken, and the vacancies be supplied by frequent, certain, and regular elections, in which all, or any part, of the former members, to be again eligible, or ineligible, as the laws shall direct.

Section 6. That elections of members to serve as representatives of the people, in assembly ought to be free; and that all men, having sufficient evidence of permanent common interest with, and attachment to, the community, have the right of suffrage and cannot be taxed or deprived of their property for public uses without their own consent or that of their representatives so elected, nor bound by any law to which they have not, in like manner, assembled for the public good.

Section 7. That all power of suspending laws, or the execution of laws, by any authority, without consent of the representatives of the people, is injurious to

their rights and ought not to be exercised.

Section 8. That in all capital or criminal prosecutions a man has a right to demand the cause and nature of his accusation, to be confronted with the accusers and witnesses, to call for evidence in his favor, and to a speedy trial by an impartial jury of twelve men of his vicinage, without whose unanimous consent he cannot be found guilty; nor can he be compelled to give evidence against himself; that no man be deprived of his liberty except by the law of the land or the judgment of his peers.

Section 9. That excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Section 10. That general warrants, whereby an officer or messenger may be commanded to search suspected places without evidence of a fact committed, or to seize any person or persons not named, or whose offense is not particularly described and supported by evidence, are grievous and oppressive and ought not to be granted.

Section 11. That in controversies respecting property, and in suits between man and man, the ancient trial by jury is preferable to any other and ought to be held sacred.

Section 12. That the freedom of the press is one of the great bulwarks of liberty, and can never be restrained but by despotic governments.

Section 13. That a well-regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state; that standing armies, in time of peace, should be avoided as dangerous to liberty; and that in all cases the military should be under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power.

Section 14. That the people have a right to uniform government; and, therefore, that no government separate from or independent of the government of Virginia ought to be erected or established within the limits thereof.

Section 15. That no free government, or the blessings of liberty, can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality, and virtue and by frequent recurrence to fundamental principles.

Section 16. That religion, or the duty which we owe to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence; and therefore all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience; and that it is the mutual duty of all to practise Christian forbearance, love, and charity toward each other.

An Act for establishing religious Freedom.

Whereas, Almighty God hath created the mind free; that all attempts to influence it by temporal punishments or burthens, or by civil incapacitations tend only to beget habits of hypocrisy and meanness, and are a departure from the plan of the holy author of our religion, who being Lord, both of body and mind yet chose not to propagate it by coercions on either, as was in his Almighty power to do, that the impious presumption of legislators and rulers, civil as well as ecclesiastical, who, being themselves but fallible and uninspired men have assumed dominion over the faith of others, setting up their own opinions and modes of thinking as the only true and infallible, and as such endeavouring to impose them on others, hath established and maintained false religions over the greatest part of the world and through all time; that to compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves is sinful and tyrannical; that even the forcing him to support this or that teacher of his own religious persuasion is depriving him of the comfortable liberty of giving his contributions to the particular pastor, whose morals he would make his pattern, and whose powers he feels most persuasive to righteousness, and is withdrawing from the Ministry those temporary rewards, which, proceeding from an approbation of their personal conduct are an additional incitement to earnest and unremitting labours for the instruction of mankind; that our civil rights have no dependence on our religious opinions any more than our opinions in physics or geometry, that therefore the proscribing any citizen as unworthy the public confidence, by laying upon him an incapacity of being called to offices of trust and emolument, unless he profess or renounce this or that religious opinion, is depriving him injuriously of those privileges and advantages, to which, in common with his fellow citizens, he has a natural right, that it tends only to corrupt the principles of that very Religion it is meant to encourage, by bribing with a monopoly of worldly honours and emoluments those who will externally profess and conform to it; that though indeed, these are criminal who do not withstand such temptation, yet neither are those innocent who lay the bait in their way; that to suffer the civil magistrate to intrude his powers into the field of opinion and to restrain the profession or propagation of principles on supposition of their ill tendency is a dangerous fallacy which at once destroys all religious liberty because he being of course judge of that tendency will make his opinions the rule of judgment and approve or condemn the sentiments of others only as they shall square with or differ from his own; that it is time enough for the rightful purposes of civil government, for its officers to interfere when principles break out into overt acts against peace and good order; and finally, that Truth is great, and will prevail if left to herself, that she is the proper and sufficient antagonist to error, and has nothing to fear from the conflict, unless by human interposition disarmed of her natural weapons free argument and debate, errors ceasing to be dangerous when it is permitted freely to contradict them: Be it enacted by General Assembly that no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place, or ministry whatsoever, nor shall be enforced, restrained, molested, or burthened in his body or goods, nor shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinions or belief, but that all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matters of Religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge or affect their civil capacities. And though we well know that this Assembly elected by the people for the ordinary purposes of Legislation only, have no power to restrain the acts of succeeding Assemblies constituted with powers equal to our own, and that therefore to declare this act irrevocable would be of no effect in law; yet we are free to declare, and do declare that the rights hereby asserted, are of the natural rights of mankind, and that if any act shall

be hereafter passed to repeal the present or to narrow its operation, such act will be an infringement of natural right.

Exd: ARCHIBALD CARY S.S.
Exd. BENJ HARRISON Sp HD

Source: Record of the General Assembly, Enrolled Bills, Record Group 78, Library of Virginia.

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Project Evaluation Form

Name _____ Date _____

Topic _____

1 = Poor

2 = Fair

3 = Okay

4 = Good

5 = Excellent

1 **2** **3** **4** **5**

Interest and Creativity (visually attractive, well-organized, teaches in a creative way)

1 **2** **3** **4** **5**

Quality of Ideas (includes important concepts and accurate information)

1 **2** **3** **4** **5**

Clarity (clear explanation of ideas and concepts)

1 **2** **3** **4** **5**

Research Notes (provides information in your own words, indicates quotes, notes are organized according to subtopics)

1 **2** **3** **4** **5**

Presentation (presenter uses loud, clear voice and gives eye contact, evidence of practice and cooperation)

1 **2** **3** **4** **5**

Participation (if project is made by a group: shared work, contributed ideas and materials, listened to others)

Comments:

Project Self-Evaluation

Name _____ Date _____

My project was _____

The hardest part about this project was _____

The thing I liked best about my finished project is _____

If I had more time, I would have _____

I think learning about my topic was _____

because _____

Something else you should know is _____

Here's how I would rate my project:

poor

just fair

okay

pretty good

great