

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

Whereas, George Washington, the Founding Father of the United States of America, was born on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1732. Through his unwavering dedication and exceptional leadership, Washington earned his place as the "Father of our Country"; and

Whereas, Over two centuries ago, George Washington was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. Without pay and with steadfast resolve, he led a diverse and untested army through eight and a half years of war, culminating in American victory against British forces. His leadership at pivotal moments, including the crossing of the Delaware River and the triumph at Yorktown, remains a testament to his courage and strategic brilliance; and

Whereas, Washington established civilian authority over the military when, in 1783, he quelled a mutiny among unpaid soldiers and voluntarily resigned his commission. He returned to private life at Mount Vernon, setting a global precedent for selfless public service; and

Whereas, As President of the Constitutional Convention, Washington provided steady guidance as delegates drafted the U.S. Constitution, advancing the rule of law and the ideals of liberty and justice. Unanimously elected as the first President of the United States, he established enduring principles of governance and set an example of humility and dedication to our ideals by ensuring the peaceful transfer of power—a cornerstone of American democracy; and

Whereas, George Washington modeled religious freedom, as demonstrated in his Letter to the Touro Synagogue, and recognized the moral contradiction of slavery, freeing those he enslaved upon his death as an acknowledgment of its incompatibility with the ideals of the republic; and

Whereas, Upon Washington's death on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1799, at his beloved home of Mount Vernon, President John Adams declared, "His example is now complete, and it will teach wisdom and virtue to magistrates, citizens, and men, not only in the present age, but in future generations, as long as our history shall be read"; and

Whereas, Massachusetts residents are encouraged to honor Washington's legacy by advancing justice in their communities and promoting the ideals of liberty,

Now, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, to be,

## GEORGE WASHINGTON DAY

And urge all residents of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of February, in the year two thousand and twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-eighth.

BY HER EXCELLENCY

MAURA T. HEALEY  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

A blue ink signature of Maura T. Healey, written in a cursive style.

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL  
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

A blue ink signature of Kimberley Driscoll, written in a cursive style.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GAVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

A blue ink signature of William Francis Gavin, written in a cursive style.

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts