

Name _____

Date _____



George Washington & Public Service

George Washington, in his farewell address of 1796, said:

“Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all.”

And now, let’s hear from former President Washington...

There’s a city and a state called Washington,

I’m all over the place like oxygen.

My life story starts, 1732,

On a plantation—fam was wealthy, well-to-do.

The hardest part of my life: when my dad died,

At age 11, working hard to help my mom provide.

I owned my duties, like an apostrophe,

They say I was smart, math was a friend to me.

So I skipped college, started working for pay,

Got a government job doing land surveys.

I was probably the youngest worker on the block,

Age 17—measuring land on the job.

Then I served in the army, met my wife Martha,

Returned to the farm after serving my country.

But in 1775, Congress appointed me

Commander of the Continental Army.

You know we won the war against the British,

I tried to retire, but nah, I wasn’t finished.

1787, Constitutional Convention,

My role was Founding Father of the nation.

And just two years later, I got a new position:

First president, by unanimous decision.

Started chopping cherry trees, and I stayed honest,

I'd say I'm one of the greats, but I stay modest.

I was the father of the country,
There was no president before me.
What did it take to run the nation?
Humility and dedication.

(2x)

Because I was the first, I helped to decide
Norms that would persist long after my life.
Like the Cabinet, my team of advisors,
Experts to help me run the country wisely.
It's all about checks and balances, kid,
The Cabinet helped me check and balance the government.
And I was well-liked, so I could've stayed on,
But after two terms, I saw fit to step down.
Two terms became the norm, that's the precedent,
The country didn't need a king, it needed a president.
I got a lot done, but there's one fact:
I owned slaves, I've always been ashamed of that.
I made sure they would be freed when I died,
But I used slave labor while I was alive.
I got to go, but know, I wasn't destined to be great,
I worked hard, spoke my truth and created my fate.

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