



STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
SPEAKER'S OFFICE  
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RYAN M. FECTEAU  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Greetings:

It is my pleasure to extend warm greetings to all who this year are celebrating the bicentennial of General and President Ulysses S. Grant. This occasion presents an opportunity to educate residents of Maine and all Americans about Grant's contributions to the nation, both military and political.

Ulysses S. Grant was born 200 years ago, in Point Pleasant, Ohio, on April 27, 1822. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War, Grant offered his services to the Union cause, and over the course of his battles and campaigns, he became the principal author of Union victory. When General Robert E. Lee surrendered his Army of Northern Virginia to General Grant at Appomattox on April 9, 1865, Grant's magnanimous surrender terms won him the gratitude of those who had fought his armies on the battlefield and helped reunite the nation. His military victory also enabled the emancipation of enslaved people.

General Grant was twice elected president, in 1868 and 1872, both times winning Maine. As president, he secured, with Maine's support, the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment, which prohibits racial discrimination with respect to voting rights. Moreover, President Grant signed into law the creation of the Department of Justice, several Enforcement Acts, and a Civil Rights Act that upheld Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendment rights. He also achieved significant benchmarks in peace, including the successful resolution of disputes with Spain and Great Britain that threatened war. The Treaty of Washington helped establish the principle of international arbitration as a means for the peaceful resolution of major international disputes.

In recognition of the Ulysses S. Grant Bicentennial, I invite all residents of Maine to celebrate the memory of President Ulysses S. Grant, to further education on his life and legacy, and to advance the highest principles of service to country he embodied.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan M. Fecteau'.

Ryan M. Fecteau  
Speaker of the House