

GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON TO SPEAK AT **PLACE**

At the invitation of the **place**, General George Washington has agreed to address the people of **city or region** at **time and date**. The public has been invited. General Washington, portrayed by Dr. Gary M. Gray, will speak to the audience after having been informed he has been elected the first president of the United States. As he prepares to leave for New York City, General Washington will talk to the audience about his remarkable life and then share his vision for the future of this young democracy.

Dr. Gray is the author of *MR. PRESIDENTS: Voices of Freedom, Equality, and Dignity* (Presidential Press, ISBN: 0-9774194-0-1), now available at bookstores everywhere. Along with TR, the book features nine historical “moments in time” featuring George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Johnson, James A. Garfield, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt (with Erma Stewart as the first lady), and General Douglas MacArthur.

Considered America’s most indispensable man during the formulative days of America’s birth, George Washington brought dignity, courage, fairness, and stature to the Presidency. Before that historical moment, Washington was an adventurer, soldier, and gentleman planter. Serving as the Commander-in Chief of the Continental Army and later as the President of the Constitutional Convention, Washington was the man for which the Presidency was modeled.

Although reluctant to accept the responsibilities of the Presidency, Washington also sought them and saw himself a man of destiny whose task was set the precedent for leadership of a country he felt would someday be the world’s greatest.

George Washington is presented at Mount Vernon on **April 14, 1789**, the date Charles Thomson (portrayed at the **place by name of person**), a representative of Congress, formally announces to General Washington that he has been elected President of the United States. There, a reluctant Washington addresses a small, and quickly assembled audience before departing for New York. He describes the challenges, and his priorities and vision for America.

Dr. Gray is a historian, actor and writer renowned for his brilliant and historically accurate portrayals of seven of America’s greatest citizens. His performances have received acclaimed reviews and standing ovations. Dr. Gray holds graduate degrees from Phillips University, Southern Methodist and Notre Dame, along with a doctorate in education from Oklahoma State. He has performed/lectured in every state and worldwide, and taught at Phillips University and Northwestern Oklahoma State University. Dr. Gray is the author of eleven books and the former publisher and editor of two national magazines.

Dr. Gray has spent years researching GW, his first Chautauqua style character. He studied his writings, read biographies on him by many authors, visited his Mt. Vernon home in Virginia and the battlefields in Boston, Valley Forge, and Yorktown along with the Washington’s Crossing (of the Delaware River) location. In 2003 he presented

Washington at the GW Ball in Manila, Philippines.

In reflecting on presenting Washington, Gray says “What I try to address with Washington is his grasp of issues and his determination to take action to solve those issues, or to avoid them (as with war in Europe in the 1790s). He also was a visionary who saw America as a garden of democracy given to Americans through the providence of God. Most people think of him as simply the person on the dollar bill. I see him as a man of action, character, and vision. It is important to bring a man of such substance to life.”

Host directors’ name suggests *“the people of **city or area** will marvel at the real person of George Washington. Far too often GW has been seen as the old man on the one dollar bill, or the young boy who chopped down the cherry tree. Dr. Gray has sought to capture the essence of America’s most important citizen and to share his remarkable vision of early America with us. It is a vision that will leave you cheering. Please plan to join us on **date**.”*