

August 1, 2011

The Hon. Frank R. Wolf
Congress of the United States
241 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4610

No figure was more important than George Washington in the founding of the United States. He successfully commanded the Continental army during the War of Independence, served as president of the Constitutional Convention in 1787, played a quiet, though critical, role in the ratification of the Constitution, and of course was the first president of the United States.

Throughout the critical period between 1775 and the end of his presidency in 1797, Washington inspired others, including the men and officers who served under him in the army, and civilians who believed in him and his leadership during the war and the peace that followed.

Washington's long service was always characterized by his unwillingness to misuse the power that he possessed, and for that his contemporaries were profoundly grateful, as we should be as well.

Time and again, moreover, Washington left the tranquility and comforts of his home to answer the call of his country to serve.

That the United States was created and survived the difficult years of its founding was due more to George Washington than to any other individual. That he bequeathed to his successors a stable and unified nation, and one that was at peace, was the greatest legacy of this remarkable man.

Washington was a brave patriot, and a wise and principled statesman who sought to make the United States strong and secure, and truly independent. The United States was blessed to have had George Washington as its principal leader at the time of its founding.

Today, the United States should recognize and remember George Washington on the actual date of his birth, celebrating his memory as it was celebrated by the Revolutionary generation.

I heartily endorse the legislation that you have offered which would reestablish the legal public holiday of Washington's Birthday on February 22, the actual date of Washington's birth.

Sincerely,



John Ferling
Professor Emeritus of History
University of West Georgia