



Washington State Legislature

August 15, 2022

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

Ulysses S. Grant was born in Point Pleasant, Ohio, on April 27, 1822. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1843 and served during the Mexican-American War before serving in the peacetime army for several years. Between 1852 and 1853, he was stationed at Columbia Barracks in Washington State, later known as Fort Vancouver, while serving as regimental quartermaster to the Fourth Infantry. That location is today part of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve.

Upon the outbreak of the Civil War, Grant offered his services to the Union cause, and he rose to be supreme commander of the Union armies in 1864. Over the course of his battles and campaigns, including at Forts Henry and Donelson, Shiloh, Vicksburg, Chattanooga, the Wilderness Campaign, the Petersburg Campaign, and the Appomattox Campaign, General Grant played an important role in Union victory.

General Robert E. Lee's surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia to General Grant at Appomattox on April 9, 1865, marked the virtual end of the Civil War. 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 great change for the nation, including the emancipation of enslaved people.

General Grant served as the nation's eighteenth president between 1869 and 1877. While in office, he made monumental contributions to the advancement of equal rights. He supported the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment, which prohibits racial discrimination with respect to voting rights. He also 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 pushed prosecution efforts that crushed the nineteenth-century Ku Klux Klan.

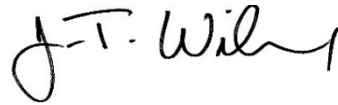
President Grant also achieved significant benchmarks in peace, including the successful resolution of disputes with Spain and Great Britain that threatened war. The Treaty of Washington helped establish the principle of international arbitration as a means for the peaceful resolution of major international disputes. Also included in The Treaty of Washington was a provision that detailed settlement of a dispute over the State of Washington's San Juan Islands.

In recognition of the Ulysses S. Grant bicentennial, we encourage Washingtonians to celebrate the memory of President Grant, to further education on his life and legacy, and to advance the highest principles of service to country he embodied.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Braun". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Senator John Braun
Senate Republican Leader
20th Legislative District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JT Wilcox". The signature is cursive and includes a large, stylized initial "J" and "T".

Representative JT Wilcox
House Republican Leader
2nd Legislative District