

Message from the desk of President Kenneth Gorton February 2010

GEORGE WASHINGTON – THE INDISPENSABLE MAN

February 15th has been designated as Presidents' Day, and this has led to some confusion as to the actual celebration of George Washington's birthday on February 22nd. America has had some great Presidents, but the uniqueness of our first President necessitates that Americans remember this "Indispensible Man", as biographer James Flexner has called him.

George Washington is to be celebrated like no other, for without him, America may not exist in the form that it is today. Washington led America to victory in the War for Independence, was instrumental in the creation of the Constitution, and his character forever shaped the Executive Branch. His vast background as a surveyor, a farmer, a distiller, a slave owner, and a Virginia country gentleman contributed to his leadership skills and innovative approaches to challenges of his day.

Washington was a man of convictions which was evident in his commitment to the Principles of the Founding Fathers. In his book "We Still Hold These Truths", Matthew Spalding explores these Principles: Liberty, Natural Rights, Religious Liberty, Economic Opportunity, the Rule of Law, Constitutionalism, Self-government, and National Independence. John Adams was quoted as saying that "...this radical change in the principles, opinions, sentiments, and affections of the people are the REAL American Revolution..." Leadership was evident in Washington, and as President, he implemented laws and policies founded on these principles which remain the foundation of America's greatness.

Because of how he defined our nation, his inspiration lives on. As we have seen over the past 220 years, there is a distinction between all Presidents and our first President, George Washington. He led the charge, and so we Americans must follow and dedicate ourselves to preserving America's first principles.

The George Washington Chapter carries extra responsibility to upholding these principles and connecting with organizations of like mind. There are links on our web-site to articles, lectures, and books about this Indispensible Man. Also, there are links to organizations that seek to preserve history and our liberties, as well as to advance freedoms that you can connect with.

Beginning February 19th through July 18th, the Heinz History Center will host the premier exhibition tour of "Discover the Real George Washington: New Views from Mount Vernon". Click on the website link [HERE](#) and go and experience this groundbreaking exhibition. Discover American history from a Western Pennsylvania angle, and understand more about this Indispensible Man in American history.