“George Washington: A National Treasure” Creates Excitement in Houston, Las Vegas, and Los Angeles

National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Tours Exhibition

In the spring of 1879, citizens crowded the New York Times, unanimously approving the arrival of their first President, George Washington. In a letter to his wife Eliza Boudinot, he captured the excitement:

New York, 24 April 1879

If it was in my power, I could wish to give you an adequate account of the Proceedings of the Citizens of this Metropolis on the approach and reception of our President George Washington whom he arrived here yesterday. The streets were lined with the inhabitants as thick as the People could stand—Men, Women & Children—No, I may say in my Time of Thousands. Heads standing as thick as Earl of Carnarvon before the Throne, when their Hat [and] stand about 20 gentlemen & Ladies & with most excellent music going on during the whole procedure, proposed for the people to the Tune of “God save the King,” including their great Chief to the seat of Government—all the conclusion was to give them our Hum [and] show them the surrounding busts gave as their Cheers.

More than two hundred years later, cities once again await the arrival of George Washington. And once again the mood is festive as museums across the country welcome the National Portrait Gallery’s exhibition “George Washington: A National Treasure.” Students and visiting museums for the first time, have crowded the galleries in Las Vegas and Houston to see this prized image of the father of our country on tour for the first time in history. Made possible through the generosity of the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, the exhibition opened at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Texas, on February 15, 2002, continued on to the Las Vegas Art Museum in Nevada, and opened November 7 at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) in California. At the tour’s conclusion, the portrait will return to its permanent home in the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.

Painted in 1796 by artist Gilbert Stuart, the portrait of Washington is recognizable as the “Lansdowne” portrait. One of the most important visual documents of the founding of our nation, in historical and cultural significance has been compared to that of the Liberty Bell and the Declaration of Independence.

Coming Soon to a Museum Near You

| The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston | February 15 – June 16, 2002 |
| Las Vegas Art Museum | June 28 – October 23, 2002 |
| Los Angeles County Museum of Art | November 7 – March 10, 2003 |
| Seattle Art Museum | March 20 – July 20, 2003 |
| The Minneapolis Institute of Arts | August 3 – November 16, 2003 |
| Oklahoma City Museum of Art | December 12, 2003 – April 7, 2004 |
| Arkansas Arts Center | April 25 – August 22, 2004 |
| The Metropolitan Museum of Art | Fall 2004 |

Americans Pause to Remember, Students Make a Wish for the United States

One year after the tragedy of September 11, 2001, Americans have paused to remember and reflect. The Wall of Expression that surrounds the Old Patent Office Building in Washington, D.C., still stands as a memorial to those who sacrificed, a tribute to those who served, and an expression of hope for the future. And across the country at the Las Vegas Art Museum, students place their wishes for America on the “Wish Tree.”

“I wish that everyone would be happy.” “I wish that the Twin Towers would never fall.” “I wish there would be no poor people and everyone would have enough to eat.” “I wish everyone in the world would be free like me.” “I wish that no one would be dead.” “I wish Americans would feel safe.”

And from the youngest participants, we sense a deep concern for the nation and its people. Perhaps we have all begun to care for one another.

“George Washington: A National Treasure” is organized by the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, and made possible through the generosity of the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

About the Artist

Gilbert Stuart was born on December 3, 1755, in Saunderstown, Rhode Island. He began to study painting in his early teenage years, while traveling around Europe. After painting the Lansdowne portrait, Stuart painted Presidents John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe. His most famous portrait of Washington is recognizable today on the one-dollar bill and on postage stamps.

Making Connections

Imagine you are an actor who portrays a historical figure. Who would you be? How could you talk, dress, and behave to be like this person? Create this character.

High School Teacher’s Edition

Fellow educators: The Patriot Papers was developed as a vehicle for enrichment in the classroom. As a teaching tool it seeks to put George Washington in context, realizing that while Washington influenced America, America also influenced Washington. The news of the day, the social scene, the fashion, the gossip, the political events, his family, and his contemporaries all had their impact. This interdisciplinary approach to studying Washington should serve a variety of subjects—literature as well as history, language arts as well as visual arts. Designed to coincide with national curriculum standards in both social studies and the language arts, The Patriot Papers provides opportunities to sharpen critical thinking skills, interpret primary source materials, arrange events chronologically, determine cause and effect, summarize and analyze historical events and ideas, and discover relationships between America’s early history and the present day.

