



BROWN

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

AUG 24 2011

Congressman Frank R. Wolf
241 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-5136

Dear Congressman Wolf, 16 August 2011

I agree with you wholeheartedly that Washington's birthday ought to be separated from the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. He is unique as a president and founder. We tend to lump all the Revolutionaries together as great heroes, but they themselves knew better. In the opinion of Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton, Franklin, Adams, and others there was no one like Washington. They knew that he stood head and shoulders above them all--in his virtue, in his sense of public service, and in his belief in the unity and promise of America. It is important for our culture and our sense of ourselves as Americans that Washington not be lumped in with our other presidents. We Americans need to have a unique celebration of Washington's birthday.

Sincerely,

Gordon S. Wood

Professor of History Emeritus