

April 27, 2022

I am pleased to join the Ulysses S. Grant Library, the Ulysses S. Grant Association, and all Americans in observing the 200th birthday of our 18th President.

President Grant believed in and embodied the American spirit of determination, courage, loyalty, and honor. From modest beginnings in Point Pleasant, Ohio, Hiram Ulysses Grant would grow to change the course of American history. Quiet and unassuming but regarded as highly intelligent, Grant trained in the great military tradition of West Point, where he steadily rose through the ranks to become one of our Nation's most emblematic heroes. His chronicle of military accomplishments shaped his political doctrine. History remembers the iconic images of General Robert E. Lee surrendering his sword to General Grant at the Appomattox Court House. Still, little is retold of President Grant's many political achievements—the achievements that moved our war-torn and tormented country forward after the end of a bloody civil war and the assassination of a beloved president.

As President, Grant set his sights on not only rebuilding America, but renewing her broken soul. At 46, the youngest President in our Nation's comparatively young history, Grant envisioned and worked tirelessly toward peace and unity. Ever a champion for the civil rights of African Americans, he fortified the 14th Amendment, assuring citizenship and equality, and secured the ratification of the 15th Amendment granting Black Americans the right to vote.

As a consummate statesman, President Grant promoted goodwill and unity both at home and abroad. His diplomatic agreements with Spain and Great Britain reduced the threat of war at a time when our country desperately needed peace and healing, and the Treaty of Washington set the framework for future conflict resolution—instituting his legacy as a conservative tactician and advocate for peace and prosperity. At home, his conservation and preservation of our lands remind Americans of the infinite beauty of our great country and the immeasurable value and splendor of our natural resources and national parks.

History is long overdue in the commendation of President Grant. Our country must never be timid in telling the story of our Nation's great warriors. They deserve honor, recognition, and lasting tribute for the battles they won, the ideas they championed, and the freedom they secured. We must always remember their hopeful vision passed down to all of us—that united as one American people trusting in God, there is no challenge too great and no dream beyond our reach.

Melania joins me in sending our very best wishes as you celebrate the bicentennial of Ulysses S. Grant's extraordinary life and legacy.

May God bless you, and may He bless the United States of America.