The paper also encourages student involvement. We challenge all to become actively involved in service to country and share their efforts with students across the United States. We hope to publish student art and poetry, as well as stories of service through our website and publication. Pledge It Forward and enjoy the journey.

—Felice Pulles, editor-in-chief

Related national standards in historical thinking

- Chronological thinking
- Historical comprehension
- Historical analysis and interpretation
- Historical research

Related national standards in language arts

- Reading for perspective
- Reading for understanding
- Applying knowledge
- Evaluating data
- Developing research skills
- Developing writing skills
Washington Wins Election to House from Fort Cumberland!

FREDERICKSBURG, 1770—George Washington, son of Augustine and Mary Ball Washington, has been elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses while serving with the British regulars at Fort Cumberland. Although urged by friends to return to the college of Virginia and “chose for fame,” Washington opted to remain with the men and was rewarded in winning a seat in the House from Frederick County.

The very act of writing is a work in progress. Ideas are best generated on the fly. Faster than the pen. Let it race and catch those words. We need not always know the ending or the answer when we begin to write. The journey will often reveal it.

The activities suggested in Writing to Learn are intended for student exploration, to let students meander through inspirations, arguments, and ideas until they make meaning of their own. Initially, don’t worry too much about form, structure, spelling, and grammar; it’s only a work in progress. Ideas are best generated when words flow quickly. The mind can race far faster than the pen. Let it race and catch those ideas on the fly.

Making Connections

Construct a visual timeline that includes both the “Blust from the Past” news stories on page 2 and the entries from “The Pudding Puddings” on pages 4 and 7. (Students will need to write headlines for “The Pudding Puddings” entries.) Add significant world events to the timeline, i.e., the beginning of the French Revolution, advances in science, and noted accomplishments in art, music, and literature. It is important to understand Washington and America’s early history in relation to other world events.

Suggestions for the timeline

• 1761, Austria: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart begins writing minuets at age five
• 1763, Europe: The Treaty of Paris ends the French and Indian War. France cedes Canada to England and gives up all territories in the New World except New Orleans and a few scattered islands.
• 1765, Massachusetts: Chocolate is first produced in America
• 1770, Germany: Composer Ludwig van Beethoven is born
• 1770, Boston: Boston Massacre
• 1773, Boston: Boston Tea Party
• 1777, Russia: Alexander I, Czar of Russia is born
• 1789, France: Bastille stormed, French Revolution begins

The Women of Valley Forge and the American Revolution

Martha Washington and other wives assisted with cooking and entertaining the men at Valley Forge. Did you know that some women actually fought in the American Revolution? Deborah Samson served in the Continental army for three years, under the name Robert Shirtliffe. She maintained her identity as a man until she was discovered in 1781. Margaret Corbin replaced her husband on the battlefield at Fort Washington, performing all of his duties. Anne Bailey rode hundreds of miles alone to gather ammunitions to bring to Fort Lee. For more information on women and war, visit userpages.aug.com captbarb index.html.

Whiskey Rebellion Shakes Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA, 1794—Western Pennsylvania has turned their movement over renown taxes on whiskey into a violent opposition. They are rallying, the first major civil disturbance of President Washington term in office. Last week, U.S. Marshal David Lenox set out with resistance in Western Pennsylvania while trying to collect taxes on locally distilled liquor. Military action will be taken, such as the regime of President “Cher according to determined to do, such as finding the deposit for the occasion, but until, the next section, connection, that the essential interests of the States demand it.” The army is being organized from other northern states, and will advance into Pennsylvania shortly.

Wanted Immediately

A PERSON to attend in a farm who will be constant and assiduous, understands Accounts, and can write a good Hand. Also, a Youth about fourteen or fifteen Years of Age, who can read well, and write tolerably. Inquire at the Post Office.

On Tuesday, next, the 14th Instant, A new COMEDY, called FALSE DELICACY.

