

## **Proclamation Honoring George Washington**

**Whereas** February 22<sup>nd</sup>, is celebrated in Honor of George Washington “The Father of our Country” to acknowledge the many sacrifices and contributions he made in the birth of our Nation.

**Whereas** George Washington by his example clearly defined what it means to be an American, and through his actions exemplified the meaning of the words, ideals, devotion and love of country.

**Whereas** George Washington serving as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, with great character and leadership led the army to victory against what seemed insurmountable odds. He stated in his General Orders on July 2, 1776, “Our own Country’s Honor, all call upon us for a vigorous and manly exertion, and if we now shamefully fail, we shall become infamous to the whole world. Let us therefore rely upon the goodness of the Cause, and the aid of the supreme Being, in whose hands Victory is, to animate and encourage us to great and noble Actions.” George Washington voluntarily served his country for eight and half years without pay.

**Whereas** George Washington was instrumental in the formation of our new government and presided over the Constitutional Convention in 1787. Realizing the difficult task ahead he said to the delegates “It is too probable that no plan we propose will be adopted. Perhaps another dreadful conflict is to be sustained. If, to please the people, we offer what we ourselves disprove, how can we afterwards defend our work? Let us raise a standard to which the wise and the honest can repair. The event is in the hand of God.” Five months later on September 17, 1787, the Constitution was completed.

**Whereas** George Washington lived by his written rules of civility and set the moral tone of our new Nation. His honesty, integrity, and loyalty made him the most beloved and respected man in America. He wrote in a letter April 25, 1788, “The first transactions of a Nation, like those of an individual upon his first entrance into life make the deepest impression, and are to form the leading traits in its character.”

**Whereas** George Washington was elected the First President of the United States, through his strength and wisdom guided our fragile new government through the first eight years of its infancy. In his First Inaugural Address, April 30, 1789, President Washington said, “The preservation of the sacred fire of liberty, and the destiny of the republican model of government, are justly considered deeply, perhaps as finally, staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people.”

**Whereas** George Washington stepped down after two terms in office in his Farewell Address, September 19, 1796, President Washington said, “The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and to alter their Constitutions of Government. But the Constitution which at all times exists, ‘till changed by an explicit and authentic act of the whole People is sacredly obligatory upon all.”

Whereas George Washington died December 14, 1799, upon his death, President John Adams said “His example is now complete, and it will teach wisdom and virtue to magistrates, citizens, and men, not only in the present age, but in future generations, as long as our history shall be read.”

Now Therefore, I, \_\_\_\_\_, Governor of the State of \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby proclaim February 22<sup>nd</sup>, George Washington day in the State of \_\_\_\_\_ and encourage all citizens to acknowledge and appreciate the contributions and faith of this great American.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of \_\_\_\_\_ to be affixed in the city of \_\_\_\_\_ on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2004

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State

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