George Washington was a hero to the United States Of America. In June 1775, Congress ordered General George Washington to take command of the Continental Army besieging the British in Boston. Despite having little practical experience in managing large, conventional armies, Washington proved to be a capable and resilient leader of the American military forces during the war. One time Washington’s troops were stuck at the base in a cold winter. It seemed like every time the soldiers were discouraged Washington would always show up and try to encourage them and remind them that God is in control. They all made it through very safely with the help of God first and then George.

The Early Years

The first child of Augustine Washington and his second wife, Mary Ball Washington, George Washington was born on their Pope’s Creek Estate near present-day Colonial Beach in Westmoreland County, Virginia. According to the Julian calendar and Annunciation Style of enumerating years (then in use in the British Empire), Washington was born on February 11, 1731; Washington was of primarily English gentry descent, especially from Sulgrave, England. His great-grandfather, John Washington, emigrated to Virginia in 1656 and began accumulating land and slaves, as did his son Lawrence and his grandson, George's father, Augustine. Augustine was a tobacco planter who also tried his hand in iron-mining ventures. In George's youth, the Washington's were moderately prosperous members of the Virginia gentry, of "middling rank" rather than one of the leading planter families. At this time, Virginia and other southern colonies had become a slave society, in which slaveholders formed the ruling class and the economy was based upon slave labor.

Six of George's siblings reached maturity, including two older half-brothers, Lawrence and Augustine, from his father's first marriage to Jane Butler Washington, and four full siblings, Samuel, Elizabeth (Betty), John Augustine and Charles. Three siblings died before adulthood: his full sister Mildred died when she was about one, his half-brother Butler died in infancy, and his half-sister Jane died aged of twelve, when George was about two. His father died of a sudden illness in April 1743 when George was eleven years old, and his half-brother Lawrence became a surrogate
father and role model. William Fairfax, Lawrence's father-in-law and cousin of Virginia's largest landowner, Thomas, Lord Fairfax, was also a formative influence. Washington spent much of his boyhood at Ferry Farm in Stafford County near Fredericksburg. Lawrence Washington inherited another family property from his father, a plantation on the Potomac River at Little Hunting Creek, which he named Mount Vernon, in honor of his commanding officer, Admiral Edward Vernon. George inherited Ferry Farm upon his father's death and eventually acquired Mount Vernon after Lawrence's death.

Presidency (1789-1797)

The Electoral College unitedly elected Washington as the first president, of the USA, in 1789 and again in 1792. Washington remains the only president to receive the totality of electoral votes.

The 1st United States Congress voted to pay Washington a salary of $25,000 a year, but he declined the salary, so people would see him as a selfless public servant, and not a money greedy person. In handling other tasks, he was “systematic, orderly, energetic, solicitous of others opinions... but decisive, intent upon the main goals and the consistency of distinct actions with them.”

After reluctantly serving a second term, Washington refused to run for a third, establishing the tradition of two terms for a president.

Retirement And Death (1797-1799)

After retiring from the presidency in March 1797, Washington returned to Mount Vernon with a profound sense of relief. He devoted much time to his plantations and other business interests. His lands out west yielded little income because they were under attack by Indians and the squatters living there refused to pay him rent. Most Americans assumed he was rich because of the well-known "glorified façade of wealth and grandeur" at Mount Vernon. Washington died at home around 10 p.m. on Saturday, December 14, 1799, aged 67. In his journal, Lear recorded Washington's last words as being "'Tis well."
Quotes By George Washington

1. The Constitution is the guide which I will never abandon.

2. It is far better to be alone than to be in bad company.

3. If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.

Citations

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