On the 14th Instant, A new COMEDY, called FALSE DELICACY

The Patriot Papers

The Patriot Papers serves students of all ages. It is published quarterly by the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, 1-866-NPG-KITS. It is not endorsed by the Smithsonian Institution or the National Portrait Gallery. Information is subject to change without notice. For more information, call (1-866-NPG-KITS). For Discussion and Debate

Have students do further research on slavery. Good websites include Mount Vernon’s site at www.mountvernon.org, the Hubbard House Underground Railroad Museum in Ohio at www.hubbardhousemuseum.org, or the Decatur House at www.decaturhouse.org.
An Eyewitness Account

December 1790

A Melancholic Gloom, which makes everything about you—me—you talk like a fool. Your being Covers your mind with burnt leaves and dirt. . . . Away with it Boys—I'll live like on my bad luck. There comes a bowl of beef soup—full of all Confusion—smoke & Cold—hunger & filthyness—a pox

A charming Wife—pretty Children—Good Beds—good Devil's in it—I can't Endure it—Why are we sent here to out of my senses [by the smoke created by the guns]—the Cloaths—nasty Cookery—V omit half my time—Smoak'd Troops. I am Sick— discontented—and out of humour. Poor ing in. The Army which has been surprisingly healthy hith

December 1796

RUNAWAY SLAVE. Mrs. Washington is greatly distressed by the loss of Olive Judge, her Missouri servant so skilled is welder. The girl, we have, was hired by a Freeman who tired of her and left her stranded in Pennsylvania. Not having found Mrs. Washington does not wish that all will be forgiven if she returns to her mistress, but she has refused to come back unless promised her freedom. This puts the President in an awkward situation. Privately he has said that although he is sympathetic to her demand, setting her free would only reward her for running away, and would spread discontent among the rest of his servants (as he calls them), as by being free they are more deserving of their freedom than the runaway. Above all, the President cautioned that no violent means should be used to bring her back, for the risk of loosing her might be too great a temptation for them to resist. "Slavery is like holding a wolf by the ears."

—Paul Reber, Decatur House

December 1790

FREEDOM TOO GREAT A TEMPTATION. President Washington has brought a handful of servants from Mount Vernon, but he will find with the difficulty of supplying them with the Penny baks law freeing adult slaves who have lived in Pennsylvania for six months a screw. It is believed that the President, therefore, will have to shuttle these servants back and forth and suffer the inconvenience of sometimes being without his cook Marcella. Asked if he feared his slaves might take advantage of being in the north to run away, the President has privately conceded that "he idea of freedom might be a great temptation for them to resist."

—Thomas Jefferson

NOT OUR FINEST HOUR

For Discussion and Debate

Use the following scholarly perspectives for open class discussion, or ask students to choose one quote and write a paragraph that supports or rejects the author’s opinion.

“Not talking about slavery isn’t a question of not having the information. It’s a question of what you decide to selectively remember.”

—Paul Reber, Decatur House

“Black and white history are invariably entwined together. To suggest that you can tell a story about whites and not talk about blacks, or not talk about whites, is preposterous.”

A major factor in Washington’s failure to put his growing opposition to slavery into practice in the 1790s was certainly his own conception of his presidential role.

“It was Abigail Adams, perhaps, who first noticed the paradox of Virginia. In a letter to her husband in the spring of 1776, she remarked how odd it was that those patriots with the strongest ‘passion for Liberty’ were also ‘those who were accustomed to deprive their fellow Creatures of theirs.’”

“Slavery is like holding a wolf by the ears.”

—Thomas Jefferson

Writing to Learn

“Valley Forge: An Eyewitness Account” This very personal and rather disturbing diary entry of Dr. Abigene Waldo attests to the power of primary sources and to the power of the first-person narrative. The personal recollections of Tobias Lear in Washington’s Final Hours on page 5 are equally powerful. Have students write their own diary entry as a real or imaginary historical figure. They could write as a colonist, a soldier, runaway slave Olney Judge, or Strawbury, the slave sought through an actual advertisement.

George Washington’s fundamental dilemma: How to reconcile the proclaimed ideals of the revolution with the institution of slavery? As a Virginia plantation proprietor and a life-long slaveholder, Washington had a substantial private stake in the economic system of the South. However, in his role as acknowledged political leader of the country, his overriding concern was the preservation of the union. Have students discuss Washington’s fundamental dilemma as President and slaverholder in a written essay. They should consider the entries on page 3, as well as the facts bulleted in the box to the left.
We interrupt this edition of The Patriot Papers now to bring you the nearly-new collection of intimate historical glimpses into the past, captured in so-called papers titled 1796: A Pudding. The complex episode adventure can be viewed at your leisure at www.george-washington.com. Our on-scene correspondents include: Silas Silvertongue, our presidential reporter; Tina Blue, our congressional correspon- dent; and our own Prudence Pudding, who provides social news from all over. (We hope for you to decide, dear reader, whether she is an upstart hussy or a man in disguise.) In the spirit of the freedom of the press guaranteed by our new Bill of Rights, we invite to act as a watchful eye and a listening ear, sometimes bringing a flare of gossip, but never a dish of scandal.

THE PUDDING PAPERS

Vocabulary Words

camp fever: a sickness characterized by high fever, headache, and dizziness; a.k.a. camp diarrhea

tippet: a short, slender boa used like a scarf. It was considered a fancy accessory in the 19th century, usually made of swansdown or fur.

tippet: n. 1. A long, slender boa used like a scarf. It was considered a fancy accessory in the 19th century, usually made of swansdown or fur.

For Discussion and Debate

The Role and Responsibility of the Press

The entry for August 2, 1793. “The President Enraged,” reminds us that criticism of the press is nothing new.

- Research the role of the press and its effect on major moments in history.
- Research the effect of the press on political campaigns and elections. How has its role affected election results? Candidates elected?
- Debate freedom of the press vs. the necessity for national security. Today, more than ever, the issue is a difficult one. Does the need for national security ever override the public’s right to know?

Writing to Learn

Research colonial medicine

- Find early medical treatments for some common ailments today.
- Research and chart the rising number of female doctors from 1800 to the present day. Devise a graph to present your data.

Making Connections

Some familiar phrases and famous titles originate from the work of 17th-century poet John Donne. Students may find them familiar. “Death Be Not Proud” was used as the title for John Gunther’s famous novel about his son’s death at age 14 from leukemia. “For Whom The Bell Tolls” titled Ernest Hemingway’s famous World War I novel. And “no man is an island” is captured in everything from poster to song. Students may recall hearing the musical refrain played repeatedly during the 2002 Winter Olympic games held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Ask them why Donne’s words from Meditation XVII were especially relevant to the Olympics, especially in view of the preceding tragic events of September 11, 2001. How is the phrase “no man is an island” relevant to their lives today? Have students explore the meaning of the last line, “Never send to know for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee.”
George Washington, beloved general and first President of the United States, has died at his home at Mount Vernon at the age of 67. His illness was short after riding out in bad weather on Thursday, December 14. General Washington was taken with a fever and respiratory problems. Although doctors made numerous attempts to save his life, Washington passed on with the dignity and courage he had displayed throughout his many years of military and civic service.

Washington's close friend and personal secretary, Tobias Lear, was with the general during his final hours.

"I find I am going, my breath cannot last long. I believed from the first that the disorder was mortal; and I have not given up the hope of being relieved," Washington said to his family. "I have therefore directed that you should prepare to dispose of my body with all possible dispatch."

Washington's doctors may have thought that bloodletting would thus extract the constricting fluids around his throat. However, neither of these attempts were successful and even threatened to choke the sick General.

The doctors also tried other methods of withdrawing fluid from the body. Elisha Dick, a tracheotomy (the creation of an air hole in the throat to allow for easier breathing). While the other physicians treated Washington rejected the idea, some scientists today believe that a tracheotomy could have been beneficial. A modern analysis by White McKenzie Wallenborn, a sonnet by John Donne, 1633

"Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;
Much pleasure; then from thee much more must flow,
And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.

After studying the poem thematically, have the students study the poem’s structure to determine whether it is an English or Italian sonnet. Marking the rhyme scheme, and searching for an octave, a sestet, or a rhyming couplet provides clues. It also helps clarify meaning.

FORM— abbaabbaabba

Death Be Not Proud

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;
For those whom thou think’st thou dost overthrow,
Rest of their bones, and soul’s delivery.

6th-century English sonnets, also known as Shakespearean sonnets, consisted of fourteen lines written in iambic pentameter, a rhythmic device with 10 syllables per line, alternating between stressed and unstressed syllables. The rhyme scheme of the sonnet was divided into three four-line stanzas, called quatrains, followed by a two-line rhyming couplet. The quatrains had an alternating rhyme scheme that could be represented by "abab," while the final ending couplet could be represented by "gg." The overall resulting rhyme scheme is "ababcdedf."
The Perils of Pampering

Faith's Day at the Spa

By Faith Proctor

There was a real group of kids that I knew that hung out with each other on a regular basis. We were always looking for new and exciting ways to spend our free time.

I woke up some time later in a dim room with my feet in the water. I opened my eyes and looked around. I was in a spa. I could hear the soft sounds of water and music in the background.

“Good morning, dear,” a friendly voice said. I turned my head and saw a woman wearing a white robe and smiling.

“Good morning,” I replied, feeling a little groggy.

“Would you like to have a massage?” she asked.

I nodded yes, and she led me to a massage table. She began to apply lotion to my skin and started to massage my shoulders, arms, and legs.

“This feels wonderful,” I said. “I could stay here all day.”

She chuckled and continued to massage me. After about 30 minutes, she asked if I wanted to take a shower.

“Sure,” I said, eager to wash off the day's stress.

She led me to the shower and turned on the water. I stepped in and washed off the lotion, feeling refreshed and invigorated.

“Do you need anything else?” she asked.

“I don’t think so,” I replied. “Thank you for such a wonderful experience.”

She smiled and said, “Anytime, dear. Come back anytime you like.”

I walked out of the spa, feeling rejuvenated and ready to face the rest of the day. It was a day I would never forget.
Philadelphia, January 1791

MRS. WASHINGTON’S ENTRACING ROOM: On Tuesday evening at eight, a humble correspondent was among the ladies and gentlemen in attendance at Mrs. Washington’s weekly reception. Mrs. Washington, plainly dressed, but in gown of rich silk, sat on a couch by the fire-place and arose to greet her guests with a courtesy which each lady returned. Each gentleman bowed low. Coffee, tea, and cake were served, and had some in the summer, I would have been offered lemonade and ice cream. The ladies sat about, and as candlelight is a great improver of beauty, they appear to great advantage. President Washington circulated among the crowd, chatting agreeably with all the ladies. It is said that he keeps count of the numbers who come to pay their respects to Mrs. Washington and pleased to find the rooms so crowded.

Philadelphia, July 17, 1793

BICKETTS’ SAMPHIRE THEATRE: Word is heard President Washington and his family were not to attend a performance of Mr. John Bill Richard’s dramatic farce as horsemanship brought a large crowd this evening to what is called the Circus. The acrobatic performance was held to raise money which was forwarded for the poor during the coming winter. Mr. Bickett demonstrated his agility by drinking a glass of wine while on horseback, riding a horse and a wheelbarrow and as the “Man of the People.” This produced an immense clapping of applause and a loud hurrah from every part of the Circus. Mr. Bickett has expressed his agreement with those who call General Washington the finest horseman of the age, saying, “I delight to see the general ride, and make a point to fall in with him when I hear that he is abroad on horseback; he is so on form, his management so easy and graceful, that I consider a painter of horsemanship, would go to him and learn to ride.”

Philadelphia, September 1796

PEALE’S MUSEUM: A visit to Mr. Peale’s museum, Philadelphia, peddling with on, is well worth the admission fee of one fourth of a dollar, if only to see the huge American buffaloes. Peale’s museum are filled with specimens of the earth and sea, a rich array of birds, and a great collection of the bones, jaws, and teeth of tigers, sharks, and many other fearful animals. In two rooms are reptiles, black and spotted snakes, confined in cases enclosed with wire and glass. She was astonished to see Mr. Peale take it a black snake about four or five feet long, which he permitted to touch his neck and twice itself around his neck. In the yard and stable were eagles, owls, baboon, monkey, and a six-footed one. Mr. Peale is also painters, and there are men in his museum more than a hundred portraits of the most noteworthy personages of our country, including our illustrious Washington.

June 1791

THE PRESIDENT ON TOUR: When he entered upon the duties of his office, George Washington decided he would visit all parts of the United States to please the citizens. He was in a bustle of preparation, and at every stop the citizens would go to him and learn to ride. “We must not forget the pudding papers,” Prudence Pudding tells us, is well worth the admission fee of one quarter of a dollar, if only to see the huge American buffalo. Peale’s museum are filled with specimens of the earth and sea, a great collection of the bones, jaws, and teeth of tigers, sharks, and many other fearful animals. In two rooms are reptiles, black and spotted snakes, confined in cases enclosed with wire and glass. She was astonished to see Mr. Peale take it a black snake about four or five feet long, which he permitted to touch his neck and twice itself around his neck. In the yard and stable were eagles, owls, baboon, monkey, and a six-footed one. Mr. Peale is also painters, and there are men in his museum more than a hundred portraits of the most noteworthy personages of our country, including our illustrious Washington.

Making Connections

Fashion design: Design clothing for a historical character or for a historical novel or play.

Research: Investigate Peale’s Museum, Rickett’s Amphitheatre, or the history of the circus.

Create: During the 1770s “Poet’s Corners” appeared in newspapers throughout America. Anonymous poems, songs, and satires commented on issues of the day. Americans also produced a great number of political broadsides—sheets of paper covered with anonymous poems, songs, and essays—that could be tacked up around the city, left on doorsteps, or even read to groups on street corners. Have your students try their hand at creating broadsides, writing political or social poetry, or drawing political cartoons.

Create an Old-Fashioned Advertisement

Ask students to create advertisements of their own using our authentic 18th-century advertisements as models.

• Advertise an unusual product
• Publicize an upcoming event
• Place a “Help Wanted” advertisement

More Bad Poetry

Revolutionary Tea

There was an old lady lived by the sea
And she was an island queen.
Her daughter lived off in a new country
With an ocean of water between.

The old lady’s pockets were full of gold
But never contented was she,
So she called on her daughter to pay her a tax
Of three pence a pound on her tea.

Revolutionary Moments

Colonists took action and dumped the tea
They stood strong and would not feel
Some fought at Lexington, some at Concord*
This threat to the British could not be ignored.

*Bostonians pronounce Concord — [kahn-k’d]-
You’re right, that’s hard to rhyme!
Wrongful Dismissal

If you could have a conversation with George Washington, what would it be like? Compose a letter to Washington sharing your thoughts about the state of America during his presidency. Do you agree with the decisions he made? Or... pair up with a friend and write a dialogue between Washington and one of his contemporaries where you discuss the issues of the day.

or... play today's TV correspondent and conduct a live interview with Washington. What does he think of America in 2002 and the current state of affairs?

Pledge It Forward—From Self to Service

Divide students into groups and let them brainstorm about possible service projects they could undertake.

Have the students write political poems on “America 2002” and submit them to PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu.

Where’s George?

Word find puzzle

Answers on page 7.

M H K F H A M I L T O N T N Y
O H T X E L G H I S S R Q T O
U K E O S D C E M U A A P S I
N P S M E I E A O U M L G R L
T R C A Q T D R T R A W C E I
V I L R A E S A N G Q F V
E T L T N T S L B E I F I
R C N H B R I D L C I Q S E C
N Q O A E W O A U A Y S R I F
O J I B R W B H B F F P T M O
N H L K N N F R S Q Y N I S S
L I P E N S Y L V A N I A E
G Y S H T A O Y T L A Y O L L
M V F H Z C G R J N Q W Z G U
X C T Y C T Q H V G U Y L R

False teeth Jefferson Mount Vernon
Federalists John Adams Pennsylvania
George Lansdowne Rules of Civility
Gilbert Stuart Loyalty oath
Hamilton Martha

Get Political in Las Vegas

Every weekend the Teenage Republicans of Green Valley High School in Henderson, Nevada, hit the campaign trail. An affiliate of the National Teenage Republicans, the chapter encourages teens to get involved in the political process. Led by advisor Regan Mitchell, a touchstone of both United States and world history, they promote the “Kids Voting” campaign, now active in 30 states, by registering both student and adult voters. “We’re especially busy now because it’s an election year,” said Mr. Mitchell. “The kids actively campaign every weekend supporting candidates in assembly races all the way up through Congress. Many of these kids are interested in pursuing politics; this gives them an inside view.” The group also organized and led a flag retirement ceremony hosting those lost in the September 11 tragedy.

Keep up the good work Green Valley—maybe your political journey will lead you to Washington!